

Fire on the Mountain

Terry Bisson

Introduction by Mumia Abu-Jamal

It's 1959 in socialist Virginia. The Deep South is an independent Black nation called Nova Africa. The second Mars expedition is about to touch down on the red planet. And a pregnant scientist is climbing the Blue Ridge in search of her great-great grandfather, a teenage slave who fought with John Brown and Harriet Tubman's guerrilla army.

Long unavailable in the US, published in France as *Nova Africa*, *Fire on the Mountain* is the story of what might have happened if John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry had succeeded—and the Civil War had been started not by the slave owners but the abolitionists.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Terry Bisson was an author, editor, political activist, and friend to many. He was a Hugo and Nebula award-winning writer of seven novels, numerous short works of fiction, and over a dozen children's books. He was the author of *On a Move: The Story of Mumia Abu Jamal* and was the series editor of PM's Outspoken Authors pocketbooks. PM Press published his books *TVA Baby*, *Fire on the Mountain*, and *The Left Left Behind*. He also wrote the long-running "This Month in History" series for *Locus*. His progressive politics landed him in jail for refusing to give testimony to a grand jury investigating the radical underground. He operated Jacobin Books, a mail-order book service that sent books to prisoners, from 1985 to 1990. He was as much an activist's activist as he was a literary powerhouse. More about him and his work can be found at terrybisson.com.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted and sentenced to death for the 1981 murder of a police officer. Prior to his arrest he was a Black Panther Party activist, cab driver, and journalist. Since his conviction, his case has received international attention and he has become a controversial cultural icon. During his imprisonment he has published several books including *Live from Death Row*.

ACCOLADES

"History revisioned, turned inside out ... Bisson's wild and wonderful imagination has taken some strange turns to arrive at such a destination."

—Madison Smartt Bell, Anisfield-Wolf Award winner and author of *Devil's Dream*

"You don't forget Bisson's characters, even well after you've finished his books. His *Fire on the Mountain* does for the Civil War what Philip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle* did for World War Two."

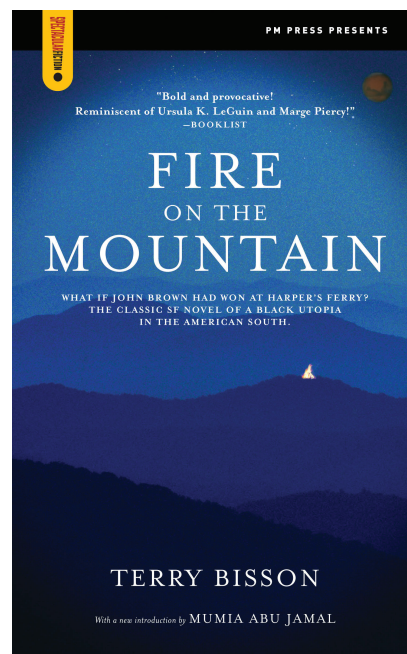
—George Alec Effinger, winner of the Hugo and Nebula awards for *Schrödinger's Kitten*, and author of the *Marid Audran* trilogy

"A talent for evoking the joyful, vertiginous experiences of a world at fundamental turning points."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Few works have moved me as deeply, as thoroughly, as Terry Bisson's *Fire on the Mountain*... With this single poignant story, Bisson molds a world as sweet as banana cream pies, and as briny as hot tears."

—Mumia Abu-Jamal, death row prisoner and author of *Live From Death Row*, from the Introduction



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