

# Big book, big price

It's a big book. The girl on the cover is a big girl. A big naked girl. And she's going to settle in right next to the children's storytime nook at Nicholas Hoare bookstore on Sussex Drive.

Manager David Dollins figures a banner across the cover *this way*, or maybe, more like *that* will make the big naked lady Ottawa-friendly so he can display her in the store. A down-filled coat maybe?

The collection of Helmut Newton photographs that has fashionistas all atwitter is huge in every way: it weighs 30 kilograms, measures 50 by 70 by nine centimetres and costs \$2,400. The 480 pages are the weight of craft paper and the dust jacket is so thick it feels like glossy Bristol board. The endboards are easily a centimetre thick and the binding has been specially designed so the pages can actually turn without cracking the spine.

Nicholas Hoare is the only store in Ottawa to carry the book. Mr. Dollins has already had several calls about it and one customer

gushed "It's in!" as he opened it Thursday.

He expects he will sell several to everybody but regular readers — art collectors, book collectors, dealers: people who know that this will be a collectors' item, and that if it costs \$2,400 now, it will cost a lot more than that in five years. Word is that there are only 1,000 so far in the U.S. but that they're selling well there too.

The German publisher Benedikt Taschen has long been an admirer of Newton's and decided to bring this volume out as a signed, limited edition, (10,000 worldwide). It is named, appropriately, SUMO, and comes with an elegant stainless steel podium with HELMUT NEWTON impressed on the lower ledge.

This being Helmut Newton, though, the cover is — uh — arresting and the contents are shocking. His images are unsettling, even when they seem calm. In this collection, there are bare breasts covered with hair, porn king Larry Fly-

nt in a wheelchair, a creepy family portrait of an adult daughter on her father's lap, her dress rucked up so the crotch of her white panties can be seen. Nearby, her elderly mother is dressed in a bikini.

Hard-edged and rude as his work is, Newton's photographs have appeared in the pages of mainstream European and American magazines from *Vogue* to *The New Yorker* and he is widely credited with bringing fashion photography to the level of art.

"Good taste is deadly," he says, "the most deadly thing there is."

Newton was born in 1920 in Berlin and apprenticed to a photographer there in 1936; he subsequently moved to Australia in the late '50s (he is an Australian citizen) and then moved to Paris where he worked for 25 years. Since 1981, he has lived in Monte Carlo with his wife June who is also a photographer, and who edited this book.

Jenny Jackson