

Heath Ledger's daughter may eventually be one very wealthy girl

Matilda's



Daddy's little girl

Heath loved to gal around with Matilda. The two were last spotted together in November in NYC.

When Heath Ledger unexpectedly passed away at age 28 in January, he left behind a will that had been prepared in 2003 — about two years before the birth of his now-2½-year-old daughter, Matilda Rose. “There was a huge concern at first that Heath had left nothing to provide for his daughter,” says an insider. “But that’s not the case at all.”

In fact, Heath’s will amounted to just \$145,000, which is nothing compared with the millions Matilda stands to inherit someday. After his daughter’s birth in October 2005, Heath, the insider explains, formed the Thank You for the Trust trust, making Matilda and her mom — Michelle Williams, Heath’s girlfriend at the time — co-trustees of high-priced properties he owned.

“Just because Heath didn’t leave it all to his daughter in the will doesn’t mean Matilda will lose out,” the insider says. “He knew exactly what he was doing when he made Matilda

a co-trustee. There’s no way he would have left his daughter without a dime. She was the will to him.”

Some reports claim that others are listed as trustees and as co-owners of the properties — but Miami-based trust-and-estate lawyer Chris Boyett tells *Life & Style* that as long as Heath made certain provisions in the trust, Matilda, as a direct heir, could very well be entitled to it all.

Heath's homes' worth

The insider says the trust includes a \$3.1 million home on Woodrow Wilson Drive in LA that Heath and Michelle bought from talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres for \$2.4 million two years ago, a \$2.1 million property nearby and a duplex on Hoyt Street in Brooklyn, N.Y., now valued at \$4.5 million.

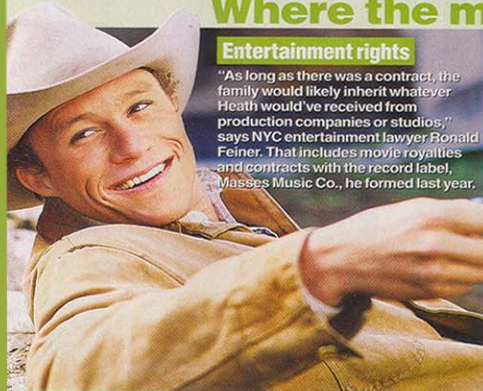
And Connie De Groot, a Realtor with Prudential California Realty in Beverly Hills, tells *Life & Style* that the value of Heath’s homes should skyrocket by the time Matilda reaches adulthood.

“I agree with the National Association of Realtors that the value

Where the money will come from

Entertainment rights

“As long as there was a contract, the family would likely inherit whatever Heath would’ve received from production companies or studios,” says NYC entertainment lawyer Ronald Feiner. That includes movie royalties and contracts with the record label, Masses Music Co., he formed last year.



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millions

of a home doubles every 10 years,” she says. That means Matilda’s inheritance could exceed \$20 million — and that doesn’t include Heath’s assets in Australia, which are likely in the millions as well.

Michelle's making peace

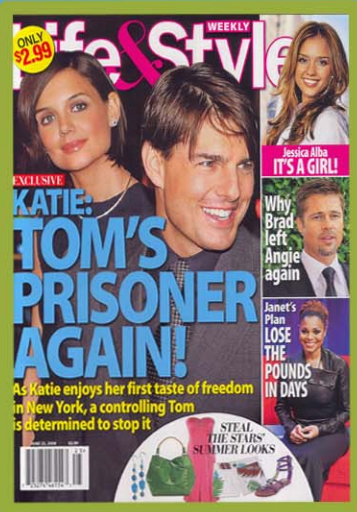
Heath’s family is also assuring Michelle, 27, that Matilda will be well provided for, no matter what. “Heath’s father has spoken with Michelle numerous times, explaining he knows that while Heath didn’t write it out, his wishes would be that everything go to his daughter,” says a friend of Michelle’s.

But Michelle — who has reportedly signed on to be the first benefactor of a Heath Ledger scholarship fund to help struggling Australian actors — “isn’t getting too wound up about finances,” says the friend.

In fact, she’s still mourning a loss that no amount of money can heal. “Michelle still cries,” the friend reveals. “She cries for her daughter, and she cries for herself. She misses Heath terribly and tries hard to remember only the good times.”

She looks just like Heath!

Michelle, here with Matilda in NYC on June 8, “wants her daughter to know exactly where her father came from and what he loved,” says a friend.



Heath's Joker profits

Heath will be seen on screens in July as the Joker in *The Dark Knight*. And his likeness will be in stores, too, when Mattel launches a Joker action figure. His family should benefit. If proper contracts were signed, says Feiner, “his heirs would rightfully receive his share.”

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