ECLIPSED

NEW EDITION

Foreword by Tom Holland

You know how your parents embarrass you with old photographs which most usually involve nudity? Well, when my dad mentioned that he had an idea for a blog about my show-biz success against his on-going struggles I didn't give it much thought. I do remember thinking at the time that my dad was successful. He is funny (he's a comedian by the way) and at this point he had long been on the verge of making it in Hollywood as a writer. At this time, we were all in Thailand where I was making my first film, The Impossible, so I guess that I was already ahead of my dad's 'verge' stage and he explained that our comparative success stories in film would make a funny story. But dad, what happens when you get your movies made? Wouldn't this make the story redundant? And it could look a little boastful as well? Dad didn't seem too concerned by this. He even muttered something about the whole thing being fated. Okay then, but what if The Impossible is the only film that I get to make? I mean, what if this is the end of my career in show business, will this be enough of a story to tell? Dad gave this some thought as though I might have a point. He even explained that this was even likely and that The Impossible could well be the end of my acting days. He went on to say that lots of child 'stars' see their hopes and dreams cruelly extinguished! As my dad says in this book, he is frequently wrong and thankfully so in this instance because so far, the roles have kept on coming and this project has become even more important for my dad since his film career appears to be no longer on the verge. Although I never said anything at the time, I did privately worry that this project could also be embarrassing; if my dad is too gushing about me but also if he is too hard on himself. Deciding to publish the book, Dad gave me permission to end the project completely when he handed me his final draft and I should never have worried because I think it is spot on. I really enjoy the coincidences and counter-balancing between our colliding journeys and even though he is a little hard on himself, I figure that this is for comic effect and I note proudly that he is still at the coal face with his writing and his stand-up. And as much as the films I have appeared in are great reminders of my mis-spent youth, Eclipsed binds these experiences together; of what I expect will be the most important decade of my life and an exciting time for my whole family. I am told by many to expect a raft of unauthorised biographies of my life; cobbled together from various sources and old pieces of journalism and usually not very real or authentic. At least with Eclipsed, people can share in my story and get the real answers to the question, I am most frequently asked; 'so dude, how did you become Spider-Man?'

Author's Note

This book was first published in January 2013 and titled - how tom holland Eclipsed his dad. At the time, this title made good sense because to my dismay (I am often dismayed) the manuscript was roundly rejected by ALL the traditional publishers and so I embraced technology and went the eBook route instead; my metaphorical middle finger to the past. Determined to prove them wrong, I was advised that my on-line book needed to be search engine friendly and it was agreed that the words, 'Tom' and 'Holland' were easily the two most attractive elements of this story and ideally should feature in the title – and so how tom holland Eclipsed his dad was born. The manuscript

was rejected for the most part because Tom was not really a ‘star’ and the story is incomplete. Other rejections were more flattering, explaining that Dominic Holland was far too successful a comedian to write such a book! Mmm… In the intervening years, both of these issues have been firmly dealt with. Tom Holland was introduced to the world as Spider-Man in Captain America, Civil War in 2016 and at the time of writing this note (Saturday, October 20th, 2016) this evening, I am performing stand-up comedy at a primary school in Woking as part of a PTA fundraiser. Next year (2017) I am heading back to the Edinburgh Festival on a career rekindling mission where I will play the Free Fringe and begin each show with the words, ‘Good afternoon…’ This venture began as a blog and it was always my intention to end this story (I am determined to avoid using the clawing word journey) with the release of Tom’s first film, The Impossible. This edition, Eclipsed (2021) is largely the original eBook - an explanation of how a 16-year-old kid should find himself on a red carpet in LA and on the long list for an Academy Award. And from this juncture, just a cursory glance on-line it can easily be established how Tom progressed to ECLIPSED 9 becoming Peter Parker and the iconic Spider-Man. This revised edition of Eclipsed is borne out of reading the manuscript for the audio version. As well as some typographical errors that had snuck through my various nets, I noticed some additions that I wanted to include in light of the current and continuing diverging lives of Dom and Tom. At the end of certain chapters I have added some further observations as footnotes. Commonly I am asked, how has my son managed to become a superhero and less frequently, what ever happened to my own career? This book answers both questions and I hope much else besides.