

# Ladder to the Moon

a novel by P.J. Fry

'A story of love and war, this debut novel is stunning in its realism, and emotionally engaging in its moving love-story. The day-to-day reality of war had me on the edge of my seat, and the convincing but complicated love story had me reaching for tissues. Peter Fry brings all facets of this conflict to life, showing how futile and destructive war can be. This is a gripping, intelligent novel with plenty of heart.'

Karen McMillan, author of *Paris of the East*

'Gripping and embracing. A triumph of spirit in the horror of war.'

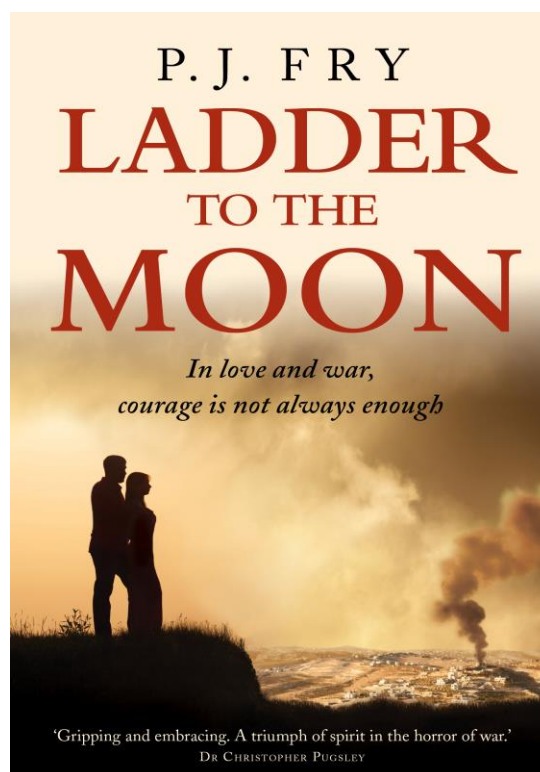
Christopher Pugsley, ONZM, DPhil, FRHistS, Historian

## About the book

It is 1977. Leila Ashrawi, from a middle-class Palestinian family dispossessed during bitter fighting in the Arab–Israeli War of 1967, and John Ferris, a New Zealand Army captain serving as a UN military observer on the Israel–Lebanon border, meet and fall in love.

In a frenetic, confused and violent world, the couple's plan to make a new life together on the other side of the world comes at the expense of great anguish and desperation. But on the morning of their departure, Ferris's vehicle detonates a landmine.

Full of drama and tension as well as warmth and humour, this is a story of comradeship in the face of violence, and a deeply moving love story that spans more than two decades.



## About the author

Peter Fry has experienced civil and military conflict throughout the world. A commissioned officer in the New Zealand Army, he was seconded to the United Nations in the Middle East, where he served as a military observer on the borders of Egypt, Syria, Israel and Lebanon. He has worked for the UN as a security adviser in Iraq, East Timor, the North West Pacific, Somalia, Pakistan and UN Headquarters in New York. In 2012 Peter retired from UN service and returned to New Zealand to be with his wife, Elizabeth, and to indulge his passion for writing and military history.



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