

John Fraser was born in London in 1939. He wrote on and taught social and political theory (especially Marxism) mainly in Canada and, after 1980, in Rome and Ferrara.

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Also by John Fraser and published by AESOP Modern:

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BLACK MASKS

a selection of fiction and poetry by John Fraser



'A serious novelist from the beginning. I have always been tremendously impressed by both the conceptual depth and the fey fantasy of all that he does – not to mention the politics.' (John Fuller)

Cover drawing: 'Jaguar on the River'
 by Patricia Standingford



John Fraser

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'... A universe, a history, a continent with no structure, no end, save carnival. No god, state, class, just a thousand processions, seven days of wrap-around cinema. No family, no Oedipus. When I first landed in Rio, I was instantly robbed, all my papers, my shoes. I had to invent a plausible past, a new, paper-thin identity. But it was not Rio that obsessed me, it was Bahia.

'My obsession does not begin with the people, the people of Bahia. It comes from the struggle to be free of jungles, jungles that mean very little because they are less penetrable, more contorted, than any human soul or situation. At the rim of every jungle there is a carnival, the authentic face, the living mask, the life beyond the jungle.'

from Black Masks

'How slowly and grudgingly I came into the life of mankind, how grudgingly had I lingered over the taste of my marrow – a spoonful at a time – first the red caviar, then the black. Like a swimmer lowering himself from a branch, like a jaguar lying over the cooling current, or a fisherman settling into his boat, easing it into the stream, running the lines over his lined palm.'

from The River

ISBN 978-0-9561409-3-7 £12.99

AESOP
 Modern
 Oxford

3.25 flap

.25 wrap

5.9375

.625

5.9375

.25 wrap

3.25 flap

5.50 x 8.50

Bleed Width: 19.75
 Trim Width: 19.5