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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:

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'One of the most extraordinary publishing events of the past few years has been the rapid, indeed insistent, appearance of the novels of John Fraser. There are few parallels in literary history to this almost simultaneous and largely belated appearance of a mature oeuvre, sprung like Athena from Zeus's forehead. And the novels in themselves are extraordinary. I can think of nothing much like it in fiction.'

'Fraser maintains a masterfully ironic distance from the extreme conditions in which his characters find themselves. There are strikingly beautiful descriptions, veiled allusions to rooted traditions, unlikely events half-glimpsed, abrupt narratives, surreal but somehow apposite social customs. Like Thomas Pynchon, whom in some ways he resembles, Fraser is a deep and serious fantasist, wildly inventive.'

'The reader rides as on a switchboard or luge of impetuous attention, with effects flashing by at virtuoso speeds. The characters seem to be unwitting agents of chaos, however much wise reflection the author 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, English poet, novelist, Booker prize nominee and Fellow Emeritus at Magdalen College, Oxford



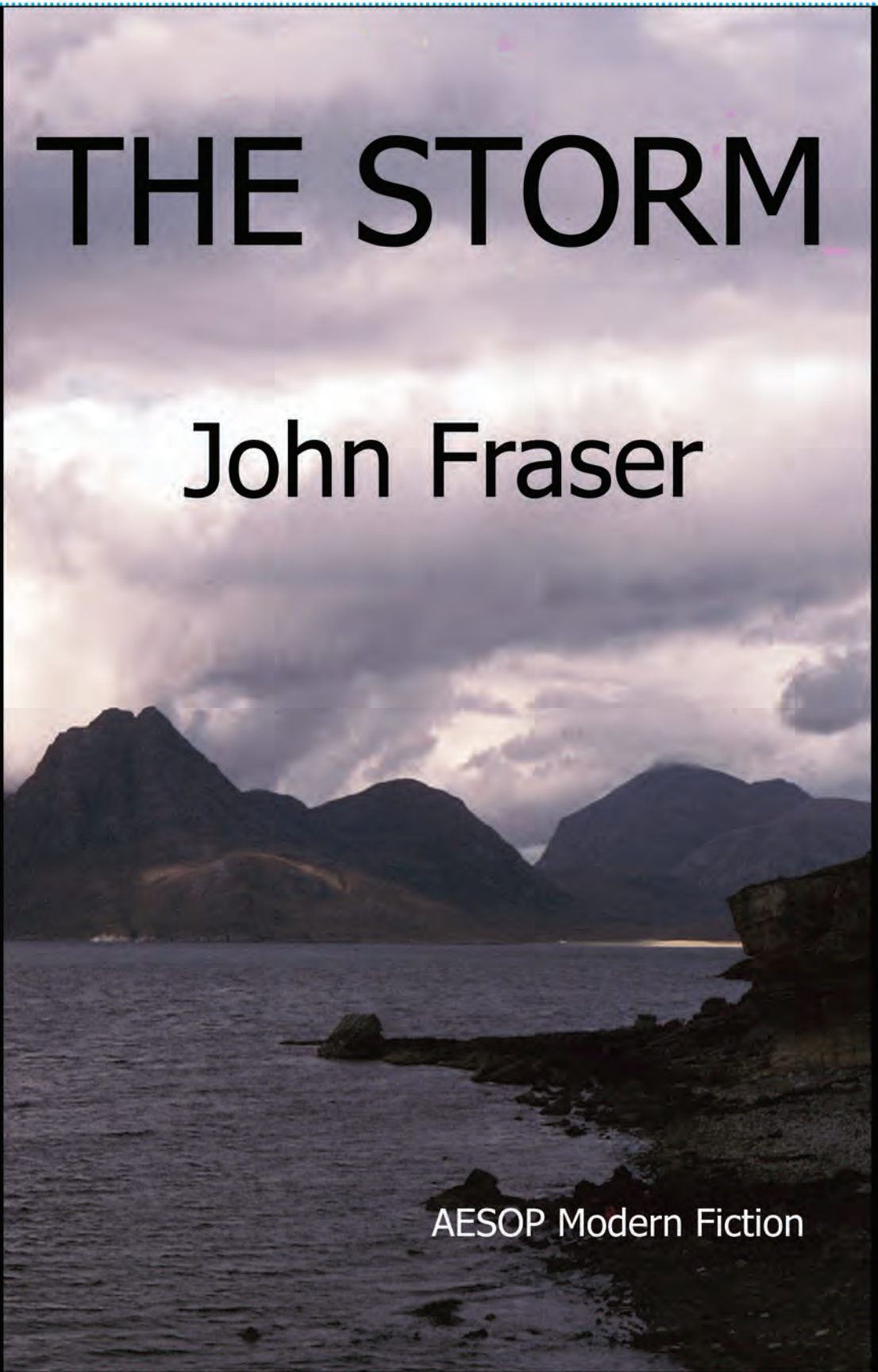
Hokusai,
The Great Wave
off Kanagawa
(1830-33)



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John Fraser
THE STORM



THE STORM

John Fraser

AESOP Modern Fiction

The Storm is the latest literary tour-de-force from John Fraser. When their principals are swept away by a storm, three policy experts embark on a series of strategies to achieve power, involving complex inner odysseys, and an extraordinary incursion into China ...

The storm, the storm! – it swept them all away, and here they are again, the bosses. Quite similar.

Pointless, this populism, saying next time will not be the same: the wars, anabasis – then back they come. Though, of course, we have moved on – we have no choice.

Melinda sings her songs, and Goran, the liberator, is quite precarious. Melinda hums to him: 'Un vent de fronde s'est levé ce matin', the scheming wind that lays the plots, for, after all, it is our job to plot, bring to justice, or at least to court.

The storm, the storm, that is where we come alive. Listen! the rooks, they hear it from afar, they flap their wings and sing cracked songs. Those guys, those leaders – you gather them together in one spot – of course they're swept away, and no one cares, and no one looks! It's quite irrelevant. The storm – bigger and broader, on and on! See how the clouds swoop down, black wings, and – is it wind, or is it rain? that blows us all away and makes a desert, piles of junk, and ponds of mud, see – the writhing things, beginnings without ends, the dirty plates of finest gold that glisten where they're tossed. That, my friends, is things as they are, and as they change!

from *The Storm*

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