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Media Release



THE AUSTRALIAN BIOGRAPHY OF HEATH LEDGER

Heath Ledger was a superstar on the world stage, a gorgeous guy, a true romantic, a man who was dedicated to his craft and who loved a laugh. This is the definitive look at the real life of Heath Ledger from childhood to fully-fledged stardom, with exclusive personal insights from his family and friends. It is also very much an Australian story about the beginning of a legend.

Even before Heath achieved fame and fortune, the Ledgers were well-known in their hometown of Perth. Heath's great-grandfather, Sir Frank, was a pioneer of West Australian business and nurtured a warm, loving family. Heath's childhood was idyllic and happy, and he excelled at school, especially drama. When he was 17 years old, he drove across the country to Sydney, determined to follow his passion for acting. He quickly became a celebrity, but never forgot his roots – inviting his art teacher to film premieres, returning to his school to inspire the students, flying his friends around the world to work on his movies and going to his sister Olivia's school as her 'show and tell'.

Behind Heath's journey to Hollywood, turmoil split the family. *Heath: A Family's Tale* reveals how Sir Frank's fortune was lost, which thrust the Ledgers into bitter dispute. With Heath's death, new allegations have emerged about the star's hidden millions. Sadly, while Heath's death came as a surprise to the public, those who knew him best were aware of his problems. And those who knew him best were also aware of the allegations that he had fathered a child before his rise to fame.

Janet Fife-Yeomans is an award-winning journalist and is currently the chief reporter for *The Daily Telegraph* in Sydney. Janet is the author or co-author of six books, including *Killing Jodie*, shortlisted for the 2008 Ned Kelly Award for Best Non-Fiction Crime Writing, and *The Coroner*.

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