

The Weight of a Human Heart

Short Story Collection and Critical Exegesis

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Statement of Originality

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Dedication

To my wife, Jennifer, and my daughters Lauren and Evie.

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Abstract

The creative component of this thesis is *The Weight of a Human Heart*, a collection of twenty short stories written in a variety of different styles, and utilising a number of diverse settings, from Africa to China to Australia. The collection is comprised of an equal number of realist and formally experimental short stories, including stories in the form of book reviews, homework assignments and graphs and charts. The critical exegesis maps out the major influences on *The Weight of the Human Heart* in the context of a survey of the Australian short story, an examination of metafiction, and a discussion of the work of James Joyce, Vladimir Nabokov and the Oulipo.

THE WEIGHT OF A HUMAN HEART

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Eleven stories in the creative section of this work are available as a commercial publication and therefore not available as part of this PDF document.