The Glitter and the Gold Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan

Consuelo Vanderbilt was young, beautiful and the heir to a vast fortune when she snubbed the normal path of matrimony and shockingly married the Duke of Marlborough. Leaving her life in America, she sailed to England as the Duchess of Marlborough and took up residence in her wildly expensive new home - Blenheim Palace. The book gives a unique inside look into the life of a very private society figure, an American heiress. The book is revealing as it provides a glimpse into the life of this woman who married into a titled English family and decided to become a prominent suffragette. The book chronicles her life from her early days as a young heiress to her later years as a powerful suffragette. It offers a fascinating look into the world of the British aristocracy and the role of women in society at the time. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the life of Consuelo Vanderbilt and the history of women's suffrage. 

The Glitter and the Gold Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan 2011-10-02 A new edition of Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan’s memoir—the story of the “real” Grand Duchess of Marlborough. Perfect for readers of Jennie, the real Queen of the Gilded Age, and for fans of Downton Abbey, this memoir tells the story of Consuelo Vanderbilt, born into a family of American millionaires, who snubbed the path of matrimony and shockingly married the Duke of Marlborough. Leaving her life in America, she sailed to England as the Duchess of Marlborough and took up residence in her wildly expensive new home - Blenheim Palace. The book gives a unique inside look into the life of a very private society figure, an American heiress. The book is revealing as it provides a glimpse into the life of this woman who married into a titled English family and decided to become a prominent suffragette. The book chronicles her life from her early days as a young heiress to her later years as a powerful suffragette. It offers a fascinating look into the world of the British aristocracy and the role of women in society at the time. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in the life of Consuelo Vanderbilt and the history of women's suffrage. 

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One of the most extraordinary, rackety lives of the 20th century, Gluck and Gold is Hugo Vickers's biography of Gladys Marlborough. He charts a vividly exciting, and brilliantly told, account of a life dominated by scandal, divorce and romance. The story of the beautiful, brilliant, and tragic Duchess of Marlborough forms the backbone of this remarkable epic. Vickers traces the life of Gladys Marlborough from her childhood in the 1880s through to her death in 1934, during which time she was associated with some of the most famous names of the Belle Epoque. Gladys was the daughter of William Ward, 2nd Earl of Dudley, and the step-daughter of Lord and Lady Dudley. She was a close friend of Marcel Proust, and she inspired love from diverse Dukes and Princes. She was described by Lytton Strachey as ‘a strange, glittering being’. When Gladys was 22 her beauty had already ravaged her beauty. Gladys was to spend her last years in the psycho-geriatric ward of a mental hospital, where she was discovered by a young Hugo Vickers. Vickers visited her over the course of two years, eventually publishing Gladys, Duchess of Marlborough, a biography of her life - and his first book - in 1979. Forty years on, Vickers has now completely rewritten and revised his original biography, updating it with previously unavailable material and drawing on his own personal research all over Europe and America. The story of Gladys's life is a fascinating portrait of this brilliant, eccentric, and charismatic woman who was at the centre of a now bygone era of wealth and privilege - and a tribute to one of the brightest stars of her age.