



THE WORLD OF

Monica Anderson

WENDY GOODMAN

FOREWORD BY ANDERSON COOPER

And just when you might have thought Gloria Vanderbilt had played the most astonishing hand of her creative life, she springs forward with yet another surprise. In 2009 her erotic novel *Obsession* was published, earning a glowing article in the *New York Times* by Charles McGrath.⁸ And she is always in love. “I have never met anyone past the age of sixteen who so loves being in love,” Ben Brantley says. “It is an intransitive state with her. If you are looking for a key to eternal youth, that is it!”⁹ Her friend Ellen “Pucky” Violet, who has known her since their days at the Greenvale School, states, “Nothing Gloria Vanderbilt ever does in this lifetime is ever going to surprise me. She is just too amazing, and you cannot put her in a category. You cannot confine her to a corner.”¹⁰

Gloria’s family is her great pride. Stan lives with his wife, Emily, and their son, Myles, in eastern Long Island, where he has his own landscape garden design business called New Ground Gardens. His two daughters by his first marriage, Aurora and Abra Stokowski, live in Brooklyn. Stan is also a musician who has played with the band the xframes and is now playing with After the Carnival, as well as being part of a jazz jam in Sag Harbor every week. Chris has chosen to live apart from the family for the last few years. Anderson, the anchor for CNN’s *Anderson Cooper 360°* and the author of the bestselling memoir *Dispatches from the Edge*, is one of the most respected and renowned television journalists in the world.

Gloria recently wrote to interior designer Matthew Patrick Smyth, a collaborator on various projects, describing a fantasy inspired by reading about her friend actor Joel Grey’s house: “I must have a tiny secret house like that and it must be in Venice Beach. I will let my hair grow long and white and you will help me decorate it and there will be a tiny guest cottage painted sea blue-green with stars and a moon and a yellow sun on the ceiling and I will paint during the day and at night dance with friends on the beach and in the garden will be a gazebo, very lacey curlicues painted silver with vines of night-scented jasmine twining over as we sit having jasmine tea on a misty afternoon... oh, I must stop before I get completely carried away...”¹¹

But that would not be before she has published another book, created art for another show, and invited you over, if you are lucky enough to enter her enchanted kingdom, greeting you at the door with a mysterious smile, looking like a modern angel with a treasured secret you may or may not ever get to know.

OPPOSITE:

Gloria’s writing desk is in her book-lined library, which doubles as a cozy dining area, where she entertains by candlelight.