



HELMUT NEWTON

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Ten years ago this book launched with more than enough fandango to sink a ship. It was 30 kilograms of super-sized sumo fabulousness, with a streamlined hip-high stand (designed by Philippe Starck), proffering a full-frontal nude the approaching viewer. Edition one of 10,000 was signed by many of the celebrities featured within and it was auctioned off at the record-breaking price of US \$340,000 – making it the most expensive 20th century book ever sold. As an odd side effect of this limited edition phenomenon, the book has remained largely unopened for the past 10 years, enjoyed by a fortunate few that obviously had the means. As an object the tome is most proudly spoken of when in the original wrapping! The remedy it seems is to publish a smaller, less investment-worthy version divested of signature and Starck stand. The book is just as brilliant. Each day a page is turned and every photograph is a mystery of narrative and suspense. Newton's approach to his subject was always direct, and his talent for creating a scene remains breathtaking. To hell with investment, this book is to be enjoyed and cherished for what it contains and not for what it may fetch.