

John Fraser has lived in Rome since 1980. Previously, he worked in England and Canada.

Also by John Fraser and published by AESOP Modern:

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

Visit online at:

www.mne-aesop.com/animaltales
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

'The Wurlitzer will roar again for many an avenging god.'

'Fraser's *The Magnificent Wurlitzer* is one of the most significant novels on man's search for order and meaning out of the chaos of modern life since the publication of Joyce's *Ulysses*.' (Rouben Kodesh)

The Magnificent Wurlitzer is a modern epic, its theme that of the 'guilty Faust' on a fantastic, grotesque journey seeking his truth, his Mephistopheles. Its hero James (aka Jay, Jayman, Hopper) treads in the traces of epics from East and West, Gilgamesh, the Ramayana, Götterdämmerung, from jazzman to shaman, sliding from music and religion to seeking order where there can be none, to politicking and leadership of the virtual and the voiceless.

Wurlitzer is the machine that plays all music in its own sweet way. It is creation, innovation, improvisation – a farrago-medley of beauty and bad taste. It is also the nickname of the CIA – Intelligence, politicking, stabs in the dark, secret things, codified meanings. The book plays off the crisis of modernism, its slippage into postmodernism, where anything goes and nothing moves, against its critique of the heartland, of Modernity, which is both sharp as an axe and malleable as clay. Modernisation brings the four horsemen of the apocalypse, drinkable tapwater, the Russian Revolution, the Internet and the Crash.

'... outside, in the brown, peppery shadows, I see an altar, like a Wurlitzer, lit with eternal, electric flickering soul-lights, the colours on the panels changing from one pastel sherbet or milkshake to another. Its automatism makes it seem inner-looking, absorbed, the sequence of lights and colours ran like a mantra.'

'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, English poet and author,
Whitbread Prize winner, Booker Prize nominee
and Fellow Emeritus at Magdalen College, Oxford

Cover photograph of Medusa mask from
a Scythian tomb reproduced by courtesy
of the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg.



John Fraser The Magnificent Wurlitzer

THE MAGNIFICENT WURLITZER



JOHN FRASER

AESOP
Modern
Oxford

AESOP Modern Fiction

'The Wurlitzer is a prepared machine, it speaks in sonnet form, it gives communion. It is already programmed, my dear friend, to provide what sceptics want – a breath of cosmic chants and rhythms, legions of saints all blowing reeds. You don't realise, that mystery is invented only by those with a profound desire for meaning.'

'Only the search for truth throws up the unknown things that people puzzle over, come to prize as central shafts of being. I'm afraid, Fernando, you'll appear to people who are seeking enlightenment, a mystic frisson, orgasm that lasts if not forever a little longer than the norm – as a mere commercial puzzler. Mystery comes from seeking truth, the sacred from the familiar, knowledge stems from error. You're proposing tricks that rest on your own power, your knowing that this sideshow is a fraud, its aim to make you money, and defraud the honest seeker.'

from *The Magnificent Wurlitzer*

ISBN 978-0-9561409-0-6 £14.99

3.25 flap
82.55mm

.25 wrap
6.35mm

5.9375
150.81mm

1.125
28.57mm

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: Black & White
Paper Type: Creme
Page Count: 440
File Type: PDF
Request ID: CSS1111140