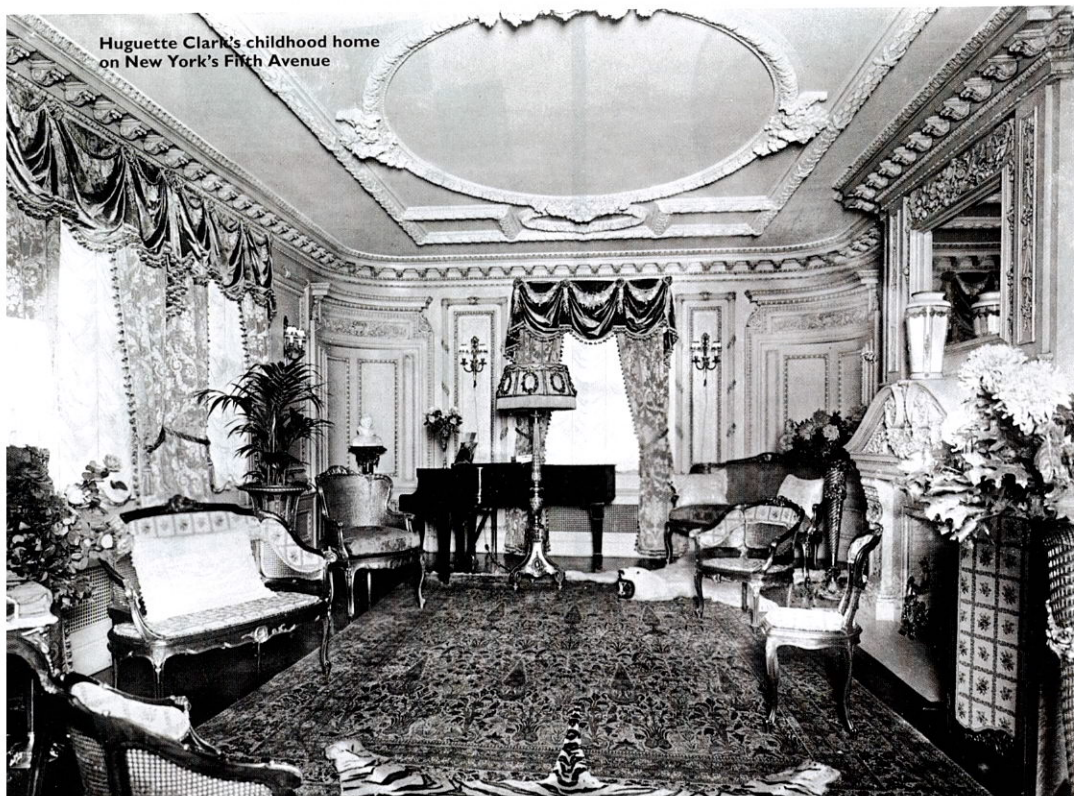


TALKING POINTS

Huguette Clark's childhood home on New York's Fifth Avenue



Theodora Getty



HIGH SOCIETY

The bygone days of sprawling estates and grand society dames fly high with this trio of memoirs and one heiress biography. Lady Pamela Hicks (née Mountbatten) recalls life at the heart of the British aristocracy – from friendship with Gandhi to years as Queen Elizabeth's lady-in-waiting – in the fascinating, fizzy *Daughter of Empire*. Eileen Rockefeller grapples with the weight that comes with her family's storied legacy in *Being a Rockefeller*, *Becoming Myself*, and Theodora Getty Gaston, who met the oilman J. Paul Getty in 1935 during a stint as a cabaret singer, chronicles their relationship in *Alone Together*. Finally, *Empty Mansions* looks back at Huguette Clark, a reclusive mining heiress who chose to spend 20 years in a New York City hospital as her three stately homes stood silent.

Put these on your nightstand



BEACH BOOKS ...

Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Lowland*, which follows the lives of Calcutta's Mitra brothers; *Nine Inches*, Tom Perrotta's collection of suburbia-skewering stories; and *The Asylum*, Simon Doonan's riotous essays about the idiosyncrasies of the fashion world. More sobering are *Levels of Life*, Julian Barnes's elegy on grief, and Jesmyn Ward's *Men We Reaped*, a memoir of loss in rural Mississippi. Finish up with Samantha Shannon's escapist read, *The Bone Season*, about a clairvoyant's strange underworld.



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Coffee Soci t 



STORM IN A COFFEE CUP

Founders of Coffee Soci t , Kar Wai Choong and Kar Heng Choong, are out to change the way we live. It may sound like a tall order but listen to their stories over a delicious cappuccino and you'll know the two brothers are going about it the right way. Instead of wine racks, bottles of mineral water line the feature wall, the rest adorned with posters of the cafe's Ladies' Night and 'Coffee In The Dark'. The latter offers free-flow coffee from 6pm till late on Friday and Saturday, to sober up partygoers before they drive home. It's little gestures such as this that can encourage others to make a difference.

Few could understand starting small better than Kar Heng. Studying in Melbourne, he fell in love with its coffee culture but was unable to land an apprenticeship. Not one to give up, he worked for free. "He could have made so much money," laughs Kar Wai, as he serves up dessert. The tantalising cakes are all home-made by their mother. Red velvet is the most popular, as are the scrumptious breakfasts. Think juicy sausages, eggs Benedict, and fresh arugula rocket salad, perfectly complemented by choice blends. Coffee Soci t , 3A, Level G3, Block D4, Publika Solaris Dutamas. Tel: 03-6211 5523.