The Weight of a Human Heart

Short Story Collection and Critical Exegesis

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Statement of Originality

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library**, being made available for loan and photocopying subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

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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.
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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.