

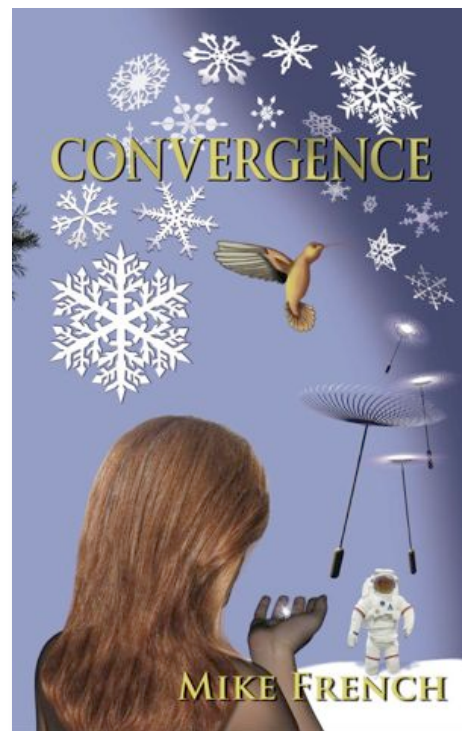
# Elsewhen Press

*a small independent publisher specialising in Speculative Fiction*

# ADVANCE INFORMATION

## CONVERGENCE

MIKE FRENCH



### PRINT EDITION

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**FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / GENERAL**

**FICTION / LITERARY**

**FICTION / VISIONARY & METAPHYSICAL**

*"The story is everything. And everything will become the story"*

The *Convergence Project* is a covert military/governmental science project that uses prisoners on death row to explore what happens to people as they die. The experience of life flashing before your eyes just before death is a process called *active retrieval* where memories are being recalled and lived out again in the mind. As the amount of time before death decreases, the brain exponentially increases the speed of playback and starts looping: repeating over and over a lifetime's worth of memories. Each playback makes the memories stronger and retains more detail. Eventually an infinite playback speed is reached forming a memory singularity called a *Convergence Point*, where the 'moment' lasts for ever and the person effectively enters an afterlife of their own making.

Killing subjects by lethal injection within an enhanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging Core, brain activity can be imaged moments before the *Convergence Point* forms. The 'near' *Convergence Points* are downloaded into neutral clones who effectively decode the brain patterns back into memories. These *Convergence Clones* are subjected to psychoanalysis to try to gain an understanding of the death experience. The project has the added bonus of extracting information held deep in the subconscious of terrorists by using *Convergence* on them and then interrogating their *Convergence Clone*, which is recycled after use and reformed.

Mike French is the owner and senior editor of the prestigious literary magazine, *The View From Here* which has been called many fine things since it started in 2007 including "Attractive, informative, sparkling and useful" by the late Iain M. Banks and for having a "great passion and drive" by Booker shortlisted Tom McCarthy. Mike's debut novel, *The Ascent of Isaac Steward*, the first book of the *Dandelion Trilogy*, was published in 2011 and nominated for a *Galaxy National Book Award* which, presumably due to an unfortunate clerical error, was awarded to Dawn French. The second book in the trilogy, the satirical *Blue Friday*, was published in 2012. *Convergence* is the final part of the trilogy although, like the previous two, it can be read on its own.

Born in Cornwall in 1967, Mike spent his childhood flipping between England and Scotland with a few years in between in Singapore. Splitting his time between his own writing, editing the magazine, running author workshops and working with atp media in Luton, Mike is married with three children and a growing number of pets. He currently lives in Luton in the UK and when not working watches Formula 1, eats Ben & Jerry's Phish Food and listens to Noah and the Whale.

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