



To Cut A Long Story Short: The Continuing Adventures Of Stavros Allanopolis

By Stavros Allanopolis

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If you have not read about Stavros Allanopolis before, Stavros Allanopolis is the pseudonym of Stuart Allan. This is the third book that he has written since he left the United Kingdom in 2008 to live permanently in Greece.

To put 'To Cut A Long Story Short' into perspective, Stavros writes

When you travel, you can look into peoples' lives. On a Motorway or on a Train, as you pass through the country, you can often go right pass the front window of someone's house. You see into their rooms; you see their furniture; you see people going about their lives. Frozen for a split second in time, you can intrude into their lives and they are unaware. Then you are gone.

With this book, Stavros is inviting you to enter into his life and his home in Greece. You can see what he has been up to and by invitation not by stealth, or in passing.

It was whilst Stavros was completing the final chapter of his second book ('Watching The Olives Grow') in December 2010 that it occurred to him that the 'story' so far, would be just that; so far. He felt it was going to be an on-going 'adventure' living in The Mani Region, so at that time he decided not to write any more

.... However, in December 2013 he changed his mind!

He decided to chart the 'adventures' experienced since he last wrote about the Olive Harvest in December 2010.

This book is about the 'adventures' that he and his wife Valerie have experienced during the 36 month period December 2010 until December 2013.

A lot has happened!

Also, during those months he and his wife Valerie have paid out almost 12,000 Euros in unexpected and unbudgeted expenditure putting things right!

This book is about those 'adventures' and 'mishaps' that led to the expenditure and is designed to 'cut the long story short' and just to give you enough detail for you to understand the occurrences and consequences.

Once again, as in the other two books, Stavros has included many of his photos as a visual record.

So many things happened in such a comparatively short time! During that time, Stavros and Valerie spent the 12,000 euros which they had not budgeted for mostly on water leaks, falling masonry and car repairs!

Water leaks? Two major leaks that led to having a new bathroom installed, and new plumbing in the shower room.

Falling masonry? The fireplace fell through the floor into the foundations one metre below the floor, and the stone chimney breast fell down without warning; all two tons of it!

Car repairs? New clutch, new locks, new steering and new wing mirror; the original mirror had been ripped off by a marauding cow!

Not to mention, the unexpected arrival of MiMi and Bella who took up residence at Meerkat Manor much to the dismay of the cats Owen, Minstrel and Snowball. Read about how the lives of Stavros and Valerie are affected by the ‘Austerity’ measure imposed by the Greek Government.

Also, read about how Stavros came to be nicknamed ‘Goldfinger’ !

Stuart and Valerie have recognised life could have been easier living in Agios Nikolaos. Mind you, as Stuart says,

“Without the problems, we may not have experienced so much fun. Not to mention the pain of the extra and unbudgeted expense!”

However as they both say, “You have to be brave. Frustration is part and parcel of everyday life And so much more!”

Despite everything, they still confirm that they have no regrets about choosing to leave the United Kingdom and to move to and live in Greece. This book provides ample illustration as to why they do not regret moving to Greece to live their ‘Dream’ in The Mani Region of the Peloponnese Peninsula in South Western mainland Greece.

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