

Empty Mansions Study Guide

Empty Mansions by Bill Dedman

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Summary

Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune is a biography by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr. Huguette Clark was the daughter of W.A. Clark, an American entrepreneur who made the bulk of his fortune in copper mines. When Huguette Clark died, her life as a recluse who lived in a hospital for twenty years not only caught the attention of curious reporters, but the district attorney of New York City and various Clark family members who wanted to know what had happened to their aunt's wealth. The writers of this book found not only what illuminates the life of a woman who valued privacy above all else, but how greed can motivate even those who should have the best interests of a patient at heart.

W.A. Clark was born in Pennsylvania. As a young man, he moved to the west coast in hopes of finding gold. Clark settled in Montana where he began making his fortune first in selling groceries to miners and then by moving the mail to remote parts of the state. Eventually Clark bought several copper mines, took classes in mineralogy to teach him how to make the most of those mines, and became one of the richest men in America.

Clark married and had seven children with his first wife. In Butte, Clark built one of the finest homes the city had ever seen. After the death of his wife, Clark got involved in politics. Unfortunately, Clark's first run for Congress ended when an investigation showed that he bribed officials for their votes. Clark handed in his resignation in an attempt to trick his way around the rules, but failed. Clark would later be elected to Congress a second time and serve his term without controversy, but would always be known for the accusations of corruption.

In the early 1900s, Clark would announce that he secretly married a young woman he had taken into his care, providing for her a music education in Paris. The marriage had already resulted in a child, two year old Andree, by the time the announcement was made. In 1912, Clark would bring his new family to America from Paris, a family that now included daughter Huguette Marcelle.

Clark built a massive home in New York City on Fifth Avenue for his new family. The home included several art galleries and a complete room that had been brought over from France. The family would live in the home until Clark's death in 1923. At that time, the house was sold to a developer as per Clark's will. The rest of Clark's wealth was divided among his five surviving children. Huguette moved into an apartment further down Fifth Avenue with her mother until her marriage in 1928. At that time, Huguette's mother moved into an apartment four floors below Huguette's.

Huguette's marriage only lasted a few months. Several years later, Huguette got a divorce in Reno. Huguette would never marry again, but she did carry on an affectionate relationship with a French gentleman who was a close friend of Huguette's in childhood.

Huguette became a recluse in her Fifth Avenue apartment, spending most of her time collecting and designing dolls and doll houses. After her mother's death, Huguette



moved into her mother's apartment, buying an apartment next door simply to keep from having neighbors and keeping the upstairs apartment as well. As the servants her mother hired began to die or retire, Huguette refused to hire new ones. For that reason, when Huguette developed skin cancer in her eighties, her doctor had passed away so she did not see another doctor nor was there anyone to encourage Huguette to go to the doctor. It was not until Huguette could no longer eat did she finally seek medical help.

Huguette was admitted to Doctor's Hospital near her apartment building to undergo treatment for her disfiguring skin cancer. When Huguette had healed, she refused to leave the hospital. Huguette had never liked change. The hospital allowed her to stay. Huguette quickly became close to her private nurse, insisting that she be the only one to care for her day in and day out. In a short time, Huguette began to give gifts to this woman, eventually giving her nurse and the nurse's family over thirty million dollars in the course of their twenty year friendship.

While in the hospital, the nurse was not the only person Huguette showered with gifts. Huguette gave money to a charity her lawyer was associated with, gave monetary gifts to her personal assistant and accountant. The hospital came looking for donations, but asked Huguette for huge sums, barely disguising their intentions. Huguette denied them and for that reason found herself transferred to another hospital building and then her room changed three times in the final years of her life.

Several years before Huguette's death, she made two wills. The first will left all of Huguette's money to her living relatives. The second will left money to her nurse, her accountant, and her lawyer, with the bulk of her estate going to an arts foundation honoring her mother's west coast estate, Bellosguardo. Not until months before her death did any of Huguette's family reach out to her or attempt to learn her condition. When Huguette passed away, her family began legal proceedings to protest her second will. In these proceedings, the family members claim Huguette was mentally unbalanced even though most had not seen her in nearly fifty years. The fight over Huguette's will continues.



Introduction, An Apparition, Still Life and Chapter 1

Summary

Introduction

Bill Dedman was searching for a home in Connecticut when he came across a listing for a mansion that was originally listed for thirty-five thousand dollars. The listing stated that the house had not been lived in for more than fifty years. Curious, Bill Dedman went to the house and found a caretaker who told Bill Dedman that he had never met his employer. Through real estate records, Bill Dedman discovered this same person had a large home in Santa Barbara California that also had not been lived in for fifty years and several apartments on Fifth Avenue in New York City that had been unoccupied for the last twenty years. The owner of these apartments was Huguette Clark, a copper mine heiress.

Paul Clark Newell, Jr. was Huguette Clark's second cousin from his father's side of the family. In the mid-2000s, Mr. Newell was doing research on the family history and contacted Huguette Clark's lawyer several times with a desire to speak to her. They had some trouble connecting, but eventually had some conversations in which Mrs. Clark shared her memories of her father.

After an article Mr. Dedman wrote on Huguette Clark brought her situation to the attention of several entities, including the New York City district attorney, Mr. Dedman and Mr. Newell came together with a mutual interest in learning the truth behind Huguette Clark's unusual behavior at the end of her life and to find out about her as a person.

An Apparition

On March 26, 1991, Dr. Henry Singman was called to an Upper East Side apartment for an emergency. When he entered the apartment, an unusual apartment that was filled with priceless works of arts and dolls, he found himself face to face with Huguette Clark, an eighty-five year old woman who had suffered uncontrolled skin cancer for so long that parts of her face were eaten away. Dr. Singman immediately instructed Huguette Clark to check herself into a hospital. She chose Doctors Hospital because it was close to her apartment.

Still Life

Bellosguardo is a beautiful, seaside mansion in Santa Barbara that has been kept exactly as it was in the 1950s. In the garage still sits two vintage cars, a 1933 Chrysler Royal Eight convertible and a 1933 Cadillac V-16 seven-passenger limousine. Both have license plates that say 1949.



Chapter 1 : The Clark Mansion : Part One

In July 1910, Huguette and Andree Clark, the daughters of multimillionaire W.A. Clark arrived in America for the first time. The girls, products of their father's second marriage, had been born in Paris, France. At the time, their father was building an ambitious mansion on Fifth Avenue for his young family.. The house was so large that it would include an organ that piped music into many of the rooms, three separate art galleries, and a tower where Huguette would later tell stories of how she and her sister played there. In fact, almost one hundred years later, Huguette would show pictures of the house to her nurses in the hospital. However, the 121 room mansion was taking longer than originally anticipated, so the girls and their mother continued their trip to Montana where they would live in their father's Butte mansion until the new home was completed.

Analysis

This biography is about Huguette Clark, the daughter of a multimillionaire who made the bulk of his money in copper mines. Where Huguette's father was an outgoing, vivacious man who was willing to risk everything to get what he wanted, Huguette was a recluse who was so afraid of change that she failed to see a doctor when her face was eaten away by skin cancer.

The focus of this book is not only on Huguette Clark, but the homes she acquired but never really lived in. Huguette and her mother lived in several apartments on Fifth Avenue in the years after the death of Huguette's father. Huguette held on to these apartments even after the death of her mother, living there until her cancer diagnosis forced her into the hospital. At the same time, Huguette owned two other homes, a seaside mansion in Santa Barbara, California and a country estate in Connecticut. However, neither home had been lived in for fifty years. The Santa Barbara home was fully furnished and decorated. Huguette had the home kept pristine all those years, but never went to see it, never stayed there. The home in Connecticut, the reader eventually learns, was never lived in, was never furnished or decorated.

The book begins near the end, introducing the reader to an elderly recluse who had to turn to a stranger for help when she could no longer eat or drink because of the damage cancer had done to her face. The book then works backward, taking the reader to the first moments four year old Huguette stepped onto shore in New York City. Huguette's elderly father, near the end of his life, was settling down, building a home, and bringing his family to be with him in the United States for the first time. This luxurious home shows the reader what an amazing advantage Huguette had in her wealthy childhood, making the reader wonder how she got from a dream life to become a lonely and frightened old woman.

Vocabulary

indulgent, lifelong, opulence, recognition, defiance, architectural, parroted, historian, establishment, lionized, horizontal, offended, bombastic, reassessment, opinion,



BOOKRAGS

mistress, recalled, ancient, illustration, revelry, andirons, security, storage, revealing,
whimsy, mysterious, comfortable, accommodate, converted



Chapters 2-4

Summary

Chapter 2 : The Log Cabin

W.A. Clark was a notable figure in his time, but was ridiculed for accusations of bribery. Clark was a hard worker, a man who ran multiple business all at once, never delegating any of his responsibilities.

Clark was born in a log cabin, something he liked to use to show how far he had come. In reality, the log cabin was on the large estate of his grandfather, so he was not born in the poverty his stories always implied. Clark grew up helping his family work their farm, even helping his father build the family's two-story brick home when he was eleven. When Clark was seventeen, his family moved from their farm in Pennsylvania to Iowa. Clark became a school teacher for a short time before making the decision to go to Colorado to join in the gold rush.

Clark and two friends ended up outside Bannack, Montana, where they bought small shares in an existing mine claim. They had little luck, finding mostly just gold dust. Clark found a better way to make money. Clark went to Utah and bought food supplies from the Mormons, including eggs. Clark then turned around and sold these supplies to miners for more than three times what he paid for them. During that time, lawlessness was a growing problem. A group of vigilantes began dealing with the problem and it is likely that Clark was involved, either at that point or later when he joined the Masons.

In 1867, Clark continued his grocery business, but also added to his income by hauling mail north into Idaho and Washington State. It was a difficult job, wrought with dangers, including Indian massacres. However, it paid well.

Chapter 3 : The Copper King Mansion

In 1868, Clark returned to Pennsylvania to court a childhood friend, Katherine Louise Stauffer. Clark moved his new wife to Montana, where their family would quickly grow with the couple eventually having five surviving children. At the same time, Clark built his business. In addition to the mail transportation business, Clark opened various mercantiles and banks with several partners, including his own brothers.

In 1872, Clark bought four mines of unknown value. Aware that he needed certain knowledge to make these mines profitable, Clark moved his family briefly to New York so that he could attend classes at the School of Mines at Columbia College. A year later, Clark returned to Montana and began to work his mines. Copper would soon be in high demand with the metal being used to build ships, to lay the first transatlantic telegraph cable, and the invention of the phone.



As his bottom line grew, so did Clark's desire to show off his wealth to the world. Clark built a mansion in downtown Butte, Montana that cost more than a million dollars to build. Clark's wife, however, spent little time in the home. In the 1880s and early 1890s, Kate traveled extensively with the children to seek better schools and cultural experiences. Clark joined them only occasionally. Kate died in 1893 of typhoid fever. To honor her, Clark built an impressive mausoleum in New York City's Woodlawn Cemetery that features a portrait of her face on the massive bronze doors.

As a widower, Clark took interest in the young women in Butte. Clark took two girls under his wing, twenty-two year old Kathlyn Williams for whom Clark paid to have opera lessons, and nineteen year old Anna LaChapelle, whom Clark sent to Paris to receive musical lessons. Kathlyn would go on to become a silent film star. Anna would become Clark's second wife. However, news of Clark and Anna's marriage would not become public until three years after the fact. In the meantime, Clark would be accused publicly of two affairs, one of which resulted in a paternity lawsuit.

In 1888, Clark would become owner of the United Verde copper mine in Arizona. This mine would become one of the most profitable copper mines in the world. Clark built a planned community near United Verde that he called Clarkdale. In the 1880s, Clark also built a railroad track from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City. Clark needed a place in the middle of this stretch of track where he could provide maintenance, water, and fuel for his trains. Clark bought up a former Mormon missionary camp known as Las Vegas and parceled out the land to workers and sold the rest.

Clark's mother moved to Los Angeles. Upon her death, Clark and his siblings created a memorial to their mother by turning a home into a place where single young women could live safely while pursuing a career. This home was donated to the Young Women's Christian Association, or the YWCA.

In July 1904, Clark announced his marriage to Anna LaChapelle and the existence of his two year old daughter, Louise Amelia Andree Clark. Immediately after the announcement, Clark traveled to the homes of each of his surviving children from his first marriage to explain himself. While the children were understandably upset, it appears that they each forgave their father his secrecy.

Chapter 4 : The U. S. Capitol

Clark was a man who wanted to be admired and to be admitted to the inner circles of American wealth. Clark never managed to reach the latter goal as he was often snubbed despite his obvious wealth and awesome art collection. In his attempts to make a name for himself, to give himself a title, Clark became involved in politics in the late 1800s. Clark was notable in the efforts to have Helena named the capitol of Montana. However, Clark's efforts in this endeavor further annoyed his chief mining rival, Marcus Daly.

Marcus Daly was also a politician in the making. When a delegate from Montana was chosen to go to Congress, Daly won the spot by manipulating the vote. In 1898, Clark



ran against Daly for an open Senate seat. Clark's son, Charlie, ran the campaign, using more than one hundred and forty thousand dollars. After Clark's win, Daly accused Clark of paying state officials for their votes. While Clark was cleared in a state level trial, there was an investigation in the senate that concluded that there was enough evidence that Clark bribed officials to force his resignation. Clark arranged for the governor of Montana to be out of town and sent his resignation to Helena where it would be accepted by the lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor then signed an order making Clark his own successor in the senate seat. The governor, suspicious of the timing of all this, returned to Montana in time to stop the order before it could take effect. It was a scandal that Clark would never outrun.

Despite Clark's disgrace, he was again elected to the U.S. Senate eight months later and served his term quietly. Daly would die a short time later.

Analysis

W.A. Clark was a gregarious man who wanted to be famous, who wanted to be part of an elite group of American millionaires. Clark was a self-made man, a man who found any and all opportunities to make money in a country ravaged by civil war and become one of the wealthiest men the country had ever seen. Unfortunately, Clark would never get the kind of notoriety he truly sought, the inclusion into the elusive Social 400.

Clark made many notable contributions to American history that are still a reality today. Clark created the town of Clarkdale, a desert community that continues to exist in the desert of Arizona. Clark also established the town of Los Vegas, one of the most notorious cities in America, though he had nothing to do with the gambling that would put that city on the map. Clark also helped establish Los Angeles as an important west coast port. Finally, Clark was instrumental in establishing the YWCA, an important factor in the lives of thousands of women throughout the United States.

Despite his many contributions to American history and culture, Clark is rarely remembered for anything more than the scandal that would blemish his political career. In a time when buying off votes was common, Clark was caught in a public and humiliating way that others were not. Clark was forced to resign from the U.S. Senate after an investigation established it was more likely than not that he had bribed most of the officials involved in his election, despite the fact that most of the allegations were brought by a jealous rival and that his son handled most of the campaign. It was a scandal that would follow Clark the rest of his life and which still clouds most of his accomplishments both in business and in American culture.

Clark's romantic life was almost as exciting as his political career. Clark was married for many years to his childhood sweetheart. However, after her death, Clark found himself the center of two public scandals involving women, one of whom accused him of fathering her child. At the same time, Clark was clearly a man who enjoyed the company of young women since he had questionable relationships with two young women, one of whom he married in secret before announcing their connection three



years later. This marriage would be questioned not only by his family, but also by the writer who suggests that the marriage was never legal because no one ever showed proof of a legal marriage license, even all these years later. However, this marriage also resulted in two more children for Clark, his daughters Andree and Huguette.

Vocabulary

disabled, consider, inclinations, entertain, directed, rearing, resources, requirements, utilitarian, supported, reducing, misfortune, energetic, destinies, explanation, perception, political, irrelevant, prosecution, tarnished, shenanigans, intelligence, confidence, industrialist, scheme, benefactor, published, manipulation



Chapters 5-7

Summary

Chapter 5 : The Clark Mansion : Part Two

The Clark family was scheduled to travel on the Titanic's second journey to Europe. Therefore, when the ship sank with one of Clark's nephews on board, Clark was deeply touched by the tragedy. Even Huguette recalled the events in a conversation with her second cousin, Paul Clark Newell, Jr.

The family returned to France often, spending summers on the beach on rue des Roches Noires. They were idyllic days that Huguette would remember late in life. However, the family found themselves stranded in August of 1914 as the German army approached. Huguette would recall how her father, cash poor at the time, had to borrow gold coins he had given his daughters to hire a car to get them out of harm's way. During World War I, the girls spent their summers in Montana where they spent time in the city their father helped shape with his mines and contributions.

Andree was a quiet, moody teenager. In an attempt to help their daughter find some happiness, the Clarks allowed her to join the Girl Scouts. In her diary, Andree wrote how the Girl Scouts was the first place where she was allowed to do things on her own. Unfortunately, Andree would contract meningitis and pass away shortly before her seventeenth birthday. As a monument to their lost daughter, the Clarks bought a piece of land near Scarsdale and donated it to the Girl Scouts who turned it into the first national Girl Scout camp, called Camp Andree Clark.

Huguette attended Miss Spence's Boarding and Day School for Girls in New York City. Huguette was remembered differently by her classmates, most recalling her as aloof and quiet.

W.A. Clark grew thinner in the last years of his life, although he continued to handle all his business affairs personally. In March of 1925, Clark died at the age of eighty-six. The loss of her father was difficult for Huguette who would always recall her relationship with her father with fondness. When the will was read, Anna was left with only \$2.5 million, a very small percentage of the more than \$100 to \$250 million Clark was thought to have left. The rest went to several charities and then was divided among his five surviving children, including Huguette. Huguette was also given an allowance of \$90 thousand a year until her twenty-first birthday. The house, however, was sold with the art collection going to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Huguette and her mother, Anna, left the 121 room mansion and moved into a luxury apartment on Fifth Avenue. The mansion's tower was torn down and the new owners turned it into apartments. The grand staircase was dumped in the ocean while other rooms and the organ were simply tossed away.



Chapter 6 : 907 Fifth Avenue : Part One

Anna took very little from the mansion she had shared with Clark. Instead, she furnished her new apartment in her own taste, spending more than ninety thousand dollars. Soon after the move, Anna rented a second apartment in the same building, leaving the larger one for Huguette to share with her future husband.

In her late teens and early twenties, Huguette took painting lessons from famous artist, Tadeusz 'Tade' Styka. Huguette was talented, even had several of paintings shown in the Corcoran Gallery in 1929, and often created paintings that featured Japanese collectables, such as lamps and dolls. Huguette would have a lifelong fascination with everything Japanese and even corresponded with historians in an effort to keep her artistic creations authentic.

There was some speculation in the Clark family that Huguette had a crush on Tade Styka, but there is little evidence to suggest this was true. In fact, Huguette would marry the son of W.A. Clark's accountant, Bill Gower. The wedding took place at Bellosguardo, Anna's seaside mansion in Santa Barbara on August 18, 1928. The marriage, while not openly unhappy, ended after only a few months. Family gossip suggests that the marriage failed because of Huguette's discomfort with the intimate side of marriage. In 1930, Huguette and her mother lived for three months in Reno, Nevada in order to establish residency so that Huguette could get a divorce.

During the same time period in which Huguette was suffering through her unhappy marriage, her older half-siblings were selling off most of their father's businesses. The companies did not function well without the day to day involvement of W.A. Clark. It also did not help that Clark's two surviving sons were alcoholics who died within a decade of their father. The only business the family managed to retain was United Verde. However, with the death of Clark's grandson, W.A. Clark III, the surviving daughters chose to sell the mine during the Depression.

After Huguette's divorce, Anna remained alone in her apartment on the eighth floor that she bought to give Huguette space for her married life. Anna began spending time with her goddaughters, children of the family doctor and family lawyer, Leontine and Ann. No one truly understands Anna's motivations in making these friendships, but the girls remember her as being kind and generous. Anna also befriended the children of her stepson Charlie, but never really made a connection with later generations of Clarks. Huguette, however, remained aloof even when her mother had guests or family in her apartment. Huguette rarely left her apartment and most relatives at the time only recall seeing her on rare occasions. Whenever invited out, Huguette also used the same excuse, that she had a little cold.

Anna was more social than her daughter, often attending concerts. When she grew older and could no longer hear well, Anna would invite musicians into her home. One of these musicians was cellist Robert Maas. In fact, Anna sold a Cezzane painting simply so she could buy Maas four Strativarius instruments, two violins, a cello, and a viola.



Anna gave them to Maas with instructions to begin a quartet. Maas did, forming the famous Paganini Quartet.

Huguette remain single for the rest of her life. This did not, however, stop her mother from trying to set her up. One man, T. Darrington, Jr. or Darry, recalled before his death how Anna tried to set he and Huguette up on a date. However, sixteen times Huguette came up with some excuse as to why she could not go.

Chapter 7 : 907 Fifth Avenue : Part Two

After her failed marriage, Huguette spent a great deal of time with a childhood friend, Etienne Allard de Villermont. Etienne and Huguette had played together on the beaches of Normandy during her childhood visits to France. In the 1930s, Etienne spent a great deal of time in the United States. There were rumors that Etienne was to marry Huguette, but the rumors never came true. In fact, Etienne eventually married a young woman named Elisabeth. However, from the 1940s until his death, Etienne and Huguette shared hundreds of postcards, letters and telegrams. In fact, many of these letters were quite romantic on Etienne's part.

Over the years, Huguette helped Etienne and his family quite often. W.A. Clark and Anna actually helped support Etienne's family for decades. Huguette continued this tradition for the rest of her life, not only sending the family money, but arranging groceries for them from a local grocer as well. Huguette even helped Etienne and his new wife adopt a baby girl.

In 1963, Anna Clark died at the age of eighty-five. Huguette moved into her mother's apartment soon after her death while holding on to her own apartment on the twelfth floor. Huguette had the apartment completely redecorated.

Huguette also began throwing much of her time and creativity into building custom doll houses. Huguette would come up with the concept and send it to an artisan, often sending the houses back if even the smallest detail was not to her requirements. Many of the houses were either fairy tale castles or authentic Japanese buildings. Huguette had an artist in Japan who made most of her Japanese buildings with whom she communicated through a go-between. Huguette also had a fascination for a French magazine she read as a child called *La Semaine de Suzette*. Huguette contacted an artist in France who found a pristine collection of the magazines for her. At the same time, Huguette befriended other artists connected to the magazine and helped them with their careers because of her fondness of their work.

Analysis

To listen to Huguette's stories of her childhood, a casual observer would think she had the ideal childhood. Huguette spent her summers in France, Montana, and other interesting places. She went to all the best schools, had exposure to all the best art, and was given all the advantages a child of a millionaire could expect. However, in contrast to Huguette's memories of childhood, Andree's experiences seemed to have been



drastically different. Andree was unhappy in her childhood because she was never allowed to do anything for herself. Everything was done for her. Andree was frustrated with her sheltered life. Only joining the Girl Scouts gave Andree a sense of freedom that gave her pleasant memories. Unfortunately, Andree died a short time after joining the Girl Scouts. The reader must wonder what Andree would have become if she had lived. The reader must also wonder what impact Andree's premature death had on her younger sister.

From the point of Andree's death, Huguette's ideal life began to change. Huguette's father died only six years after Andree. Not only had Huguette lost her father, but she was forced to move out of her childhood home. Although now a very wealthy woman, Huguette lost most of what defined her childhood. To top it off, Huguette marries a few years later and the marriage does not last. Huguette becomes a divorcee at the age of twenty-four. It is at this point in her life when Huguette apparently decided that she was happier staying permanently in her Fifth Avenue apartment, never again was she photographed outside of her home.

After her divorce, Huguette began spending the majority of her time with her hobbies. These hobbies included building doll houses to use with her extensive, and always growing, collection of dolls. This hobby would make Huguette look strange to outsiders, people who did not know her or understand her obsession. It was something that comforted her.

Huguette, despite her reclusive nature, did have friendships. Huguette developed a very close friendship with Etienne de Villermont, a childhood friend who had become something of a romantic figure in gossip columns throughout the United States. This relationship was deeply affectionate and would last until Etienne's death in the 1980s. Huguette was also very close to her mother, living only four floors above her for most of her adult life. When her mother died, Huguette moved into her mother's apartment while keeping her own. This suggests Huguette's attempts to remain close to her beloved mother.

Vocabulary

continues, illustrators, commission, response, heiress, carelessness, innocent, specialist, costume, retreating, patronage, tenderly, benevolent, bureaucrats, inhabitants, colorful, bouquet, supported, generous, described, particularly, inseparable, capricious, influence, credited, inspiration



Chapters 8-10

Summary

Chapter 8: Bellosguardo

W.A. Clark bought the seaside estate in Santa Barbara, Bellosguardo, in 1923, two years before his death. Then in 1933, eight years after a devastating earthquake, Anna had the original house razed and built a new one that would better survive natural disasters. From the time the house was finished, Anna and Huguette routinely visited the home until the early 1950s when Anna became too frail for the long journey.

The house was beautifully decorated by Anna, with rooms filled with her musical instruments and favorite art work. There were also many portraits of both Andree and Huguette. In the backyard, there was a small cottage named for Andree. It was a cottage that was never entered, never used. Huguette also made her own tribute to her sister when, in 1928, she gave money to the city to create the Andree Clark Bird Refuge on city land behind the Bellosguardo estate.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and fear ran wild in coastal cities about a second attack, Anna became afraid that Bellosguardo would be a target of the Japanese as a well located command center. For this reason, Anna bought a second estate twenty-two miles northwest of Santa Barbara. The estate was called Rancho Alegre.

After Anna's death in 1963, she left Bellosguardo to Huguette. Huguette, however, never again visited the estate. She did, however, give orders that the house was to remain in pristine condition and be left exactly as her mother had wanted it. When repairs had to be made, Huguette always insisted that the house look as it had before, down to the dog house for a dog no longer living. Except for some normal wear and tear, the house continues to be in the same condition it was before Anna's death.

Chapter 9 : Le Beau Chateau

Perhaps learning from her mother's intentions with Rancho Alegre, Huguette bought her own retreat in the suburbs of Connecticut. Le Beau Chateau was a large mansion on fifty-two acres of land. Huguette expanded the mansion, but she never lived in it. In fact, Huguette never even furnished the house. The house was never as well maintained as Bellosguardo. It has fallen into a degree of disrepair, including a tennis court that is choked with weeds and vines that grow in the kitchen windows.

About the time Huguette bought Le Beau Chateau, she also bought her third Stadivarius violin. This violin is known as La Pucelle because it has never been opened for repair. Huguette never played this violin, preferring to play a lesser Stadivarius. However, she took great care of it, having it serviced annually.



Huguette, the recluse who appeared to have no close friends, would have surprised a great many people had they known that she remained good friends with her former husband Bill Gower for the rest of his life. Huguette was also friendly with his second wife Constance.

When Huguette and her mother first moved into their apartments at Fifth Avenue, they had a large staff of servants. However, as time dragged on, most of the servants retired or died. Huguette, who was never comfortable with change, never replaced them. Eventually, Huguette was left with one servant, a woman named Delia. Huguette paid Delia well for her service. She also gave her a VCR and provided her transportation to and from work. When Delia died, Huguette had some part time help in and out of the apartment, but she would never again hire full time help.

Chapter 10 : Doctors Hospital

By 1991, Huguette's regular doctor had died. Huguette was still in contact with his wife, Suzanne Pierre. When Huguette's skin cancer had gotten so severe that it had eaten through the corner of her mouth and she could no longer eat, she asked Suzanne for help. It was Suzanne who sent Dr. Henry Singman to Huguette's apartment. He insisted that Huguette be admitted to a hospital. The first day Huguette was in the hospital, she had a private duty nurse by the name of Hadassah Peri. Shamed by her appearance and frightened of change, Huguette became quickly attached to Hadassah and requested that she have no other nurse.

Huguette's treatment was minimal, and she could have been released to go home within a month of entering the hospital. However, Huguette refused to go. She did not want change. The hospital surprisingly allowed her to stay. Huguette refused to see the regular hospital staff, insisting that only her nurses, including Hadassah, and her doctor be the only ones admitted. Huguette spent most of her days arranging the work on her doll houses and watching animated cartoons on television. Huguette also taught herself to play several card games after Dr. Singman gave her a book on card games.

During her first year in the hospital, Huguette had her bedroom in the eighth floor apartment redecorated, changing it so that it would look exactly like her mother's bedroom on the twelfth floor. No one ever entered the apartments during Huguette's time in the hospital except for her personal assistant, Chris Sattler. Huguette hired Chris as her assistant in 2000, employing him to care for her dolls, often asking him to pose specific dolls so that he could take pictures of them for her to enjoy at the hospital. Chris also organized much of Huguette's private papers and ran errands for her, often bringing her favorite childhood foods.

Huguette was a generous woman. Beginning in 1987, Huguette cared for the daughter of her childhood governess, Madame Sandre. Madame Sandre's daughter Ninta developed dementia in old age and needed constant care. Huguette arranged for Ninta to be placed in a care facility. Huguette also purchased Ninta's apartment for her, but Ninta never left the care facility. For thirteen years, Huguette spent more nearly a quarter of a million dollars on Ninta's care.



In another example of Huguette's generosity, she once sent her lawyer to the home of Gwendolyn Jenkins, a home health care worker. After Gwendolyn promised she would keep the identity of her benefactor secret, Gwendolyn was given an envelope in which there was a thank you card from Huguette along with a check for thirty-thousand dollars. This gift was Huguette's way of thanking the woman who made the final days of Huguette's investment banker comfortable.

Early in her stay at the hospital, Huguette's lawyer tried to convince her that she was spending too much money to remain in the hospital, especially when it was not necessary. Huguette spent money without concern as to how much money she had in her checking account. The bank often had to contact Huguette's lawyers to inform them that she was overdrawn so that they could transfer more money for her. However, they never knew how much would be enough. Huguette never discussed her expenditures with her lawyers. Huguette had a steady income during her years in the hospital from stocks, bonds, and other investments. However, with her hospital bills on top of other expenses, Huguette had begun to spend more than her yearly income.

In 1988, Huguette was approached by one of her father's beloved charities, a home for children named for W.A. Clark's deceased son Paul Clark. The home needed funds to continue its good works. Huguette asked the charity to share with her their financial documents, but she never sent them money. Huguette received similar letters from other charities her father and mother supported, but she again refused to send them money. However, about the same time she spent twice as much money as the charities were asking for on two dolls.

At the same time Huguette was ignoring the various charities her parents supported, she was sending support money to the daughter of her friend and art teacher, Tade. Huguette had not seen Wanda since she was a child, but they communicated often through letters and phone calls. Huguette also gave money to her nurse, Hadassah. It began soon after Huguette moved into the hospital. Hadassah would mention some hardship in her life and Huguette would offer money to fix it. Huguette bought Hadassah a house when the basement of her apartment building flooded. Huguette paid for Hadassah's children to go to good schools. Huguette bought Hadassah several more houses, a few cars, and gave money to her children for cars. Huguette even gave money to Hadassah's husband, brother, and to each of her children. In one year alone Huguette gave the Peri family nearly a million dollars. It was not just Hadassah who got money from Huguette. Huguette also bought a home for her night nurse and gave gifts to her doctors and others who worked at the hospital.

When her doctor, Dr. Pierre, was dying, he asked Huguette to give his wife Suzanne a loan so that she could continue to live in their apartment. Huguette not only gave Suzanne a loan, but she sold a Monet and gave Suzanne the entire purchase price, \$10 million. This allowed Suzanne to remain in her home in old age even as she suffered from Alzheimer's. At the same time, Huguette sold a Cezanne for \$15 million and promised the full amount to Hadassah, giving Hadassah three checks, each for \$5 million. However, Hadassah could only cash two of them, the third was a promise for the cash at a later date. Huguette also gave gifts to her personal assistant, a man who was



already making much more than he should have been. Chris received jewelry, cash, and the money to put his daughter through school.

While Huguette's new lawyer and accountant were urging her to curb her expenditures, her lawyer, Wally Bock, asked her to make a donation to build a security system for a town called Efrat in the disputed West Bank south of Jerusalem. Huguette not only made a donation, but paid for the entire system. A short time later, on September 11, 2001, Huguette was just a few miles from the World Trade Center. Huguette was reportedly frightened by the attack, though Huguette expressed to Wanda that she had the shades drawn and saw nothing.

In 2001 and 2003, to aid her new cash poor situation, Huguette sold her La Pucelle violin and a Renoir painting that had not been seen in public since 1937. Both were sold secretly. For that reason, each sale would be brought into question later.

Analysis

One of the things that originally caught the author's attention regarding Huguette's story was the fact that Bellosguardo was kept in such pristine condition, but its owner had not visited there for more than fifty years. The author attempts to explain this phenomenon in Chapter 8. Bellosguardo, purchased by Huguette's father shortly before his death, was always her mother's house. Anna was the one who rebuilt the original house and who decorated the house. Although Huguette was married there and she shared most of her mother's visits there over the years, the house was completely Anna's. Perhaps to Huguette, after her mother's death, the house had become more a memorial not only to Anna, but to the daughter Anna lost and clearly grieved her entire life. In her own way, Huguette turned Bellosguardo into a memorial to her mother by keeping it as it was the last time her mother visited there. No one will ever know for sure.

The author was also intrigued by the house in Connecticut, Le Beau Chateau. This house, as well, was never lived in. Different from Bellosguardo, however, no one ever moved into Le Beau Chateau. Huguette did a lot of work on the house, adding to it and even giving it a personal touch by adding hand carved spindles to the staircase. Huguette never furnished the house. For more than fifty years Huguette owned the house, but did nothing with it. This, too, is curious behavior. However, the reader cannot begin to guess Huguette's original intentions for the house.

When Huguette was in her eighties, she was alone with not even a regular servant to care for her. Huguette was happy with her dolls and her doll houses, but she soon became so ill with skin cancer that she could no longer survive without care. It was for this reason that Huguette finally asked for help. It was also for this reason that Huguette moved into a hospital. The reason why Huguette stayed in the hospital, however, remains a mystery. The bigger mystery is why the hospital allowed an essentially healthy woman to live in their hospital.



Huguette's life is easier to analyze during the time she was in the hospital because there are hospital records that recorded her activities each day. This insight, however, still adds little to the mystery that is Huguette. It is clear, however, that Huguette, despite her father's wish that she learn to manage her own money, had no concept of money. Huguette was inconsistent in her generosity and her expenditures were massive and out of control in the final twenty years of her life, often leaving her cash poor despite her extensive wealth.

Her generosity is brought to light in the tenth chapter of this novel. The reader is led to wonder how much of it was generosity and how much of it was people taking advantage of a poor, lonely woman. It is questionable whether a private duty nurse really should have taken millions in gifts from her employer. That question lingers as the story of Huguette's interesting life continues to unfold.

Vocabulary

extraordinary, instrument, inflated, auctions, investment, prevent, gender, confidentiality, merged, concertmaster, millionaire, mistake, confused, authorizing, refuge, magnate, collection, remarked, discussed, personal, connection, relented, anonymity, insisted, generosity, fortunately, terrorist, intended, sponsors, solicitation, affected, expectation, assistance, financial



Chapters 11-13 and Epilogue

Summary

Chapter 11 : Beth Israel Medical Center

Doctors Hospital was well aware of Huguette's wealth from the beginning of her stay there. The hospital hoped to solicit donations from Huguette. The hospital president, Dr. Robert Norman, befriended Huguette while Dr. Singman introduced members of the fund raising committee to her. Her surgeon, Dr. Rudick, even borrowed a million dollars from her. At one point, Huguette gave a Manet painting to the hospital to be sold for cash. However, the painting only netted a little over three million, leaving the hospital feeling as though they had been cheated somehow. The hospital was bought out by Beth Israel Medical Center. When this happened, the administrators stopped playing games, going to Huguette and demanding more than \$100 million dollars or they would be forced to move her to another hospital. Huguette refused and was moved to the main Beth Israel hospital further downtown. Huguette accepted the move with grace.

Huguette had some of her mother's jewelry in a Citibank downtown. In the 1980s, some of the jewelry disappeared. To keep the situation private, Huguette accepted a payout of three million even though it was much less than the jewelry was worth. When it happened again in 1991, Huguette was again forced to take three million when the value of the missing jewelry was three times that amount. There was also a time when someone stole checks from an old, unused checking account. Huguette refused to sue because of the publicity. Later, when a painting was stolen from Huguette's apartment and was found in the collection of Henry Bloch, Huguette was afraid to sue for its return and ended up taking only a tax break for donating it to a museum of the Bloch's choosing.

In 2005, Huguette signed two wills, six weeks apart. The first will left all of Huguette's wealth to her distant family members, mostly the children and grandchildren of her step-siblings. The second will, however, left a significant amount of money to Hadassah, her lawyer, and her accountant, while leaving the bulk of her estate and Bellosguardo to the city of Santa Barbara for the establishment of an art foundation. Soon after, the hospital moved Huguette from her comfortable room on the tenth floor to a less comfortable room on the third floor.

Chapter 12 : Woodlawn Cemetery

In 2008, Huguette's extended family began to grow concerned about Huguette. The Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. was the first to express concern to the family when Huguette stopped supporting her father's display of artwork. The museum wanted to begin extensive renovations to their building and they had hoped that Huguette would pay for a large portion of it. The museum reached out to relatives of Huguette in hopes they could convince her to donate. The museum organized a family



reunion for the Clarks at the museum in Huguette's honor. Huguette sent her accountant to the reunion to represent her. During the reunion, the family learned that the accountant, Irving Kamsler, had recently plead guilty to several counts of sexual indecency with a child after being caught in a sting soliciting sex from minors. The family also learned that Kamsler had reportedly told a lawyer how to go about avoiding tax laws on the administration of a client's will.

The family decided they needed to find out exactly what was going on with Huguette. First they went to her attorney who explained that Huguette did not want anyone to know where she was or to contact her, so he would let her know of their interest and leave it up to her to contact them. Carla Hall Friedman, Huguette's great-grandniece from her half-sister Katherine, and Ian Devine, a cousin of Carla's, discovered where Huguette was and decided to go visit her. Huguette was asleep when they arrived. Carla and Ian returned the following day, but Huguette became so agitated that they were never able to speak to her.

Kamsler was sentenced to probation and therapy, but he did not lose his license. Kamsler went to Huguette and had her sign a release stating that she knew about his conviction but still wanted him to work for her. A short time later, Huguette pledged a million dollars to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in installments.

After articles appeared about Huguette in national media, the assistant district attorney became concerned about her situation. For this reason, the district attorney visited Huguette in her hospital room and opened a case investigating Huguette's care both at the hands of her medical staff and her accountant and lawyer. During an investigation into the sale of Huguette's Renoir painting and La Pucelle, detectives went over her financial accounts and discovered some inconsistencies in the records of her former lawyer, Don Wallace. When Wallace died, he left in his will a significant amount of money to both Wally Bock and Irving Kamsler. Wallace had no children, but he did have a goddaughter who, originally, was supposed to inherit Wallace's wealth. It appeared that Kamsler and Bock took advantage of Wallace, who had suffered dementia in the final years of his life, bringing into question whether these two men were doing it again with Huguette.

Huguette's father, sister, and mother were all buried in the mausoleum W.A. Clark built for his first wife in Woodlawn Cemetery. Due to the fact that other relatives were also buried there, the mausoleum was full. Huguette had never made arrangements for her own burial, but insisted that she be buried with her mother. For this reason, Bock arranged with the cemetery for an additional space to be added to the mausoleum underneath Anna's resting place. This is where Huguette was buried when she died on May 24, 2011.

Chapter 13 : Surrogate's Courthouse

Nineteen of Huguette's closest relatives, mostly the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of her half-siblings, went to court to challenge Huguette's final will. These relatives, most of whom had not seen, nor made an effort to see, Huguette in over fifty



years, claimed that Huguette was mentally unstable at the time she made her last will and therefore could not have fully understood what she had signed. In fact, one of the relatives who was a psychotherapist went so far as to claim Huguette had a schizoid personality disorder. These relatives, upon seeing some of Huguette's paintings hanging in her apartment, claimed there was no way she could have painted them because she was too mentally simple.

Huguette left behind more than \$300 million, mostly in real estate, bonds, and other assets. Huguette also left behind an \$82 million tax bill in gift taxes that had been left unpaid. A large portion of this was from the more than \$30 million Huguette gave to Hadassah over the years, including the \$15 million from the painting she sold.

The parties entered into negotiations, but they were complicated by the individual interests of those named in the will. Hadassah, of course, refused to give up a penny of what she was to receive. This made it difficult to work with all parties to come to a fair resolution that would still leave enough for everyone to walk away satisfied.

To pay for litigation, the public administrator of the estate had to begin selling assets not specifically named in the will. Jewelry belonging to Huguette was sold along with her apartments. Le Beau Chateau remained on the market, but the price had been markedly reduced. At the writing of this book, the parties remain in settlement talks while the investigation into Huguette's financials has been marked as inactive because no evidence has been found to warrant charges.

Epilogue: The Cricket

Although Huguette was eccentric, the author believes there is enough evidence in her financial records and her personal correspondence, as well as her medical records, to suggest she was a mentally sane woman with a high level of intelligence. Her lifestyle was unique, but it was not a reason to label her as mentally ill or incapable of making her own decisions.

As a child, Huguette loved a nursery rhyme about a cricket who discovered that sometimes it is better to be a cricket and unnoticed, than to be a beautiful butterfly and always looking over your shoulder.

Analysis

The final years of Huguette's life were lived quietly in a hospital far from her beloved apartments, dolls, and dollhouses. Huguette wanted to live a quiet life of solitude, to avoid the glare of the public eye, and to be her own person. Anyone could argue that Huguette did exactly that. However, there are questions raised about Huguette's support system that make the reader wonder if she was not taken advantage of in her old age.

Huguette's accountant was found to be a felon. Huguette's lawyer and accountant possibly took advantage of another elderly client and took money from his will that did



not belong to them. Huguette's nurse accepted more than \$30 million in gifts and cash. On the surface it looks like Huguette was blind to what those around her were doing and that she was taken advantage of, used because of her great worth and charitable nature.

However, there is also evidence that Huguette knew exactly with whom she wanted to share her money and with whom she did not. While giving generously to friends and family, Huguette snubbed several charities her father and mother always supported. She also denied a large donation to the hospital that had housed her for more than fifteen years, even under the threat of being kicked out.

It is clear to the author and to the reader that Huguette was a woman who lived by her own terms and spent her money in her own way. It is quite interesting that her family, a large group of people who never tried to reach out to Huguette and who did not show interest in her until they learned she was growing older and likely to die soon, came into her life just in time to demand their share of the money.

One of the main themes that seems prevalent in this section of the book is greed. Huguette was a woman with a great deal of money. Huguette had many friends in her life, but not as many as she seemed to have at the end. People took advantage of their relationship with Huguette to get money. Perhaps, this had something to do with Huguette's great desire to be left alone with her dolls.

Vocabulary

luxurious, panorama, integrity, manipulations, frustration, indication, circumstances, situation, imagination, trauma, investigating, mental illness, unlimited, independence, stockbroker, generously, whimsical, correspondent, support, maintaining, recluse, emotional, physical, independent, affectionate

Important People

Huguette Marcelle Clark

Huguette Marcelle Clark was born in 1906. Huguette had an ideal childhood, living in New York City on the classy Fifth Avenue while vacationing in France and Montana. Huguette had only fond memories of playing in her father's 121 room mansion, of playing on the beaches of Normandy, and learning French nursery rhymes with her sister.

As Huguette bloomed into adulthood, she spent her time taking art lessons, playing the violin, and learning Japanese history. Huguette was married for a time, but was not happy in her new situation. Family rumors suggest that Huguette was not comfortable with the intimate side of marriage. Whatever the reason, Huguette became more of a recluse after her marriage, often turning down invitations to go out with the same excuse, a little cold.

Later in life, Huguette became engrossed in designing and having built doll houses for her huge collection of dolls. Huguette was fond of her many dolls and liked to play with them in her elaborate doll houses. Later, when Huguette was in the hospital, she would have her personal assistant pose the dolls and take pictures of them so that she could see them.

Huguette was also a great fan of art. Huguette befriended multiple animators during her lifetime. Huguette also enjoyed watching cartoons on television, often having them taped so that she could stop them frame by frame to study the artistry.

Huguette was also a very generous woman. Huguette financially supported multiple friends throughout her life, including childhood friend Etienne de Villermont. Huguette also gave money to members of the medical staff who cared for her in the final twenty years of her life and to strangers who had been kind to her or her friends.

William Andrews 'W.A.' Clark

William Andrews Clark, or W.A. Clark, was a self-made millionaire who was larger than life. Clark made his fortune in the west, first selling groceries to miners, then in banking, and finally with copper mines. Clark made many contributions to American culture that still remain today. These include the formation of the first planned community at Clarksdale, Arizonia, and the settling of Las Vegas in the Nevada desert.

Clark's legacy will always be overshadowed, however, by accusations that he bribed his way to a seat in the U.S. Senate. Clark was accused of giving legislators thousands of dollars to vote for him to become the newest Senator from Montana. Clark was forced to resign. Although Clark would run, and win, again eight months later, his political career was quiet and unremarkable.



Clark was married twice, once to his childhood sweetheart and then to a young woman he had taken under his wings in order to further her education. Clark fathered nine children, only five of whom survived to adulthood. Upon his death, Clark left behind a net worth of between \$100-250 million. Clark left the majority of his money to his five surviving children.

Anna Eugenia LaChapelle Clark

Anna Eugenia LaChapelle Clark was a French Canadian, nineteen year old girl when she married W.A. Clark. Anna and her family had immigrated to Montana when Anna was a young girl. A music lover all her life, Anna became W.A.'s ward as a teen. W.A. sent Anna to Paris where she took music lessons. In 1903, W.A. announced to the world that he and Anna had married three years previously and that they had a two year old daughter named Andree. W.A.'s children from his first marriage were shocked by this announcement, but they appeared to come to accept this new family in their father's life.

Anna was a shy woman who was often regarded as aloof in public. Anna was outgoing and happy in her private life, family pictures often showing her laughing. Anna was close to her children, decorating her home in Santa Barbara with multiple pictures of both daughters, even years after the death of her daughter, Andree. Anna lived in an apartment four floors below Huguette for all of Huguette's adult life. Anna also supported the arts, once buying four Strativari instruments for a cellist so that he might begin a new quartet.

Upon Anna's death, Huguette had her house, Bellosguardo, locked up, but demanded it be maintained exactly as it was the last time her mother visited. Huguette also moved into her mother's eighth floor apartment. While in the hospital, Huguette paid thousands to have her bedroom redecorated to look exactly like her mother's in twelfth floor apartment, even though Huguette never again returned to her apartment. When Huguette died, she was laid to rest under her mother's casket in the family mausoleum, a feat that required an expansion be made to the already full mausoleum.

Louise Amelia Andree Clark

Louise Amelia Andree Clark, or Andree, was the oldest daughter of Anna and W.A. Clark. Andree was a beautiful young girl who, by all accounts, was close to her younger sister. As a teenager, Andree was unhappy because of her inability to do anything for herself. Andree felt oppressed by the legions of nannies, governess, and servants her parents provided for her. As a teen, Anna became concerned about her eldest daughter and took the advice of a tutor to sign Andree up for the Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts brought happiness to Andree's life as she was finally able to do things for herself. Unfortunately, Andree contracted meningitis not long after joining the Girl Scouts and died just short of her seventeenth birthday.



Etienne Allard de Villermont

Etienne Allard de Villermont was a childhood friend of Huguette's. Etienne and Huguette met while both families vacationed in Normandy during the summers. Throughout Etienne's childhood and young adulthood, Anna and W.A. financially supported the de Villermont family. When Etienne was a young adult, he was rumored to be a Marquis of France. Etienne came to America to find a wife. He was connected in the gossip columns with several young heiresses at the time, including Huguette. However, marriage was not in the cards for Etienne until much later when he married his young wife, Elisabeth.

Although there were rumors of romance between Etienne and Huguette, there is no proof that it ever happened. However, Etienne and Huguette remain good friends the rest of his life, often exchanging letters, postcards, and telegrams. None of Huguette's letters to Etienne survive, but there are many of Etienne's letters to Huguette, many of which make what seem to be declarations of love despite his marriage to Elisabeth. Whatever their relationship, Huguette continued to financially support Etienne and his family, even providing credit at a local store so that Etienne and his family could have all the food items they needed. Huguette even became friendly with Elisabeth and continued to support Etienne's wife and daughter after his death.

William MacDonald Gower

William MacDonald Gower, or Bill, was Huguette's husband. Huguette and Bill, the son of W.A.'s accountant, were married at Bellosguardo when Huguette was twenty-two. The marriage only lasted a few months before Bill moved out of Huguette's twelfth floor apartment on Fifth Avenue. A year later, Huguette and her mother lived in Reno, Nevada, for three months in order to meet the residency requirement to receive a divorce. Afterward, Huguette and her mother went to Hawaii. Although the marriage did not last long, Huguette and Bill remain friends until his death, often sharing caring letters, postcards, and telegrams. Huguette also befriended Bill's second wife Constance.

Tadeusz 'Tade' Styka

Tadeusz 'Tade' Styka was a famous artist who was known for his portraits. Tade was Huguette's art teacher in the twenties. It was rumored that Huguette and Tade had an affair, but this was never proven. During her time with Tade, Huguette became proficient at art, but never really became exceptional. Huguette often painted pictures with a Japanese theme of some sort because of her deep love for Japanese culture. Huguette gave up painting later in life to devote more time to her dolls and doll houses. Huguette remained friends with Tade for the remainder of his life and also befriended his daughter Wanda. In fact, Huguette supported Wanda and her mother for the majority of their lives and left Wanda a sum of money in her will.



Suzanne Pierre

Suzanne Pierre was the wife of Huguette's long time doctor and a good friend. After Dr. Pierre had been dead for a time, Huguette became disfigured from skin cancer and needed a new doctor. She called Suzanne for help. It was Suzanne who sent Dr. Singman to Huguette. Dr. Singman would admit her to Doctors Hospital and be her primary physician for the rest of her life.

As Dr. Pierre was dying, he wrote to Huguette and asked her to make Suzanne a small loan so that she remain in their apartment after his death. Instead, Huguette sold a painting and gave the ten million dollar profit entirely to Suzanne. This allowed Suzanne, who suffered from Alzheimer's at the end of her life, to remain in her own home until her death.

Hadassah Peri

Hadassah Peri was a private duty nurse who worked as an independent contractor at Doctors Hospital. Hadassah happened to be the nurse on duty when Huguette was first admitted to Doctors Hospital. Huguette disliked change, so she requested that Hadassah always be her nurse, causing Hadassah to make the decision to work seven days a week, twelve hour shifts, so that Huguette would not have to deal with a new nurse on each of her off days. Hadassah and Huguette became so close that Huguette would often call Hadassah at home, ensuring that Hadassah got home safely and would be in the following day.

Over the years, Huguette made many gifts to Hadassah. When Hadassah would complain about something going wrong in her life, Huguette would offer to make it right with money. Over the years, Huguette bought five houses and three cars for Hadassah and her family while also paying for Hadassah's children's education and medical bills. Huguette also gave checks to Hadassah, sometimes more than one in a day. Most of the checks were for thousands of dollars. Many years into their relationship, Huguette sold a painting for fifteen million dollars. Huguette gave ten million dollars of the proceeds to Hadassah and promised her the final five million. Hadassah demanded the \$5 million in the final months of Huguette's life. When all was said and done, Huguette had given Hadassah more than \$30 million and left her more in Huguette's final will.

Nineteen Clark Relatives

Nineteen of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Huguette's step-siblings sued in court to have Huguette's last will overturned shortly after her death. Most of these relatives had never met Huguette, and those who had met her had not seen her in more than fifty years. Two of these relatives had gone to see Huguette in the hospital the year before, but they did not speak to her and did nothing to aid in her care. In fact, most of these relatives had a poor opinion of Huguette, assuming she was mentally unbalanced and intellectually challenged because of her fondness for dolls, doll houses, and

cartoons. One of these relatives even labeled her as having a schizoid personality disorder because of her reclusive nature. As of the writing of the book, all of these relatives were still in negotiations for a settlement regarding the will.



Objects/Places

Checkbook

Huguette often gave checks to her private duty nurse and others at the hospital in return for their kindness toward her. Huguette rarely paid attention to how much money she had in her bank accounts, leaving her lawyers and accountants constantly trying to encourage her to slow her spending. Huguette never followed the advice of the lawyers and accountants. Her lawyers had to constantly transfer money into her accounts to cover her checks.

Huguette's Wills

Huguette signed two wills within six weeks of each other in 2005. The first will left all her money to Huguette's Clark family with the exception of small gifts to her nurse and a few others. The second will left more to Huguette's nurse, to her lawyer, and her accountant. Huguette left the majority of the estate to the formation of an art foundation centered at her mother's estate in Santa Barbara, Bellosguardo.

Stradivari Instruments

Huguette and her mother both owned multiple musical instruments made in the 1700s by Stradivari. Huguette's mother bought four Stradivari instruments, two violins, a viola, and a cello, for the formation of a quartet. Huguette owned three Stradivari violins, one of which was the famed La Pucelle violin.

Letters and Financial Papers

Huguette rarely threw away anything. For this reason, she left behind stacks and stacks of financial papers that chronicle her purchases over a lifetime. Huguette also kept all the letters she ever received, allowing the authors of this book to discover various relationships she had with many of her friends, including childhood friend Etienne and ex-husband Bill Gower.

Anna's Jewelry

Anna left Huguette several pieces of jewelry after her death. This jewelry was kept in a safe deposit box at a Citibank. On two occasions the jewelry went missing, first when someone accessed the box and a second time when a clerical mistake caused the box bill not to be paid. Citibank took advantage of Huguette's dislike of publicity to force her to accept less than the appraised value for the jewelry.



Dolls

Huguette always loved dolls. As an adult, she liked to send a representative to auctions in order to buy rare and expensive dolls, often spending thousands of dollars on these dolls. Huguette did not always keep the dolls, but she would occasionally give away the dolls to the children of her doctors and friends.

Doll Houses

Huguette designed doll houses by describing what she wanted to artisans. Huguette was very particular about what she wanted in her doll houses and was not afraid to send them back if something was even slightly off. Huguette's doll houses were usually fairy tale themed or based on real Japanese architecture.

Art

Huguette's father, W.A. Clark, was a patron of the arts. When Clark built his 121 room mansion on Fifth Avenue, he had three art galleries placed in the house. These galleries were filled with expensive paintings, statues, tapestries, and pottery. Upon his death, Clark's entire art collection was given to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Clark's wife kept up the tradition by filling her apartment with priceless works of art. Huguette inherited these works upon Anna's death and would sell a few of them over the years to finance her gifts to friends and employees.

Copper Mines

While already wealthy from his endeavors in groceries and banks, W.A. Clark made the majority of his wealth from copper mines in Montana and Arizona.

Train Tracks

In order to make moving goods easier, Clark built a set of train tracks from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Los Angeles, California. Clark owned a private train car and would often use it to travel to Los Angeles to see his family members who lived there.

Bellosguardo

Bellosguardo is a seaside estate in Santa Barbara, California. Clark bought Bellosguardo shortly before his death. Eight years after an earthquake in the area, Anna razed the original house and had a new, sturdier house built. Anna decorated the house herself, making parts of it a small memorial to her daughter Andree. Anna and Huguette visited Bellosguardo multiple times a year until 1953 when Anna became too frail to travel. After Anna's death, Huguette inherited the estate. Huguette never visited the



house again, but she insisted that it be kept in the same condition in which her mother left it. In fact, after repairs were made to the house, Huguette studied pictures, demanding that everything be returned to the way it was, including the return of a dog house for a dog who had been long gone.

Le Beau Chateau

Le Beau Chateau is an estate in Connecticut that Huguette bought in the mid-1950s. Huguette apparently bought the estate as a retreat in case of political or military action in the United States. Huguette had the house extensively renovated after purchasing it, including the addition of hand carved spindles in the staircase. However, the house was never furnished, never decorated, and never lived in. The house remain empty for more than fifty years and was not as well cared for as Bellosguardo. The house suffered overgrowing vegetation, causing damage to a tennis court and several windows.



Themes

Greed

In any book about wealth, the reader must expect the theme of greed to come up in some way. In this novel, greed comes into the story of Huguette Clark in several instances. When learning of Clark's second marriage, Clark's children from his first marriage worried about what would happen to their inheritance. For this reason, Clark made a promise to his children that he would not leave his wife, Anna, a large sum of money in his will. For this reason, upon his death Anna and Huguette found themselves kicked out of the family home in order for it to be sold. Anna, too, only walked away from her marriage with two million dollars, a fraction of the money Clark left to his children.

As Huguette became a woman and began looking for love, she found herself to be the target of many people looking to marry her money. It was a difficult time for Huguette, who eventually married but the marriage only lasted a few months. Huguette would spend most of the rest of her life avoiding people and social situations.

When Huguette began living in Doctors Hospital, she began offering monetary gifts to her private duty nurse. The nurse quickly learned that if she complained about some event in her life that required money, Huguette would give it to her. Over time, the nurse ended up netting more than \$30 million from Huguette in real estate, cars, and cash.

It is clear in the story of Huguette's life that people would attempt to befriend her simply for her money. The hospital shamelessly demanded hundreds of millions of dollars from Huguette on several occasions during her twenty year stay with them. It also seems that the hospital punished Huguette when they learned they were not named in her will by moving her to a less comfortable room. There were monetary requests and complaints from multiple other sources in Huguette's life as well, from her lawyer to the charities her parents supported in their lifetimes. Even though Huguette shared generously, it is clear that the greed of other people was a major theme of her life.

Family

Family was an important part of W.A. Clark's life. Clark remain close to his parents and his siblings all his life, even including his brother in on many of his business endeavors. Clark made charitable contributions in the names of his mother and his children after their deaths. Clark also made an effort to remain close to the four surviving children of his first marriage after his second despite their unhappiness with the addition of Anna, Andree, and Huguette to the family.

As Huguette grew up, she was very close to her parents and her sister. Huguette would remember Andree fondly as an older woman. Huguette also remained close to her mother, living only four floors apart all her adult life. However, Huguette often avoided social situations, including visits from family members. Huguette did provide for many of



her relatives on her mother's side of the family, but she grew distant from those on the Clark side.

For the twenty years that Huguette was in the hospital, none of her Clark relatives ever tried to visit her. In fact, most of Huguette's Clark relatives did not know she was in the hospital until the months before her death when a museum alerted them to some inconsistencies in Huguette's charitable contributions. This did not stop the family, however, from suing to throw out Huguette's final will after her death. Not only that, but the family claimed that Huguette, a woman none of them had seen in fifty years, was mentally incompetent.

Mental Competency

Early in Huguette's life, Clark was concerned about the possibility that his daughters might be kidnapped for the ransom they would get from him. This instilled in Huguette a sense of paranoia as she dealt with the outside world. Huguette's mother was also weary in social situations, more comfortable in her own home. When she was thirteen, Huguette's beloved sister died shortly before her seventeenth birthday, leaving Huguette without the support on which she had relied.

Huguette married at twenty-two, but she quickly divorced. After that, Huguette made few, if any, public appearances. She preferred her own company to that of any other person, turning down dates and social engagements with the same excuse over and over. For the majority of her adult life, Huguette stayed inside her apartment, refusing even to visit people who came to see her mother in the apartment four floors below.

Huguette's mental competency was questioned as soon as her will was read. One relative even labeled her as having schizoid paranoia disorder. They did so based solely on her reclusive lifestyle. However, this label does not fit Huguette. To have such a disorder, the patient would be unable to sustain long term relationships. Huguette, however, had several very close friends, including her childhood friend Etienne, with whom she corresponded for more than thirty years and saw often on his visits to New York.

Huguette was an eccentric woman who had an odd hobby. However, she was an intelligent woman who knew exactly what she wanted and how to go about getting it. Despite this, her family continues to question her mental competency in an attempt to have her will overturned and her final wishes disregarded.

Styles

Structure

The book begins with a brief introduction that describes the way in which each of the authors came to their subject. Two small sections after the introduction the story of Huguette Clark is written from the ending to her life rather than the beginning. This is followed by thirteen chapters, each with their own title. Each of those chapters is divided into smaller sections. Finally, the book ends with an epilogue that offers the reader a commentary on the life of Huguette Clark and the treatment her memory has received at the hands of her greedy Clark relatives.

The book tells several stories. The first story in this book is the story of W.A. Clark's, American dream. The next story follows the early life and adulthood of Clark's daughter Huguette. The final story in the book tells of Huguette's final years and the fight over her money. Each story is based on facts which the authors researched carefully.

Perspective

Tone



Quotes

In the half-light, Dr. Singman came fact-to-face with 'an apparition,' a tiny woman, nearly eighty-five years old, with thin white hair and frightened eyes the color of blue steel.

-- Author (An Apparition paragraph 4)

Importance: This is Dr. Singman's first impression of Huguette Clark when he met her in her apartment in 1991.

The greatest mansion in the city wasn't quite ready, even after ten years of construction.

-- Author (Chapter 1 paragraph 4)

Importance: This refers to the 121 room mansion W.A. Clark was building for his family on Fifth Avenue.

Although he may have been something of a loner, his feelings toward family members were deep and affectionate, generously inducting his brothers into his enterprises as soon as they were of age.

-- Author (Chapter 3 paragraph 6)

Importance: This quote shows how important family was to Clark. It substantiates the idea of one's family as a major theme in the book.

As guests toured the Clark collection on Saturday afternoons, the main attraction was not any particular piece of art, but the music one heard throughout the galleries. The music came from an enormous pipe organ set into the wall above the entrance to a picture gallery.

-- Author (Chapter 19 paragraph 4)

Importance: This quote refers to the extravagance with which Clark filled his home in New York City, a clear contrast to the simple way his daughter would spend the final twenty years of her life.

Where W.A. had thrown open the Clark mansion to photographers and sketch artists from the world's newspapers and magazines, no photos of their apartments were published while Anna or Huguette were alive. They would have guests over for musical afternoons and small dinners, but access was carefully controlled.

-- Author (Chapter 6 paragraph 8)

Importance: This state shows the contrast between W.A. Clark's way of living and that of his wife and daughter.

The Clarks were proud of a side benefit of Anna's project -- creating jobs in a desperate time -- and Huguette often repeated the story that Anna ordered her overseer to hire as many workers as possible.

-- Author (Chapter 8 paragraph 7)



Importance: This quote is kind of tongue in cheek as the author describes how much money Anna and Huguette had to spend on a project like rebuilding their summer retreat during the Great Depression. Anna did provide jobs for desperate people during this time, but clearly she and her daughter never felt the pinch of the time.

The spiral staircase was grand, but for sixty years no wedding photos were taken there. The water heater in the basement, the length of a Rolls-Royce limousine, never heated water for a bath. An old green Jaguar belonging to the caretaker was parked in the garage. The combination to the walk-in safe was lost long ago.

-- Author (Chapter 9 paragraph 11)

Importance: These comments are made about the house in Connecticut, Le Beau Chateau. Huguette bought the estate and renovated the house, but she never moved in or even furnished the house in the more than fifty years that she owned the property.

Huguette Clark had been outliving her doctors.

-- Author (Chapter 10 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote expresses why Huguette Clark allowed her skin cancer to progress to the point where she could no longer eat because of the damage to her mouth. It also shows how difficult it was for Huguette to adjust to new people in her life.

How tantalizing this eccentric patient was for the leaders of a nonprofit hospital dependent on fundraising. Here was a woman, well into her nineties, with something more than \$300 million, and she was living in their hospital.

-- Author (Chapter 11 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote shows why it was so difficult for the hospital administrators to keep from asking Huguette Clark for money. However, Huguette only gave the hospital minimal amounts of money compared to what they repeatedly asked for, eventually refusing to give them any more donations.

March 1968. That's the last time any Clarks recall seeing their dear Tante Huguette.

-- Author (Chapter 12 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote shows that the Clark side of Huguette's family never made any attempts to reach out to their wealthy relative while she was living. This could be in part because of Huguette's reclusive nature, but the reader might wonder why no one even made the effort, especially as Huguette entered her nineties.

After the tour, several of the relatives commented that their Tante Huguette couldn't have done those paintings herself. It wasn't possible, they said. These must be the work of her painting instructor.

-- Author (Chapter 13 paragraph 18)

Importance: This comment is insulting in the fact that people who had not seen



Huguette in more than fifty years, and some who had never met her, could judge her to be so simple minded that she could not have created the portraits that hung in her apartment with her signature clearly on them. This is how the family honored Huguette's memory, but assuming she was unintelligent and mentally ill.

Huguette was not as she appeared to those who barely knew her. The story told by her relatives, the Clark relatives seeking her fortune, was that she was mentally ill, even intellectually disabled. In Paul Newell's years of conversations with her, however, right up to a year before the wills were signed, he found Huguette to be impressively lucid and cheerful, possessed of a keen memory.

-- Author (Epilogue paragraph 4)

Importance: The authors offer their opinions of Huguette to the reader, based not just on greed and assumption, but on careful research and conversations with Huguette herself.



Topics for Discussion

Topic for Discussion 1

Discuss the scandal that ended W.A. Clark's first term in the U.S. Senate. What were the accusations against Clark? Who was his accuser? What did the investigation find? How did Clark defend himself? Which actions of Clark might suggest that he was guilty of the accusations? How did this scandal affect the rest of Clark's life?

Topic for Discussion 2

Discuss W.A. Clark's rise to wealth. How did Clark initially make his money? What were his first businesses? What obstacles did Clark face in building his businesses? Why did Clark put his life on hold in the 1870s to go back to school? What does this say about Clark's personality?

Topic for Discussion 3

Discuss the contributions Clark made to American culture. What is Clarksdale? What is significant about its origins? Who sold parcels of land around Las Vegas? Why? Why did Clark build a railway? What was its purpose? How did it shape the future of Los Angeles?

Topic for Discussion 4

Discuss Huguette's hobbies. What was Huguette's primary hobby when she was a reclusive adult? How did this hobby come about? How much money did Huguette spend on this hobby? Why was this hobby unusual? Why do some think this hobby pointed to Huguette being intellectually immature?

Topic for Discussion 5

Discuss Huguette's acts of charity. Did Huguette donate a great deal of money to charities? Why or why not? To whom did Huguette give financial support throughout her life? Why did Huguette make monetary gifts to friends and strangers? Who benefited the most from Huguette's generosity throughout her life?



Topic for Discussion 6

Discuss the actions of Doctors Hospital in asking Huguette Clark for donations. Why did the hospital ask for donations? What was the purpose of these donations? How did the hospital respond when Huguette refused to donate?

Topic for Discussion 7

Discuss Huguette's wills. Why was the final will Huguette made contested by her family? Why did they say it should not be valid? How did Huguette want her money used? Where did the family want Huguette's money used? How much does greed have to do with the actions of Huguette's benefactors and excluded family?