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Bypass

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Masters' work is always topical - **Roadkill** dealt with the aftermath of a nuclear holocaust and **Bypass**, despite its rather prosaic title, plunges eloquently into the very contemporary issues of motorway protests. Masters' stance has the Earth itself as one of the most effective protesters. 'The Earth Fights Back' - a metaphorical slogan adopted by the eco-warriors - soon becomes literal as police and those persecuting the bypass protest movement are swallowed by the Earth's crust to vanish forever. The narrative is typically warp-speed but never sacrifices effective characterisation in its race towards a finale. Perhaps some incidents are a little excessive: the early and feebly engineered death of Kathy's father - but Masters almost always succeeds in sweeping the reader along and communicating his views with considerable power.

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