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

Also by John Fraser and published by AESOP: Animal Tales 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 Road The Observatory

The Other Shore

The Red Bird The Red Tank

Runners

Soft Landing The Storm

Wayfaring

Visit online at: iohnfraserfiction.com/animaltales iohnfraserfiction.com/blackmasks johnfraserfiction.com/bluelight johnfraserfiction.com/case johnfraserfiction.com/downfromthestars iohnfraserfiction.com/enterprising iohnfraserfiction.com/hardplaces iohnfraserfiction.com/illusion johnfraserfiction.com/medusa johnfraserfiction.com/military johnfraserfiction.com/observatory johnfraserfiction.com/othershore johnfraserfiction.com/redbird johnfraserfiction.com/redtank iohnfraserfiction.com/runners iohnfraserfiction.com/softlanding

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

johnfraserfiction.com/storm

johnfraserfiction.com/thirty johnfraserfiction.com/wayfaring johnfraserfiction.com/wurlitzer

'A lawyer looks for the tiny rock of guilt in a sea of innocence. A lawyer looks for the tiny rock of innocence in a sea of guilt. That's their trade.'

In John Fraser's latest novel, after a convulsive war that rumbles on for thirty years, a disparate group search amongst the metal skeletons, detritus and urban wreckage of a shattered land for a new life, a new start, and some kind of normality.

The group, comprising therapists and entrepreneurs, including the novel's narrator - a cross between a mercenary and a pacifier - generate between them complicated and sometimes fantastic responses to the challenges facing them.

The war continues to reverberate, on an individual basis, but also in the wider context of economic recovery, religious radicalism, and commodity speculation.

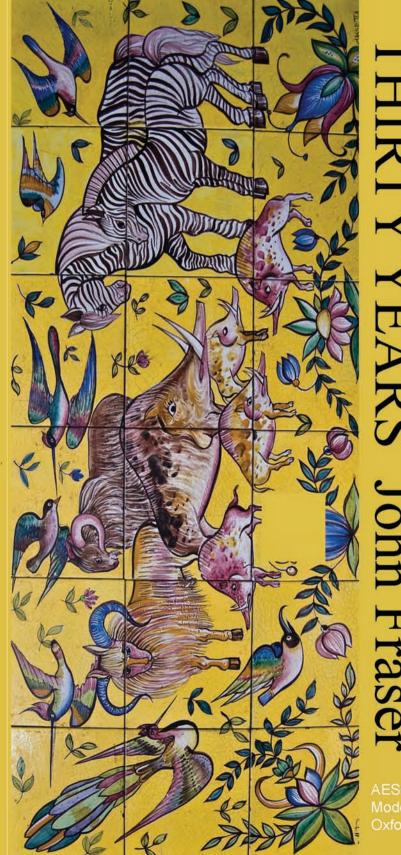
Death and trauma continue, social and ideological cleavages deepen, but ultimately there is a hint that once the Thirty Years are up, the surviving characters may continue their lives back where it all began.

Thirty Years has echoes of the Thirty Years War, and of Brecht's Mother Courage. As Fraser's characters continue to commit crimes, financial and physical, the novel questions and reframes the essential issues of crime and punishment that have concerned humanity from the Bible and Koran. to Shakespeare, Dostoevsky and onwards into the future.



Front cover illustration: Layla and Majnun.

Back cover illustration: The Earthly Paradise, Vietri (Italy) 1950, by Giuseppe Cassetta.



here's nothing to be done about anything. ohn Fraser "the most original novelist of our time" John Fuller, poet, Whiteread Award winner, and Booker Prize nominee AESOP Modern

'You rave about the modern humans - they're just following their destiny, the history all laid out - those cosmic forces... They're not benevolent, they're complementary: one is mathematics - your long gun, the pointing finger, like on the ceiling winkles you out from every corner. Mathematicians, artillerymen – they made your world. Magic is the mother of science. Knowledge is always - to know God. The force behind it all. Then – there's the cosmic force that you can't see. What we know - is magic, gods and demons, algorithms. What we don't know, is what we reason out, our secret weapon: science, our purity. Hypothesis is stronger than the faith. It's the ladder that reaches to the stars, beyond. That is the quest. Not by boat, but with a spade. The eggs, the chocolate eggs by Fabergé, buried in he tgarden! The first force that made us modern - it's the design, the divinity we know, the rules self-evident. And what we look for ... well, we know in the long and short term - we shall find it. It must be there. Everything is.'

from Thirty Years

ISBN: 978-1-910301-29-6