

John Fraser was born in London. He wrote on and taught social and political theory (especially Marxism) in the UK, Canada and, after 1980, in Rome and Ferrara. Since 1982 he has lived in Rome and has also worked as a musician.

Also by John Fraser and published by AESOP Modern:

Black Masks
Blue Light / Starting Over
The Case
Down from the Stars
Enterprising Women
Hard Places
An Illusion of Sun
The Magnificent Wurlitzer
Medusa
Military Roads
The Observatory
The Other Shore
The Red Tank
Runners
The Storm
Wayfaring

Visit online at:

www.mne-aesop.com/blackmasks
www.mne-aesop.com/bluelight
www.mne-aesop.com/case
www.mne-aesop.com/downfromthestars
www.mne-aesop.com/enterprising
www.mne-aesop.com/hardplaces
www.mne-aesop.com/illusion
www.mne-aesop.com/medusa
www.mne-aesop.com/military
www.mne-aesop.com/observatory
www.mne-aesop.com/othershore
www.mne-aesop.com/redtank
www.mne-aesop.com/runners
www.mne-aesop.com/softlanding
www.mne-aesop.com/storm
www.mne-aesop.com/wayfaring
www.mne-aesop.com/wurlitzer

Jacket art and design by Martin Noble, AESOP
www.aesopbooks.com

John Fraser's last work of fiction, *Hard Places*, was a series of novellas concerning physical and moral dilemmas, left unresolved at the expense of the protagonist. The sequel, *Soft Landing*, is the opposite – a novel of quest and adventure, in which scruple is overcome, and demanding or impossible situations have outcomes favourable to the hero.

The trail takes us from urban violence to Eldorado, the regime of a bikers' club, and the secret finds of a prospectors' camp. The last section shows all puzzles solved, and the protagonists' return home with gifts: in keeping with the tale's sour vision of a crumbling present, the landing though soft, is not pleasant.

'In Fraser's fiction the reader rides as on a switchback or luge of impetuous attention, with effects flashing by at virtuoso speeds.

The characters seem to be unwelcome agents of chaos, however much wise reflection Fraser bestows upon them; they move with shrugging self-assurance through circumstances as richly detailed and as without reliable compass-points as a Chinese scroll.' (John Fuller)

Front cover:
Archangel Michael,
Monastery of Sv. Jovan Bigorski,
Macedonia



John Fraser

SOFT LANDING

AESOP
Modern
Oxford



'It all must be connected – like the music, pieces not just heterogeneous, but yes! of course: the things flow into one another, every day you pass along and through them, each music, each appearance with its history, snugly with it – can't be shaken off. What's the basis for it all? – those different things, indifferent to you, but still, all watching and alert, you can't ignore a single one, pretend it isn't there. Don't tell me it's some reel of nothing in my head, that makes this happenstance shape up a plot, scenario – even put a title on it, have it run for three days at the Roxy, even make a bit of cash. No, no – it's there, quite independent. What we want to know is – what's the basis of it all? The whole? Is it a show, a laying down of poker hands, "beat this, beat that, you win you lose", design with rules ... Or just – it streams, unspools, like raffia from the biggest bundle ever, just everything, your will, your destiny, your fantasy – procession of the everything, facts and values, apples and oranges ...'

from *Soft Landing*

ISBN: 978-0-9569098-1-7 £12.99

3.25 flap
82.55mm

.25 wrap
6.35mm

5.9375
150.81mm

.625
15.87mm

5.9375
150.81mm

.25 wrap
6.35mm

3.25 flap
82.55mm

5.50 x 8.50
216 mm x 140 mm

Content Type: B&W
Paper Type: Creme
Page Count: 220
File Type: PDF
Request ID: CSS622950