

## MEET AUTHOR MICHAEL COBURN



Michael Coburn has all of the right stuff to become an urban legend: he's mentally tough, can bench press 300 pounds, and he's a smart risk taker who played the odds when it came to making money and pushing his way to the top in one of America's toughest cities—Detroit.

A graduate of Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, with a degree in English, and a stint at Wayne State University Law School and MBA program, he spent much of the next fifteen years working his way up from loading furnaces and sweeping floors to the President at Hoover Steel Treating Company.

A few years ago, the Midwest was hit by the first wave of an economic meltdown that wasn't even yet real for most of the country. He was forced to sell his company and what came next for him in the auto industry was short-lived.

A mid life longing and the opportunity to make something of his empty days, Michael not so much reinvented himself as he completely trusted in his ability to transform his own experiences into a gritty and powerful look at the underbelly of city life.

Sitting at his dining table, slowly he began to map out a trilogy set in the fictitious city of Arklanden, which involves characters in an almost mythological struggle to survive despite being underdogs in an unforgiving world.

While he spent much of his adult life in the streets of Detroit, in school he had found rewards in creative writing and theater. As he grew up, he developed a fascination with

the rhythms of city life, the drug and flesh trades, the mob, the corruption of city officials and what it does to those who live and work within its boundaries. Those themes naturally found their way into his writing.

Today there is refuge for Michael in a cabin by a lake in Northern Michigan, a swim in its icy waters or a trip to the gym that tones his body and steels his mind to the tasks. It is a discipline that makes all things possible.

While there are at least two more books to write in the trilogy, he imagines writing other books that take him away from the street life and into a gentler place where love comes easier to his characters.

He lives near Detroit with his wife.

Michael has put together a play list of his favorite songs that he listens to while writing. You can find it at [www.thetetheredheart.com](http://www.thetetheredheart.com).