

# **A micro-study of Greek Female Immigrants to NZ in the 60s**

## ***An Oral History Project***

### **Interview Transcript**

Interviewee: *Adrianna Weston - Solonakis*

Interviewers: *Athina Tsoulis, Evangelia Papoutsaki*

Date: *27/11/2010*

Location: *Wellington, New Zealand*

Additional material:

*Bio details/consent forms/photos/other supporting  
documentation/transcript of interview*

*Transcription by Ilias Pavlidis*

(**Athina:** Athina Tsoulis, **Adrianna:** Adrianna Weston – Solonakis, **Evangelia:** Evangelia Papoutsaki)

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File identification, this is an interview with Athina Tsoulis, on the twenty seventh of November 2010, and we have Evangelia Papoutsaki who is also present and this interview is of Adrianna Weston, nee Solonakis, s,o,l,o,n,a,k,i,s and so that was Weston w,e,s,t,o,n Adriana a,d,r,i,a,n,a at two hundred and eight Queens Drive, Wellington. Um the interview is being recorder on a Fostics FR2LE recorder and AKGC417PP clip on microphones. This is file number one, we are near the airport so there might be airplane noises flying over..

*Adrianna: No you won't have that, because we never do except five o'clock in the morning once when the other side. We never feel...*

Athina: That's ok we just have to say this for the tape.

*Adrianna: Oh, ok just in case, all right.*

Athina: Ok, so Adriana what is your full name?

*Adrianna: Ah, Adriana Weston.*

Athina: Weston, yep, and where were you born?

*Adrianna: In Kandanos, Crete, Greece.*

Athina: Yep and how old are you?

*Adrianna: Ah, sixty five years old.*

Athina: And your date of birth?

*Adrianna: Ninth, eleventh, nineteen forty five.*

Athina: And do you have any children?

*Adrianna: No*

Athina: How long have you been in NZ?

*Adrianna: Since 1963, nearly forty seven and a half years now.*

Athina: Ok that's when you arrived; do you remember what month it was that you arrived?

*Adrianna: March the eighteenth, 1963.*

Athina: Ok. So, Adriana what made you leave Greece?

*Adrianna: At that time I wasn't sure but now looking back, probably because the some of us, neighbors, relatives they all flee to America, Australia, different countries. So I think,yeah that's what makes me feel that I like to be immigrated.*

Athina: Why what was going on for you back in Crete that you felt you wanted to leave?

*Adrianna: Nothing much, nothing much. I was the only one in the family that, you know, I was ready I wanted to go some where. I don't know the reason, I can never put any thing for it, I mean I don't know why.*

Athina: So who was your family?

*Adrianna: Sorry?*

Athina: If you don't tap your hand.

*Adrianna: Oops, oops*

Athina: So tell me about your family? How many people... did you have a mother and father?

*Adrianna: Yes, my mum, dad and six children.*

Athina: Six children.

*Adrianna: I am the third from the family.*

Athina: Ok, and um, so there was your father. What was his name?

*Adrianna: Emmanuel Solonakis. My mother is Athina Solonakis.*

Athina: And her maiden name?

*Adrianna: Um my mother's maiden name was Tomadaki.*

Athina: t,o,m,a,d,a,k,i

*Adrianna: Um hm.*

Athina: Um and your father was born?

*Adrianna: In another small village in Kandanos Spina.*

Athina: Ok, and tell me about your brothers and sisters. So you were the third, so you had...?

*Adrianna: A brother, the first child was brother, my brother Nick, Nicholas Solonaki and then my sister Eftychia Solonaki and then me and three boys after me. Do I have to say the names?*

Athina: We have got them here, so if you want to.

*Adrianna: After me there was John Solonakis, Stavros Solonakis, Andreas Solonakis.*

Athina: How old were you at the time before you left?

*Adrianna: Gosh, should I say the truth? Just about sixteen, not even.*

Athina: Sixteen.

*Adrianna: Yeah, round about.*

Athina: You were born in forty five and you left in sixty three, so were about eighteen.

*Adrianna: Yeah, but by the time we get every thing done, see you have to wait for two years. The time that ah to ah register you then they coming back after a few months, and they sort of um organise bits and pieces, the reasons and if I am capable of live you know to another countries and then ah after a few months again we have go to pass through from medicals and all this creates a lot of time. And then we have to go for four months to get some experience how the rest of the world lives.*

Athina: Ok, so going back to when you first decided, so you were sixteen...

*Adrianna: Yeah round about, yeah.*

Athina: And you heard from your neighbors that they were what, going to other places?

*Adrianna: Yes and we thought eh, hello, there must be a better life than this, than this way. We were so naive those days, let's face it and we just looking for something better.*

Athina: So what was you life like then?

*Adrianna: It was beautiful. I mean compared to, ah, the way, the time after the war and everything it was, it was... It was just easy, living life. How can I explain that?*

Athina: So what what would you what was your daily routine? What would you do?

*Adrianna: Oh, routine is, my mum have to get up so early in the morning about five o'clock to bath my father and washing all us up and send us to school. And sometimes one of us have to stay behind, we have to look after the dad because my father was paralysed. Mum have to go to work. So, one, we all take sort of turns. One stay one day from school then the other one the next day and more or less we have educated because we never fill up the whole year to school, we just...*

Athina: So were you still at school at sixteen?

*Adrianna: No, no not that time but before that, and and we just sort of brought up in a*

*lovely, um, family helping each other. How can I explain everything and it was sort of, you know, we wasn't hungry or anything because we all get paid pension until we get about twelve because of my father's sickness and you know we have a lovely reasonable life, a happy life.*

Athina: So you were sixteen and you weren't at school so what would you do? When you were sixteen what were you doing, were you helping home?

*Adrianna: Oh yes, we have to before that sixteen, before I decide to immigrated, yes we were in other people they have picking olives, all sorts of things we did, yeah.*

Athina: So they were the sorts of things you did, domestic things?

*Adrianna: Yeah, yeah. Well we didn't have any education to go any further than that, so yeah.*

Athina: And it would be normal for people to have paid work?

*Adrianna: Yeah, normal routine, yeah.*

Athina: So you wouldn't have been able to get a job?

*Adrianna: No way, no. Not unless.. .no, no I can't see any jobs, no.*

Athina: Ok, so, um, you talked about your father, just can you tell me about that?

*Adrianna: From what I hear my father was paralysed after the Second World War and of course we have... mum have to, we have to look after him, feed him, clean him, everything.*

Athina: So was that what your mother basically did? She looked after him?

*Adrianna: Yeah, yeah, then again mum have to go out and work, in the field and all that, we all so young and... we all help each other, you know one have to do to pick up the goats or the sheep from the farms and bring them home and, all all sorts of domestic.*

Athina: So you were, um, you grew your own food basically?

*Adrianna: Oh yes, oh especial us because we have a lot of land and we grow everything. Right threw the year we have everything really. From potatoes from, um, milk we do ours own. Not because we have too many sheeps or anything but we have the farms and we let let them let them to other people and as the rent they give us the milk for the... to make this special trachana and other stuff that mum used to do them, dry them and have them right through the year. The same with the cottage cheese, mizithra or feta we used to do so may things and*

*we keep us the whole year round. Same with the wine.*

Athina: Chilopittes

*Adrianna: Um, olives of course we have ours own. Yeah, we just live from the land.*

Athina: Do you want to speak Greek? Is it easier?

*Adrianna: It does not matter*

Athina: ..; ...and you were sixteen years old, did you have friends?

*Adrianna: No, we were not doing such things, but we were all together, all the families, because dad was sick, our house was like anybody comes and goes, just to keep me company,...to keep him company the whole day and I believe that helped him to live fifty years after...eh...the war, after he got sick...*

Athina: .. and what was on your mind about your life. These years, what did you think your life was going to be?

*Adrianna:...to be honest, I do not know. These days, these years, we did not have this craftiness, we knew nothing or the...the craftiness...I don't even know how to call it...to go to work, to earn money, we did not know these things...*

Athina: ..... not...but...

*Adrianna: ..... I wonder myself about the reason, why after six children I was the only one who wanted to leave...*

Athina: .. yes, I suppose what I am trying, I am trying to say is if you thought about your future in Greece, what was normal for young girls like you, what would you have expected?

*Adrianna: to get married, to get us married, to make our own homes, our own family, as it was traditional those days, just like my sister, they got her married,she left and got married, she lived herlife, made her own family, and that was it, rhese are the things we used to know those days...yes...*

Athina: you, however, did not want those things?

*Adrianna: to be honest, they were match-making also me, before...ha...ha...when I was fifteen years old...no, not...it seems that I did not want it, to be honest, I cannot answer this...*

Athina: And when you heard that people were going to foreign places....

*Adrianna: ... I was watching all our neighbors and when it was the time to depart we were staying up until three o'clock in the morning, and then we were walking for hours to go to the bus to farewell them, and all these, it seems, motivated me and so, yes, I was looking at these things and I was making dreams..*

Athina: So, how did you make the decision to leave?

*Adrianna: ... yes, it was also this, yes...*

Athina: Just you or others? Broth...

*Adrianna: And others, no, only me from my family, only me...*

Athina: And how did you do that?

*Adrianna: ... well, I did it, of course my mother and father together, we took care of these, yes...*

Athina: And what did they say when you told them?

*Adrianna: To be honest, I cannot remember that, but the only thing that I can remember, and also the girls which came along with me they have told me is that we will never forget my mother, when we were leaving from Athens to go to the airport and we went to the airport and my mother said: "My child Adrianna, she said, the way the rest of your brothers and sisters they will live, you will live the same way" and my mother kept crying. And the ladies were, many of them, still remembered that, and they brought it back to my memory, it seems that my mother later regretted it, that we left, I left, yes, very, uch, because all the children were with us, you know, and I left...*

Athina: And they were left there?

*Adrianna: Yes, yes, and they are still there, yes.*

Athina: So, when you left from Greece, did your mother come along with you in Athens?

*Adrianna: Oh yes, until we got to the airport, into the airplane, yes. My mother and her brother, my father was palsied, he cannot, cannot travel...*

Athina: ... And when you were in Athens, did you go to scho...m.m...

*Adrianna: ...*

*Ah, yeah, before, that was when the enrolment took place, and we went through different places, after we went through the doctors, then a new notification to take several things to Athens, up and down, at least for a year and a half we suffered before I managed to get here, and then we, after everything was fine, the pap...the doctors and the rest, they put us for two months, it was called DEME those days, DEME, to go there everyday to the school, so to learn*

*how the New Zealanders, the Australians wherever each girl was going, are living, to learn several electrical appliances and similar things, but we had already electricity and we new the electric iron and how to iron, most of us, not all, not electric vacuum cleaner and such things because we were living in a village and we did not have and couldn't, and, after there, we stayed in the school for two months, I stayed at my uncle's, my mother's brother, and the last two months we were boarding in the school, in Kifissia, and the teachers were there, and we were learning English and how to cook, how to bake, what's the word in Greek, and other things, and afterwards they gave us the O.K., we went down then for two weeks to farewell and on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> of the month, March, we came back to Athens and departed.*

Athina: And when did you find out that you are going to New Zealand?

*Adrianna: Oh, about a year ago, because we use to go there for a year and a half, before, we found out, we hoped when we enrolled, because I might have been sick and not been accepted when I was going to be examined by the doctors, but we passed right though...*

Athina: .. mmmm...

*Adrianna: But many did not make it, many girls were not all right....*

Athina: ... mmm.mmm..

*Adrianna: And so...*

Athina: Yes, so, when you decided to leave, what happened? Did you go to your mother and told her that you want to leave?

*Adrianna ...yes...*

Athina: And then what, how did you do that, was someone in the village who was gathering the girls, how did it happen? And how was it going to New Zealand?

*Adrianna: MMM...I do not remember the details...*

Evangelia: Was there any place in Chania to go from there or did you go straight to Athens for your papers?

*Adrianna: I think that the registration took place in Chania, yes...*

Athina: Doesn't matter...

*Adrianna: I cannot remember this...*

Athina: ...it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter, ah, so, you went from Crete to Athens and



from there back to Crete a few times?

*Adrianna: Oh, yes, we went, yes, I went...*

Athina: So, you were in Kifissia and...

*Adrianna: ... eh...from there...*

Athina: How many girls from your village, were there many or....

*Adrianna: Quite a few, yes....*

Athina: Did you know them?

*Adrianna: oh, yes, I knew them, there was one of my cousins...*

(the name, the names...)

Athina: What's the name of your cousin?

*Adrianna: My cousin's name is Irini...*

Athina: Irini....

*Adrianna: ... ah...oh...I cannot remember it, my cousins, hey, and now my brain has stopped, Kloyeraki, that was another girl, but she has passed away, she was a little bit further from my village, she was called Niki Bolieraki, I think, yes, and Eftichia Bolieraki, these ones were sisters, they were with me...ah...there were other girls but not from my village...*

Athina: And you make any friends there, in the school?

*Adrianna: Oh yes! Oh, yes! And indeed girls from other parts of Greece, they were going to be my best men when we were going to come in New Zealand and get married, another girl, as it is this house, it is hers, now she lives in Perth, she wasn't from Crete, ah..I got married first, I was her bridesmaid and baptized her son, yes..yes...*

Athina: Who is she?

*Adrianna: Lola is her name, Lola Theodo...Peristera Theodora but we call her Lela, now her surname is Johnson, the maiden name was Vayena.*

Athina: and...how were you as a girl these years, if you had to describe yourself?

*Adrianna: ..χχ..I can tell you that, not like this, but this cancer and chemo and all that changed my whole, outlook, anyway, it doesn't matter, I am still alive, I guess. Yeah, I got some photos there, if you want to see it, yes, it was, it was happy, I was happy child, I was happy, I always have been happy, like Rodger always called me "smiley", I used to smile just, but not, probably because I took sick everything seems to ...*

Athina: Yes, but you were sixteen then. Life was full of hope.

*Adrianna: Yeah, but, right through all my life, just have a look. I was watching some photos to see how the last... since the cancer the rheumatoid arthritis it hurts me to start with, but, after wards I was ok, but the cancer really let me down, puts me really down.*

*Adrianna: Yes, this.*

Athina: Yeah, yeah, cancer does that, it makes you feel really vulnerable.

*Adrianna: Ah, but eh, I'm survive.*

Athina: But that's right. So, let's go back to when you were sixteen...

*Adrianna: Oops.*

Athina: And cancer was this far away thing.

*Adrianna: Yeah*

Athina: How would you have described yourself? What sort of a person were you? You said you were happy?

*Adrianna: Yeah.*

Athina: What were you dreams and hopes? What.. .how.. .you know, what did you want from life?

*Adrianna: I don't know. All I wanted is at those days to have a nice car, because I have a rich family back there they used to have it that day. Always dream to have a nice car. Stupid might be but yeah. Ah, I used to love sports, because that's all we play in the back yard or in the carriage-way, eh, we use to call it carriage-way, I can't remember, yes, and we all use to go they were falling asleep, they have siesta in the afternoons, we always play outside in the streets and all that, soccer, and all that, and I am still, I am a soccer lover, you know, although I am living in New Zealand, I love rugby, but as soon as the Phoenix come up, me and Roger, us members every year, ous..*

Athina: Might be good to get a cushion to put under her hands...

*Adrianna: yes, yes, all right, all right..*

Athina: ..mm..

Athina: και we just resuming, and this is file number two with Andriana Weston. So, Andriana, we just try to get a sense of your life in Crete, before you left, before you even went to Athens, so, it sounds like, you had a quite, a strong community..

*Adrianna: Oh, yes! Oh, yea! Very strong. A strong community in the sense, because I think is, maybe other reasons, but the family...the are so old family, old traditions and all, sort of will helping each other, everywhere they go, we go, we all, you know, well, the whole village like a family, especially because of my father, he was so ill, know, paralyzed, at least fifty years afterwards because of the people, they come to visiting him day after day, hour by hour you know, at my place always you find somebody walking, or be there, just to keep us company. We sort of, you know brought up with people and friends, and what ever Mama was cooking, every body is welcome.*

Athina: So, you, um, didn't have a father who was the authority figure?

*Adrianna: No...*

Athina: So....

*Adrianna: that we don't., we never have that.*

Athina: Right..

*Adrianna: Which is other families, even my uncles and all that they are the man of the house and all that but no., in my house it was...if I went to do some work for the old lady there or do help her something. For example she wants to spray the kitchen and she couldn't do it, I was going to do it, she always give me some money or something and I always give it to Dad. You know, but for example, if it's national holidays the day of, you know, like the 25th March or 28th October, Mum will take us to school after the school take us to the, um, what you call that custard pie and all that?*

Athina: Oh, ah, cake-shop

*Adrianna: Cake-shop, that's... yeah. It's always, always and she always dress us beautifully Mum....yeah. If the Christmas coming she used to bake and give us the koulouris and every thing. New Year, we have the game boy at home because all the neighborhood, they used to come there for, you know, um, what you call that play the Agios Vassillis?*

Athina: Ah ha.

*Adrianna: And I remember the... all the aunts they come in the house and Mum used to do*

*the Agios Vassillis cake and kserotigana and honey donuts and everything and it was beautiful., beautiful, ah, traditions that Mum used to keep it, in having it and I am still keeping it in New Zealand, all these years.*

Athina: So, what effect did your father's paralysis have on you?

*Adrianna: Well when I left I didn't knew much about him. When I came back later, I didn't... still know body wants ....ten years later I went back there, still nobody wants to say any thing. But afterwards I really really wake up and I went and asked... I needed some answers and I did find a lot of answers, yeah. For example when Mum... when everybody else, when we have the schools and have this poems read and every thing, um, ah, Dad was never with us and I didn't like that, but I didn't know the real reason you see.*

Athina: So, you didn't know why he was in bed?

*Adrianna: Nothing, eh, not..not..*

Athina: And did you ever ask your mother?

*Adrianna: They never say then she give me some other excuse, oh, go and get me that, or that, or something to get rid of me. Never wants to answer anything. And that hurts, it did hurts alot.*

Athina: So there was secrecy around the whole thing?

*Adrianna: It was a secrecy, but what secrecy was later when I found out. It wasn't a secrecy it's just something they don't want us to know because they worrying us, for what? For heavens sake!*

Athina: And did you talk to your brothers and sisters about it?

*Adrianna: Oh yes, we start talking and we go back wards and remember you doing so and so and all that back stories and every thing, but... mmmm.*

Athina: And so, um, what did you., what did they think of you wanting to leave?

*Adrianna: Oh, I think all of the cry, they don't like the idea though. None, especial Stavros, my brother in Salonika . Oh, he didn't want me to, even though he was about four years younger than me, but he didn't.*

Athina: So why do you think you did and no body else?

*Adrianna: I don't know, I don't know. I just don't know. I think I'm, how can I say it in Greek,*

*I became like the other, the other, the rest of the villages, some of them they go and I feel like going to, I don't know, I don't know, I can never answer that proper, because I just can't remember the reason why, I don't know.*

Evangelia: Mrs Adrianna, you applied to go to New Zealand, because everybody was going to New Zealand or you wanted to go wherever being that America, Australia?

Athina: .... mmm...

Adrianna: ... wherever...

Evangelia: .....wherever...

Adrianna: .....yes, I was going for Australia...

Evangelia: ... .why?

Adrianna: ....why? you tell me, why? Because other cousins of ours were there, but at the same time I had cousins, first cousins here....

**Athina: .. in New Zealand?**

Adrianna: ....in New Zealand, and the other thing was that my father, dear departed, he says, he was always lying down and he says to me: "come, sit here, my daughter, my daughter, he used to say to me, sit here, and we sat next to him and he says to me "look" and he showed me the photographs, the books that they gave us and he was looking at the beautiful flowers and the baby lamp, and to one thing and to another, and he says "my child, he says, my daughter, my daughter, my daughter, I think my father used to call me, my mother used to call me "my girl", he says "it is good over there, my child,, you should go, look, look at these" and was also the other one, my first cousin here, and all these were contributing, but wanted also to go to America, I liked it there, but they didn't allow us to go there, they blocked immediately the access...

Evangelia: ...mmm...

Adrianna:... it was only New Zealand and Australia then...and so I came here....

Athina: ... and how was it that your mother allowed a young girl to go to a place God knows where....

Adrianna: ...ooops, sorry...

Athina: ...on her own...

Adrianna: ....eh...eh..I think my mother looking at our cousin here was more confident to

*send me here, but in Australia we had so many neighbors, a lot of people, from our village....*

Athina: *...a how did you know wow was their life, eh....*

*Adrianna: ... eh, they kept writing letters, sending gifts, I am thinking, letters, and such things and we kept reading, and to be honest, all our female neighbors, none was capable of writing, they were, it seems, at the years of war and didn't learn how to write, didn't know how to read, and my poor father not...and my mother were very educated, they were both educated, they were...they used to read and write, I am not saying that they went to the University, but my father, always their letters, and my father always used to read them to them, thus the father knew, I didn't know but the father knew....*

Athina: *.. and did you listen those letters he used to read?*

*Adrianna: .....of course...al of them...*

Athina: *.. and what did they say, what did they say about Australia?*

*Adrianna: ... eh, about Australia, everyone was fine, always enthusiastic, my father want to ...to show to the grandmothers there and to his female cousins this, if they were worried, he might not even told them. We don't know that but he might hadn't even told them....*

Athina: *...ah, not to read them aloud...*

*Adrianna: ..... not to read them...*

Athina: *... yes...*

*Adrianna: ... the truth, yes, if anyone was sick, father was very, probably his experience being paralyzed, he was reading a lot and they used to send him newspapers from all over Greece, books, for free, they used to send them and he was reading a lot and my father knew many things, very many things....*

Athina: *... and what did they use to say about New Zealand?*

*Adrianna: the same things they used to say there, as my cousin Tasoula was here, she is Crete, in Gree...in Athens now, and since she was my first cousin, same name, eh...probably for this reason we came here afterwards, I don't know...*

Athina: *... your female cousin, her name....*

*Adrianna: ... Tasoula So....Anastasia Solanaki...*

Athina: *... . Anastasia...*

*Adrianna: ... they live in Athens, but....*

Evangelia: Did Anastasia also came with DEME?

*Adrianna: .. yes, yes, all, yes. Sophia, also, another cousin of mine, who came after me....*

Athina: ., mmm...

*Adrianna: ...yes!*

Athina: ... and...mmm...you went together when you left with your cousin?

*Adrianna: ... no, she was here....*

Athina: ...she had come??

*Adrianna: ... she had, yes, she had come....*

Athina: .. ah...and your heard those letters that your father was reading and you made up your mind that is nice....

*Adrianna: ...I enclosed everything inside me and off I went....*

Athina: ... yes!!!

*Adrianna: ... and my fath...my mother wasn't very upset, I think my mother wasn't very upset because she had...my cousin is older than me, and taking courage from this. But, finally, my mother regretted it, others told me, but it was already too late...eh...we were embarking on the airplane....*

Athina: .... and when you left, was it for good or only for few years?

*Adrianna: ... ha...ha...everybody used to say the first ten years, ha, ha, This is what all the girls we used to say on the airplane, the first ten years, eh, that we will return....*

Athina: ... and how would you return?

*Adrianna: We would have returned, we will come, it seems, to work, to...eh...I don't know this, and...we...will make money to return, I don't know, I guess this is what we had in our mind....*

Athina: ..ah...to get a car...

*Adrianna: ... and...and...and...well, this...and you should see what kind of cars I had bought throughout my life...ah...I enjoyed it...*

Athina: ..this one outside, the Jaguar, is it yours;

*Adrianna: ... the Jaguar, it is, I liked the Jag, but I preferred the other one, the sport one,*

*Roger liked this one more, but I had said, ah, I had other cars when the time was appropriate, but now I am an old lady, what do you want?*

Athina: ...Ok, so, tell me about your last day in Greece;

*Adrianna: ...I remember one thing and this was reminded to me when I went down to Crete, at night they had a party, the way we do in Crete, as if we are getting married, because we were really getting married, we were leaving, and you should see xerotigana (traditional sweet), you should see several things and food and tables, the whole village and it is a big village, it was Saraki, it is not a tiny village...eh...the other day, we were sitting the whole day, we didn't sleep, they were dancing, drinking, they were eating there, the whole night, and the next morning, the whole village we went down, and they farewelled me, I went to Kandanos, which is, it is...how they call it...the bus to take us to Chania to catch the boat and boat to Athens...*

Athina: How many were you, just you or others too?

*Adrianna: I was the only one from there, yes, the other girls were from different neighborhoods...*

Athina: ..ah..was the party only for you?

*Αδριάννα:... ah, yeah, but also for every girl that was leaving, they did the same thing, it wasn't just for me, eh...that night was my turn, but other times, when the neighbor left, my female cousin, each one had her own party...ah...yeah!!they were going from there...eh...they were staying the whole night through...*

Athina: ...yes...

*Adrianna: ...they weren't going to sleep....*

Athina: ... yes, I find this very strange because the girls weren't going anywhere without a man...

*Αδριάννα :...mmm....*

Athina: ..or a brother or someone....

*Adrianna: ....mm...mmm*

Athina: ... and you to leave on your own, was strange?

*Adrianna: It was! Look backwards, yes! But it wasn't then because all the people was leaving, we weren't on our own...*



Athina: ..why did they lea...why?

*Adrianna: eh.. because if they weren't asking for dowry, I am not talking about myself, because my fate didn't have any dowry, we didn't have, we had mountains, whole mountains, but who was going to work there? But we didn't have dowry, I didn't have dowry, for this I left...eh...but I don't take an oath...ha...my sister got married, but my sister was a very beautiful lady and she got married without having a thing, we say, mother made her a very nice dowry, mother was a very good housewife, a very good one...but I might have left because of the dowry, it might have been this*

Athina: ...So, you had good company, you had a good, but all these...

*Adrianna: ...oh...oh...yes!!!*

Athina: ... you didn't have the money....

*Adrianna: ... eh, look, we used to live there, we didn't need money to live, we had a comfortable life, how can I call it, we had everything, our festivals, every year, we knew St. John, the religious festival further up, we all used to go, mother was preparing food which we were carrying there and stayed the whole night...eh...to every festival, we used to run there, if someone was getting married, everybody was invited, not only one, as they do today, and all had good time with each other...we were not deprived of these things, neither of the cinema, we used to go, they were taking us there, I didn't have any problem...*

Athina: ...but you still wanted to leave....

*Adrianna: ...!oh, yeah, eh, I think in my whole life, I want to look further ahead, that's my, you know, I always want this, and even now I know that I might not be alive tomorrow, because I have cancer, ok, cancer is under remission, but the doctor said to me: «you got a cancer, its in remission, but nevertheless, he says, still your brother», so, tomorrow I might not wake up, because of it, I don't know..*

Athina: ...eh...

*Adrianna: ... so, Land lam still look forward for something, I don't know for more...for what, now I want to buy a house, yesterday I didn't want to buy a house, you see what I mean, I want to ...*

Athina: ..yed...

*Adrianna: ....to look ahead...*

Athina: ...but you went to Athens...

Adrianna: ...mmm...

Athina: ..and it was a big city...

Adrianna: ...ω, wait, I have been before there, ...

Athina: ...eh...

Adrianna: ... quite a few times...

Athina: ..and to ...

Evangelia: ...Chania...

Athina: ... Chania;

Evangelia: Chania was a big city...

Adrianna: ...yes, it was, certainly it was.....

Athina: .. but still you weren't happy...ha...ha..

Adrianna: ...oh, no, no...that is nothing, to me the και Athina we have so the relation there and all that. I was there before. Ah, I have a uncle, he's a member of the Court of Appeals, he has for example some court cases in Larissa, because my auntie was a little bit older person - not very active. My uncle say you come with me, we go there for two months, and so and so. I got a case and there, zoom went in there, you know what I mean. I knew every thing, every where, I mean...

Athina: So, what did you know about the outside world, and how did you know about it?

Adrianna: I don't know.

Athina: Did you hear the radio, did..

Adrianna: O oh no, no radio.

Athina: No radio?

Adrianna: No, we have a radio and all that, back home, oh yeah. We were only about twelve when we went and clean up some, some wood from the mountain to send it to Chania. Logs, what they call them, selling them. So we buy Dad's first radio with the battery. Was a big deal, I was only about nine, I don't know how old I was - a little one but the older ones, but we all be hard, we all help each other.

Athina: So did you listen to the radio?

Adrianna: Oh yeah, they do, we all do.

Athina: And it talked about the rest of the world?

Adrianna: Ah yeah.

**Athina: Current affairs?**

*Adrianna: Ah that.. I can't.. I don't say it. I don't know. No, no, but we heard all the news around the Greece. We knew about Saloniki, the., what you call them the ana ponti narm and all this, we knew all the around there, but, let's put it this way, even in New Zealand today, how many Greeks knows about the world and every thing. Very, very few. I mean in the morning I sitting there a hour and a half to read every thing, but if you ask the next neighbor, mmmm, and if he doesn't put the TV like me or the radio, that's it. And we still the same in New Zealand, ah Greeks I mean, yeah.*

Athina: So it there was a sense of adventure, going to somewhere that you didn't know anything about.

*Adrianna: Yeah, yeah, mmm,mmm.*

Athina: So what was going through your mind as you were waving good bye to Greece?

*Adrianna: It was the middle of the night, I can tell you that.*

Athina: And you., first time on a plane?

*Adrianna: I was just going to say, it was the first time. We, we travel with the boat from Crete to Athens, but never on the plane. Now you ask me to fly, I'm scared like that. That time I didn't know anything about planes.*

Athina: How long did it take, on the plane? Did you have stop overs and..?

*Adrianna: Oh yes, stop over in Karachi, Manila Karachi. Is it Karachi? Yeah, one night. Ah, that's the time., second time I see a black man. The first black man I saw it from Kandanos to Spina where they make the road, the bull dozers. Umm, they fixing it and there was a black one.*

Athina: And what did you think?

*Adrianna: That time, I tell you what, I was about six or seven, I was very young and every night those two drivers they sleep one day in my friend's Mum, the next day to some one else. Every day some body else look after them. That night I was coming down the stairs and I saw the driver washing outside and I see his teeth. I never forget that. First time I've seen that. And then we come to Karachi, in Manila, they all black, black black. Exactly like him and all the girls scared. I said come on, that's how we... cause my father knew that we are having Maoris but not, not as black as the South Africans, because my., as I said my father usually reads a lot*

*and he knew all about it.*

Athina: And there would have been Maoris in the war, wouldn't there in Crete.

*Adrianna: Yeah, but I wasn't even born, even, even the girls, some of them wasn't even born. Even if they did born, they will be young, I mean, but ah yeah, when I'm saying black black black. Like, you know, South Africans and all that. The Maoris more or less like us, isn't it? It's, it's., yeah it as..*

Athina: Fair skin.

*Adrianna: It's not as black as the other ones are.*

Athina: So you landed in Auckland or Wellington?

*Adrianna: And then from there., no in Wellington. Yes, ah, I still remember when they, we read the Wellington «welcome to Wellington», I still remember. We came with the KLM, right through, the same plane, we just have once, oh probably we have other stopovers but, yes, we did have another stopovers because, when, we traveled I took sick, cause I couldn't eat anything and empty stomach, even to this days if I have an empty stomach, I'll take sick, vomiting and all that...*

Athina: ...ah...

*Adrianna: ...so, I do remember that I was so sick and everybody else get out and I was staying in, and another couple girls, I can't remember who were they were, but then the flight, air flight men coming in and ask me some questions and I say «I am hungry» and they bring me a whole plate of sandwiches, I've seen the sandwiches, so sick...*

Athina: So did they not give you food on the plane before?

*Adrianna: Oh they do but I didn't like it. Oh, there was plenty of food, but I couldn't eat it.it.*

Athina: What was it?

*Adrianna: Oh, all sorts. But special... he bring me the time when I said to him I'm hungry. He bring me sandwich. I've seen it., oooh, it was there. I can't remember.*

Athina: Yeah, yeah. So in that plane was it just full of girls going to...

*Adrianna: Yeah, they all..*

Athina: How many would there have been?

*Adrianna: And there was a couple three, four other families that came to new Zealand.*

*One was Yugoslav family and the other two Greeks. We met them after wards in Wellington. I think we were the biggest group, 58 or 57 girls.*

Athina: On that plane?

*Adrianna: Yeah. On the plane.*

Athina: And did you know them from Athens?

*Adrianna: Yes because we went to school, four months we get to know each other, we get each other., get to know.*

Athina: Ah yes, what was the date that you arrived in, in New Zealand?

*Adrianna: The eighteenth, third 1963.*

Athina: March?

*Adrianna: Yeah.*

Athina: So, you stepped off the plane, was it day light?

*Adrianna: Ah, no it was, mmm, just about night.*

Athina: Ah ha.

*Adrianna: And they took us direct, they already got us rooms and all that, the government. They take us to the hostel, that we supposed to stay there for two years. And I..*

Athina: Where was that, where was the hostel?

*Adrianna: Just... Wellington hospital. Little bit this way, Hudson street. Now it's apartments, doesn't survive that... yeah. And all of us, we met other girls there. When we come that night the lady of the... the managers from the hostel put a nice tea, and toast and all bits and pieces to welcome us, we were so tired. So exhausted from the trip, we just want to go to bed, it was oh... The next day we get up and we going to work. The very next day, yup.*

Athina: And what, where did they take you?

*Adrianna: Just aah, we have to walk, it's not very far the hostel form the hospital, it wasn't very far. We walk all together, we going there, we went to the office, to the manager office. They registered us and then they give us to some other Greeks and they can help us and we start working.*

Athina: What was your English like then?

*Adrianna: Oh we... v v v we manage.*

Athina: So did they wake you up in the morning?

*Adrianna: Well, the girl that, um, I stay with, she wake me up.*

Athina: What time?

*Adrianna: I can't remember all this details. We supposed to be there seven to seven thirty to have breakfast because we in the hospital we have the breakfast there we don't have it in the hostel. Only weekends have ah, ah breakfast in the hostel. So we have to go the hospital, to the laundry, cafeteria and have breakfast there and then we start working. So, might wouldn't be past seven maybe earlier than that, round about that..*

Athina: Right, so when you went there did they show you what you had to do?

*Adrianna: Oh, yeah!*

Athina: And what did you have to do?

*Adrianna: Ah...they put me to the big machines, they put the clothes from the laundries, the laundries to put them through the ironing presses. .Nothing...to us..*

Athina: Is that what you did all day?

*Adrianna: To us it was like you play games, ohh.*

Athina: And so you left with all this anticipation, adventure and what did you think when they took you to this place?

*Adrianna: Well, ah, put it this way they tell us, either you going to work in the laundries like I went, or you might work in the restaurant, you know the hostel's restaurant like a lot of other girls went. Ahh, they might be a house maid, and all that. That's the wrong thing they did, because in New Zealand or Australia none of the girls went for maid. In America , yes, but not in this part of the world, and they teach us to do the ironing the sheets and how to clean your cup boards, and all that... it's waste of time. That time they should have taught us some more English, than how to do your dishes and, and your laundry, you know and especial this... none of them. All of the girls they went, like... I did it in the hostel, ah, in the laundry in the nurse's homes, you know, look after the, the, kitchen and stuff like that, the cafeteria's and things like that, but we never went... none of us went for maid, none.*

Athina: Is that what you thought you would be doing, being a maid?

*Adrianna: That's what they teach us to... that you never know, but..*

Athina: So what went through your mind that day?

*Adrianna: I don't know. When we coming here. I remember keep telling the girls that*

*what am I play here all day? What's going on? Comparing the way we working back home... the land and all that, you see.*

Athina: So, was it easy for you?

*Adrianna: Yeah, no problem. The only thing is I took sick two weeks later because I didn't like the food. That's my biggest problem.*

Athina: What was the food?

*Adrianna: The food was lovely and I wish if some body teach me some of the food to do it myself. But that time every thing was different. I mean we brought up with natural stuff like oil, our, we do our owns butter, beautiful that. Nothing like that here. Just the butter, I love my butter now but those days, oh boy! It was hard, it was... the food it was for me it was, oh... yucky.*

Athina: So you just didn't eat it.

*Adrianna: Didn't eat it and lunch time around the corner where the laundry was, was a fish and chips shop. Every day, lunch time fish and chips, fish and chips. The next thing I feel, you know I got these spots and all that and the manageress from the laundry told me, 'what's wrong'? but I couldn't understand what she's meaning for that. Then the other girl explained to her say we have to go and to see a doctors, and that lady say yes, so they make appointment, Dr Campbell, which I have him the next thirty years.*

Athina: Campbell?

*Adrianna: The same doctor and soon as he see me he said to me, 'what you eating'? I said fish and chips every day. Then I stopped. That was cause it. That's what I used to eat for days after days after days. That's my only problem really, the..*

Athina: And what did you do, um, to amuse yourselves while you were doing this ironing that was pretty awfi..? What, what did you do?

*Adrianna: Oh, we finish work and if you want to go out or any thing like that with the girls, but six o'clock every thing was closing you couldn't go any way. So we just gone back to the hostel. They got beautiful lunches on the Telly, television., all that.*

Athina: Oh, the had television then?

*Adrianna: Oh, yeah, when we coming in, yeah.*

*Athina: And what did you watch?*

*Adrianna: It was started.*

*Athina: Can you remember?*

*Adrianna: I do remember the Coronation Street. Which I still to this days watching, unless I miss some because some times I am away or something but yeah. The Coronation Street we born the same time. I think it was about two years before, after when I arrive in New Zealand starts.*

*Athina: And did you mix with the other New Zealanders and they were friendly?*

*Adrianna: Oh yes, yeah, yeah, yes very, very very friendly, very, they beautiful people, yeah, they was helping us every way, they do anything.*

*Athina: The other nurses in the hospital?*

*Adrianna: But we not...I wasn't working in the hospital. I working in laundry, yeah.*

*Athina: Right, so you didn't mix with the nurses?*

*Adrianna: No, no no.*

*Athina: So, who did you mix with?*

*Adrianna: With the girls we working, we working a lots of people.*

*Athina: Just the Greek?*

*Adrianna: Not the Greeks, there's a lot of other people there, oh yeah.*

*Athina: OK*

*Adrianna: There was maybe ten or twenty Greeks, maybe less. But the rest of them was Maori, all varieties, different countries, different you know... Yugoslavs everything every... it's all... it's public you see and every bodies there.*

*Athina: So, did you talk a lot when you were talking, did you gossip and exchange stories, an...?*

*Adrianna: Oh, yes we did but sometimes the Greeks have a lot was like me for example and Mrs Swillea, I think her name was she say 'Oh, yes you talk but quiet girls, quiet, quiet'. They was wonderful girls.*

*Athina: Did you find that you were louder than the New Zealanders?*

*Adrianna: Ah, New Zealanders no, but not the Maori, because the Maori and us together are*



*the same. But the Maori some of them was beautiful people, they really... to this day I still know lots of people, you know from those days, yeah.*

Athina: So, did you make., who were your friends at the time?

*Adrianna: Yes, the girls we living at the hostel, we can't have too many friends, and then, and not just friends, but finish five., four thirty you going an have your dinner upstairs and then you going to your hostel. I mean there is not time... it's not like this today that you., come on girls let's go for a coffee, those days it wasn't there then.*

Athina: And how many days a week did you work?

*Adrianna: Five days.*

Athina: Five days?

*Adrianna: The weekend is ours, yeah.*

Athina: Saturday and Sunday was yours?

*Adrianna: Mmm mmm.*

Athina: So, did you work with Cleo?

*Adrianna: I have a feeling she was in there as well in the hospital. I can't remember her. Other than, other than she was working around, maybe in nurse's home or Hewitt Hospital, you know they have host... cafeteria and all that. I can't remember Cleo working with us, she might.*

Athina: And what did you do on the weekends?

*Adrianna: Well, mmm, we slept about ten o'clock. Because ten o'clock we have to go for breakfast, go back again to the hospital cafeteria. But then you get to know them, we went for walks, we go., we start going to the church Sundays because it was just two stops...*

Athina: Which church?

*Adrianna: The only one we used to have the small one that time in Chania Street, Paris... off Paris Street, mmm. The big church you coming, see..the..*

Athina: The Greek one, yes?

*Adrianna: But this is a big one, that one was only a small one, yeah. Oh yes.*

Athina: So, you would go there on a Sunday and mix with the other Greeks?

*Adrianna: Yeah, yeah when was um, big Friday we don't going to work the Good Friday, the*

*Greeks in New Zealand. Back home they have the bazars and all that on the Good Friday, I don't know, it's, it was a bit mmm bazar to me to be honest, isn't it?*

*Athina: Mmm, mmm*

*Adrianna: Because Good Friday they used to have bazar in Bucharest, and this one they don't want to go to work. They need to have a day off, I don't know. But we don't... the big, ah, plants and like the time I used to work at Fords and all that, Good Friday most of the Greeks didn't work.*

*Athina: So how long were you at that place, at that hostel and the Wellington Hospital?*

*Adrianna: Well, you supposed to be, because we were under Government, because the Government bought us in New Zealand. We didn't pay a cent. They give us a job and place to live, but the place to live we pay... they pay it from the wages, they got it. You have to be on the same, um, for two years contract.*

*Athina: So they bonded you for two years?*

*Adrianna: For two years unless you not happy, you pay seventy five pounds, which was a year wages those days, you can, ah, leave the bond, you can break the, the, eh, what you call it? The bond that we have between us.*

*Athina: Yes, yes that's right.*

*Adrianna: But I think it was a year, or a year and a half the manger put me a manageress on that., one of the mangles that I'm working, I was working. So I stayed there for two and a half years, three years, yes. I think it was nearly three years, then I... I change the job.*

*Athina: And where did you go after that?*

*Adrianna: Where I went is to a, a to Fords, Ford Motors, yes, stayed there for five six years.*

*Athina: What did you do there?*

*Adrianna: Every where I go I was stuck. I always... we have... the plans... the cars going to make..*

*Athina: Assembly line.*

*Adrianna: Assembly lines, yeah.*

Athina: And what were you doing on.... Were you working on the assembly line?

*Adrianna: Yeah, I take the cars from plant one to plant two and put them for the, preparing it for the water, um, inspection. I put, um... I check the wheels and then I drive them to the plant two. I put a covers behind the doors, the panels inside and then the inspector take them for the water, um, inspection. That's was my doing, my job for about three year, five years there, two and a half in the laundry, yeah.*

Athina: So, um, did you feel that you were free to do what you wanted to do, away from your family? How did you see yourself as being.. ?

*Adrianna: Oh, by that time I was already married, young lady, yeah.*

Athina: So when did you get married?

*Adrianna: Nineteen sixty four.*

Athina: Not long after you came here.

*Adrianna: Sixty three, March. When we, we used to work at laundry lots of girls got a part time jobs. So why not me, so I went for a part time job, after, after the, the work, eh.*

Athina: Oh, you did the days work then you did another part time job.

*Adrianna: Yeah, Friday and Saturday.*

Athina: Ah ha.

*Ariana: Thursday and Friday, sorry, was no Saturday those days. And I went to this place, and just giving tea. All night serving tea. That was my job. Because there was only a few restaurants, they have two hours for one lot, they go, they clean it up and they start the next lot. And that's where I met my late husband.*

Athina: And you met him, giving him tea.

*Adrianna: No, um, he was already been served, eating and he saw me there. Just.. I just realized it, it saw me there and said 'I am sorry' you know he start he couldn't speak English because he was about two months in New Zealand. He's worse, was worse than me. But it was a Greek restaurant you see and there from his village Aitoloakarnania that what's my late husband came from and he said 'excuse me' and I say 'what?' I said to him. 'Ah is your name so and so', I said 'no'. I think he understand the same they do in Greece and then I went inside I came back, 'you have, you have to tell me your name'. Then one of the cafe say 'Hello Tom How are you..?' Thomas his name, Thomas, and then I click they know each other you see, say «come, come, come here, come here, come so I can introduce you to my co-patriot over there,*

*there was that...*

Athina: ....hell! How did it happen? He introduced you to him?

*Adrianna: Yeah, there was that. Next day Friday night eh, this is Thursday. Next day Friday night, he there and I said to George, George was, ah, his restaurant. I said to him 'What, what am I to do?' you know I never had a boy friend before, I didn't know what to do. He say yeah, 'Doesn't matter, he's a wonderful man' or something and I said Ok and I was keeping doing my job and nothing to do on this side, it was some body else's waiters. He didn't drink tea or coffee, or maybe coffee, I don't know but definitely he didn't drink tea because he didn't drink all his life, any way, and, um, then I said, um, 'I finish and Ok I am going George' but by the time he wasn't sitting there. I thought Ok it didn't worries me, and I went and he was waiting outside.*

Athina: What did he say to you?

*Adrianna: He says. Excuse me, do you want to go for a coffee?'. I was left on my own, I said. "no! because, I say, I am very late and she will be waiting for me, I used to stay with my landlord then, we had left from the hostel by then, and I say, I cannot", "eh, he said, I will take you there", "but where will you take me? You don't know where I stay" "yes! He says, I know that you stay in New Town". He follow me on the same bus. He was living about two... Mt Victoria and Newton... different direction, you know. He say 'I am going the same way', or something like that. This is, was a Greek tricks, which I wasn't aware of it. Any way went there and all that. He say 'On, on Sunday afternoon we go some where, we take the train we going for there with some body other friends of mine'. And the nex... on Sunday afternoon it was about eleven o'clock, a group of the young Akarnanian boys and girlfriends. We went and take first time a train in New Zealand, after a year or so, not every year. We never move from Wellington before, and that was it.*

Athina: And how was it ?

*Adrianna: And from, and from then on., oh how, oh...gosh... and from then on I start... we start smoking and .. and now that, and we went places. Oh, God help us. All this... his generation see, they all fresh come from Greece, you see. They all dying for, you know each other's company and all that. It was... it was really nice things those days, you know.*

Athina: That would have been unusual to have a boy friend, because..?

*Adrianna: Ha.. Poore, ah. And this... especial this people here before us. We are immi... foreigners, immigrants, how you call these refugees, like we never have a...*

*Evangelia: ... immigrants, immigranys..*

*Adrianna: ... ε... immigrants, yes, but immigrants everybody, they are immigrants if you put it their way but, because the immigration thing or is it DEME they give a bad tra...introductions to them, I don't know, yeah, they, they think that we are from the street, those women...oh!!!*

*Evangelia: ...oh...*

*Athina:...the Greeks here thought you were from the streets..*

*Adrianna: .... oh... ehhh yeah...*

*Evangelia: .... that DEME's girls didn't have a good reputation...*

*Adrianna: .... None, yes, and most of us got married, we settled down nicely ok, few hasn't but, eh, hello!!*

*Athina: ...they weren't...*

*Evangelia: ... because...*

*Athina: ... because there weren't men there, for this?*

*Evangeliaγγελία...because you were...*

*Evangeliaγγελία - Athina: ...on your own...*

*Adrianna: ..yes, but, what, is it nice to be accused??*

*Athina: ... but you know, those years they thought that...*

*Adrianna: ...eh...eh...*

*Athina: ... girls...they were single...*

*Evangelia: ...of loose morals...*

*Adrianna: ...ώε big, it was big....*

*Athina: ... and to have friend ...to go out...*

*Adrianna: ...eh...eh...*

*Athina: ...oh, this...not...I don't....*

*Adrianna: ...oh, yes....*

*Athina: ... we did it when I was little...*

*Adrianna: ....mmm..mmm... eh.. 8, but that's what started, but when I went out with Tom, I go with half a dozen of them, next with his sister, the cousin it's not just me, woman...*

*Athina: ...no, no...*

*Adrianna: ...we all, you know....*

Athina:..sure...

*Adrianna: ...wasn't ....wasn't they were bad, the bad thing it was when they saw me smoking, because Tom wants me to smoke, that was a bad thing...I've done it...*

Athina:...and what did you think, what did you know about boys at that time? Did you know very much?

*Adrianna: ...nothing! Nothing!*

Athina:..not a thing!

*Adrianna: No!*

Athina: Did you know how babies were made?

*Adrianna: No, well, I don't know...*

Athina: Did you girls talk about that, when you were working?

*Adrianna: ...no..eh...you must understand one thing, I'm very my own enemy, my own self sufficient whatever you call this, I don't... never ask things like that, I just read, read...*

Athina:..so you knew nothing about...

*Adrianna: ...those days, no! I don't think many of us knew...*

Athina: And did you ...did you feel good when you went out with him, I mean did you, did you like him or did you just go because he was a man and he told you to go?

*Adrianna: ...no, oh no! Just because we, twice we've seen each other, he took me to New Town and then he has to go pay to go back to town, anyway, nothing out of ordinary, nothing, you know to make me feel uneasy or easy or..., just natural. But when all of us say, 'we go picnic, are you coming?', he came pick me up from New Town, there was very gentleman that one, instead of telling me 'oh, I'll meet you there and then', no!, he came in with the bus, it wasn't the bus to be honest, it was this rail trains those days,...*

Evangelia: ...the tram...

*Adrianna: ..coming and going around and around and it was so, you know, so, we met all in the railway station, all of us, and we took the train and we went, I got some photos somewhere...*

Athina:...so he treated you with respect...

*Adrianna: ...oh yes! Ah...*

Athina: And so how long was it before he asked you to marry him or did he?

*Adrianna: This is December I'm referring to now, yeah, ph...somehow in the New Year we went up to the ...eh...once a year, eve...new year the city council have a special place to ... celebrate the new Year, so there the same crowd, we all went in there, and the next da...he took me back home to...John Street, the next day in the afternoon, he just walk in, and he went straight to Kikitsa George, Georgiou, there was my...after I left the hostel, well I finished with them, I went and rent a room in the woman's, this couple's house, and he was talk to George, and say: 'what do you think, I like Adriana' but George doesn't know much about Tom and poor George didn't know what to say and it was, oh, like that, and there's Kiki, his wife is a Russian girl, lovely lady. I mean very very smart, she said 'George, if he likes the girl say what's wrong with her or say is nothing is wrong or something', finish it up. Zoom, zoom, zoom he asks me to get married, straight away, just out of the blue.*

Athina: What did you do?

*Adrianna: Ohh, I didn't know what to do, I didn't... I didn't know. I can't remember much That's all I know.*

Athina: And, ah, what did you say yes or no? Or did you say I got to ask my father or what?

*Adrianna: Nothing.*

Athina: You said nothing?

*Adrianna: Before that, I got some other problem with my family and I didn't bother any more.*

Athina: What was the problem?

*Adrianna: There's no problem as such, but before, I forgot... when we... ah, where... I must put it back in... when I was left the hospital. When I left the hospital, ah... the... um.... the hostel, I went to another Cretan family just for a few... two two months and they want to bring the brother back to New Zealand and they couldn't bring him unless they married him and there's was a few of us in there, they decided to engage me and that's when..*

Athina: Without your permission?

*Adrianna: Eh?*

Athina: Without your permission?

Adrianna: *With my permission, but provided that my Mum and Dad knows about it. They was really the right way to go about it, and then something happens there and I think it's my mother was very happy, my father was very happy but my brothers uh uh, no way. But my Mum say 'oh he is good'. Mum think still believe those dark ages, you know. He was too old to start with.*

Athina: How old was he?

Adrianna: *I don't know, at least... I don't know. I have never see him.*

Athina: So he was still in Crete?

Adrianna: *He was still in Crete and all his brothers and sisters was here and he was one of the oldest and I said to.. I ring to my brother Nick and so and so and so happened and he say 'Adriana, if you do something, do it because Mum and Daddy I had his mother, his father was dead but... I had his his mother buys his own cigarette, he's so lazy, he's not working he just wait from one brother from New Zealand some money, and all that. That's how he lives, he said. So if you do something do it because your Mum and Dad they agree to go ahead with it. And the **Fliccki (??????)** thing agree and they send me the engagement ring, and then after a few days all settled nicely and all that we went with the other girls to see pictures, cinerama remember, his brother here every where I go he was behind me to see where I'm going what I am doing, everything. And minute I couldn't go any way without following us, and we...*

Athina: So he was spying on you.

Adrianna: *Spying on me and it was the other girls staying on the same house they noticed, I wouldn't have noticed a thing. And one day they went for some where the whole family and I said to Theoni, to Christina, so many was about three or four of... ah Maria. Maria she's married, left. I said to her 'I'm going', and that's where I found the house ...in... I knew the house, I knew this people because one of them working in laundry at that time, that's how I'm getting there.*

Athina: Where was the house, do you know?

Adrianna: *Ah, that one that I'm living, ten ten John Street. The other one that I was a guest was only about six weeks time every thing happens, twenty seven Caroline Street Mount*



Victoria.

Athina: Ah, so you fled that house and you went to this other place and what happened, did you send back the engagement?

*Adrianna: Oh, I left it there. But I said to Maria, I said Ok I said 'I'm going'. I'm not going to work all my guts out I said to buy his cigarette and all... because I knew all about it and and this Mum. And this Mum and... this Mum and Dad they were nice people but the thing is they get me a old man, would that make me happy? I don't know why.*

Athina: Maybe they were worried about you being on your own.

*Adrianna: Yeah, but come on.*

Athina: I know, and so, um, did you know Tom at this stage?

*Adrianna: No...*

Athina: So you hadn't met him?

*Adrianna: Oh no no na, this is this is... I think it was May or something.*

Athina: Ah ha. So..

*Adrianna: I get to know this people when I took sick with the fish and chips every day. I have to going to live some where else because of..*

Athina: Your health.

*Adrianna: Start cooking.*

Athina: Yeah.

*Adrianna: And we pay this lady, not the house... couple but the other girls that live there and she was cooking beautiful Cretan food and I found my self back in... we pay, that's what she wanted and that's what we get.*

Athina: So was there a lot of anger over the engagement?

*Adrianna: Yeah, there probably was but I don't know because I took off.*

Athina: Oh, so...

*Adrianna: And then I write to my... to see what hapens. I write.. I got.. I still got the letters. I write to my brother becasue I know he's the only one that understood me and I said that's what happening. Poor guy he sent me a letter but of course he sent it to the address, and this girls bring the the letter and it was...*

Athina: Opened.

*Adrianna: Cut opened, yeah, they think I am stupid, but., any way they cut it and and I said «oh, Γ 11 bring you the letter but the little Kat..eh..Kaitouli, you know, there was a little kids, and the kid they bite it», ah.. I didn't say anything, I went and read it and if they read the letter, will, I'm 100% they did, I said «thank God for that, my brother really brings him right out, everything» and they, they, they learned their lessons now, you know, they realized what happening...ah..ah..*

Athina:...so, your brother was fine about it and...

*Adrianna: ...eh...you see the, the letter...*

Athina:...yeah...

*Adrianna: ..they sent to me and they read it, oh!! I got the letter, I still gott all my letters from Mum and Dad...*

Athina:...oh, good. I hope you keep them for later..

*Adrianna: ...oh, I got them, yeah...*

Athina: So, then, of course this guy asked you to marry him so you don't say anything, and what do you do? Do you write to your brother, or what?

*Adrianna: I've write it to my brother, yeah!!*

Athina:...yeah!..

*Adrianna: ...yeah, there is the answer I got, a beautiful answer, he really wholly hearted agreed with me...*

Athina:...mm....

*Adrianna: ..it's the best thing I've done...eh..why couldn't they see it, Mum and Dad?*

Athina: ...ah..,who knows?

*Adrianna: ...after that, they somehow they bring me, they bring me here, cause he's got, used to have three sisters, one, two brothers here, this man, so, they brought him back, in New Zealand..*

Athina:...you met him, did you?

*Adrianna: ..oh, yeah! I met him once, but..*

Athina:...ha, ha..

Adrianna: *...we met him in the Greek girls, Cretan girls Marama Creasant, wedding, I can't remember, what was it, and my late husband come and say «you see this man?», i say «yes», «he just stared at me like that all night»,and I say «Tom, what are you talking about?» and of course, where he comes from these people is with big knives and all them, «Oh, God, I hope he is start doing, you know, silly things like they used to do»...*

Athina:... ah...

Adrianna: *... and I said «Tom, get out of here, he must be dra... I don't know, I can;t remember what I said to him.*

Athina:... ah., ok...

Adrianna: *..but after, you see, we always went to each others' weddings, things like that, after little while, we always meet him, see him around, so I explained in to Tom, «that's what happening»...eh...*

Athina:... so....

Adrianna: *...oh....what **you** say, the word is loud, I have so to say and ...I don't know how...*

Evangelia: *..competition?*

Adrianna: *..yeah! That's it! There...ha...yeah, y....*

Athina: *So, you eventually accepted his offer..*

Adrianna: *... oh, yeah! After there, yeah...*

Athina: *...and how, and how long did you, later, did you get married?*

Adrianna: *..oh..this is, this...December, I think it was, June, six months later...*

Athina: *...six months later, after he asked you...*

Adrianna: *..yeah!*

Athina: *Why so long?*

Adrianna: *That time, darling, we didn't have a house, we didn't have money, we needed to marry...oh...*

Athina: *Didn't seem to stop other people..*

Adrianna: *...eh?!!*

Athina:...people seem to get married within the day when they come off the plane and they get married...

*Adrianna: ...ah...yeah! but we needed to have...mmm..*

Evangelia: ..ah, but he was here, well, those who came as fiancés, had a certain time restriction...

Athina:..yes, that's right, they had to get married, that's true, that's true, that's what it was...

*Adrianna: ...ah...ok!!...ah..do you meet some of them?*

Athina:...mm..so, you got married...

*Adrianna: ...mm...*

Athina:...in this little Greek church?

*Adrianna: ...oh, yeah!*

Athina:...and were you excited? How did you feel?

*Adrianna: I don't know. It's bad, eh?*

Athina: Well did you love him or what?

*Adrianna: Mind you. Oh yes, we've... oh yeah, it's the same and then halfway we fighting, we split up, the next two days, he's coming back again. And there's Kitsa again say 'You two going to tie you some where and to leave you with out eat or drink or..*

Athina: And what did you fight about?

*Adrianna: Who knows.*

Athina: Oh ok. So you...it was a love match?

*Adrianna: Oh yeah.*

Athina: Ok.

*Adrianna: Yeah, it was.*

Athina: And, so what was that like then, on your wedding night you obviously found out all there was to know?

*Adrianna: Mmm, yeah was hopeless.*

Athina: What did you think? Was it a shock or did you... because... at this stage...

*Adrianna: No he was so..he's... he's... he was easy man. He was easy...I want... no no not that word, ah, look after you... he he he wasn't... and no he was... he was good, yeah, no no.*

Athina: But was it a surprise to you, because you say you didn't know anything?

*Adrianna: Oh yeah, but, soon as we together we know everything with him, with my husband that time, yeah.*

Athina: What before you got married?

*Adrianna: No we never slept before I get married. No we weren't, we went and... we take us communion the way the Cretan way right through, oh yes.*

Athina: Mmm.

*Adrianna: No that was ok. But he was very tradition man, this one.*

Athina: Tom?

*Adrianna: Oh yeah,*

Athina: In what way?

*Adrianna: Ah, marriages, houses the way you dress, the., oh yeah.*

Athina: So he told you how to dress and how to be?

*Adrianna: He was tried to, but ha h ha.*

Athina: So did you have lots of arguments about that?

*Adrianna: Um, I think the most arguments with Tom was that ah, he was... he was... an orphan. He was twelve years old orphan. His brother was ten years, they have one room they sleep because they have so much problem with the second world war, excuse me, you know that if you go red, they they really be very hard, they they bring up... they didn't even know when it was Christmas or even if it was Christmas they don't know what traditions and all that, nothing. That was hard for me that time because I brought up... the whole family Christmas, oh we have to have this and this or New Year this and this and I wanted the same in my house and 'what you do that for?' or you know or something like that and..*

Athina: So he wasn't brought up like that?

*Adrianna: Nothing, yeah.*

Athina: And so was it a good marriage?

*Adrianna: It was wonderful, yeah, After that slowly we sort of understand each other and we really go the right way and... it was wonderful, ah.*

Athina: Do you expect to enjoy sex?

*Adrianna: Oh, well I do enjoy the..*

Athina: Or did you think it was...you didn't...

*Adrianna: I just went for it that's all, just do it, I mean... yes I did enjoy it.*

Athina: You didn't or you did?

*Adrianna: I did, yeah yeah. I have no...*

Athina: That's good.

*Adrianna: Yeah it was ok. I have no problem with it.*

Athina: Mmm.

*Adrianna: Yeah.*

Athina: So it wasn't just a duty for you?

*Adrianna: Oh no, sorry, no.*

Athina: Good, good.

*Adrianna: A duty what...th..?*

Athina: Well, for some women, you know..

*Adrianna: Is it a duty?*

Athina: Mmm.

*Adrianna: Oh, ok.*

Athina: Yeah, some women don't even... in those days didn't even enjoy it either. So that's good and so that was, it was a good marriage from that point of view.

*Adrianna: It was, it was wonderful marriage. We have lots of friends, lots of...oh yeah.*

Athina: And no children?

*Adrianna: No children.*

Athina: And what was that? Was that one., did you ever have tests or any thing?

*Adrianna: Oh yes, I got every thing in the world. It wasn't meant to be I reckon. We didn't find nothing wrong with him, nothing wrong with me. The only thing is my auntie back home, his auntie I mean is, um, he was having German measles something when he was a baby or something.*

Athina: Ah ha, yeap yeap, that can make him sterile.

*Adrianna: But is that make it., they don't believe it in here things like that though. They might be now, but..*

Evangelia: It does effect sterility.

Athina: Or it could be mumps or something like that. So did you., so all this time... how did...

were you home sick? I mean how did you feel about all your family on the other side of the world?

*Adrianna: Yeah, the first years yes, but then get married then you start your own family and when when me and Tom get married we not just live ourselves in the house we rent but we bring his cousin his brother was already here because he brought him here. His cousin because we rent a house and we pay twelve pounds a week, is a Greek people they try to help you they rip you off. But twelve pounds a week you only get about five pounds a week the whole week to work those days and of course we couldn't afford that so I got my brother in-law, his cousin, his cousin that been from Greece and then my brothers arrives a few years later...*

Athina: Ah, your brother?

*Adrianna: Couple of years later.*

Athina: Which one was that?

*Adrianna: John, but it's only for five four years, three three and a half years, that's all.*

Continuing the interview with Andrianna Wenston, file three. So, Andrianna you had all these people living with you and so you had company.

*Adrianna: ...company.. .the washing, the cleaning, they don't do nothing...*

Athina: Were you working at this time?

*Adrianna: Of course, I always work.*

Athina: And... so, where were you working? It was still at Ford?

*Adrianna: No, no., that time I was still in laundry. It was by a year and a bit that I came to New Zealand. Yes, I was in laundry, that time...*

Athina: And, where were you living? What was the address?

*Adrianna: 9 Major bank street, I think it is 9, yeah. Major bank, in Mt. Victoria.*

Athina: Mt. Victoria, and did you back to Greece, did you see your parents, your family?

*Adrianna: The first holiday we went back it was ninety seventy three, ten years after...*

Athina: ahh...

*Adrianna: Exactly ten years...*

Athina: .. together with your husband?

*Adrianna: ah, yes...*

Athina: What was that like?

*Adrianna: Tell you what: it was beautiful. We went everywhere, we rent a car, we went everywhere in Greece. We went places that I wasn't thought that it would be in Greece, all these places. Gosh...*

Athina: How long was trip back to Greece?

*Adrianna: Six months the first lot, yeah.*

Athina: And did you think of staying?

*Adrianna: eh... not really, I didn't like it...*

Athina: You liked it but you didn't like it...

*Adrianna: ... I liked the places we went... but to live in there....*

Athina: What was that hit you?

*Adrianna: I don't know ... we have different traditions... more... no... I cant explain that, but it wasn't me.. .that it was too fast, you are always on the run, you always on go, nowhere to go... its just.. I don't know...*

Athina: In Greece?

*Adrianna: Yeah...*

Athina: ..you mean with working? Always having to do stuff?

*Adrianna: I haven't been working while I am on holiday, but...*

Athina: No no, but what was it? You said everything was too fast...

*Adrianna: yeah,*

Evangellia: You think that New Zealand is more easy going, life style...

*Adrianna: Yeah, yeah.. .especially in New Zealand, I am not referring to Australia, which is multi million country, we are just like a village in New Zealand, comparing to there, especially those days...*

Athina: Back in Crete in you village, it wasn't....

*Adrianna: Back in my village it was just similar when I left it expect lots of people passed away and lots of people left Crete as well. So ninety seventy three wasn't too bad, but I think the other trip was ninety seventy eight, started getting very remote, . very... Everybody is dying , the young ones disappear from there, they all gone away...*

Athina: ..but your brothers and sisters were still there?

*Adrianna: ...no. There's only one brother there....*



Athina: ... and where were the others?

*Adrianna: ... I got a brother in Salonika, the other one is in Rho.. ah, Kalymnos. ..ah Andreas, he was in the village, but he was Stavroniti, they call it, John... (...) and Nick is in Athens..*

Athina: So, did you feel in New Zealand, you had your community, your Greek community, that...

*Adrianna: .. yeah, is more homely, more closeness, I don't know what it is .... Yeah... it's different..*

Athina: Did you think you had changed?

*Adrianna: ... what do you mean?*

Athina: well being in New Zealand, do you think you change as a person?

*Adrianna: .. I don't think., yes... well. When, for example, I want to go for shopping this is not the queue and running and rushing... yeah, maybe changed in that way... yeah...*

Athina: Did you have your own money when you were here, when you worked, did you keep your own money or did your husband look after the money?

*Adrianna: Where? Here?*

Athina: Yeah...

*Adrianna: We always have it, this, together, it think we brought up like that, like Mum and Dad and, I mean, Mum and Dad they are under my father's pillow, I never forget that., oopss*

Athina: And so, when you went back to Greece, you talked to your father and mother what's a big secret, that was not really a secret, about his paralysis, did you have conversations...

*Adrianna: ... still now, I couldn't get nothing out of him, even my mother said: "don't bring this up..., for heavens shake", didn't like me talk about it...no...*

Evangelia: ..but when did you find out and by whom?

*Adrianna: I think I find out when we were, Roger, ninety., two thousand or something, no, ninety ninety nine, we went Roger there as well..*

Evangelia: ... so, your father, had already died,...

*Adrianna: Yes, Roger hasn't met my family, Mum and Dad..*

Evangelia: So, what did you find out?

Adrianna: *about my father? Nothing. But Roger's find out from my cousin in Australia, that because of the six moths they had them hanging in the water , my father's paralyzed, but...*

Evangelia: ...during the war, the Germans...

Adrianna: *Oh, yeah....*

Athina: *yeah, the blood probably wasn't running to the limbs and so they would have petrofold...*

Adrianna: *.. my father... I must show you some photos, perhaps next time, I am going to dig some more: you see he is paralyzed...*

Athina: and did your parents want you to come back? What did they say to you?

Adrianna: *... ahhh... ninety seventy nine or something, I cant remember what year we went in Greece, and we were looking for section in Athens , cause my late husband wants to go back to Greece. He couldn't... you cant, you know... nothing make him stay here...*

Athina: ... your, Tom....

Adrianna: *Yeah...*

Athina: ... he wanted to go back?

Adrianna: *Yeah, he wanted to go back home, yeah...*

*So, I think in ninety seventy nine, seventy eight, we went in there and my mother's uncle stays in Athens, he bought, he gets us a section there and he said we are coming back in three years time, he said, to build that. And we got the section there..*

Athina: Even though you didn't want to go back?

Adrianna: *Yeah, but I am going with my husband, and, I mean... demanded... I never though that any other, I dint know that he's going to die, I mean, that time, he was well...*

Athina: So, as in traditional marriage, he was the one who made the decisions?

Adrianna: *At that stage, for there, to shift back home he is more than min, yeah.. .but other than that we, here, working together, we buying this house together, we have no like "I am the boss", nothing like, lots of Greeks here, don't take me wrong, there's a lot of them here that*

*wives doesn't say nothing, you know, it's the men's ..but not with me...*

Athina: so, how did you get on with other women, given that he was quite different, did you have lots of friends amongst the other Greek women?

*Adrianna: ...ah., because we didn't have a children, me and Tom, we have you see, fifteen godchildren, vaftisimia, fifteen, you mentioned now, there was always birthday, christenings and blah, blah, all these and we have nothing to offer them, you know, they always call us, and his name day, Thomas, there was nobody else Thomas in New Zealand, in Wellington, I think there is one more, we all have a big party, a big, when I say a big, a big with two .. a hundred it was a hundred and fifty last time in Whapapa Road, a hundred people , and food and drink, and dance all night. The three o'clock in the morning few of them they went for hunting, there was crazy, that's how crazy we were, I meant, it was, and yes, I know what you mean about girls, no, because they flick and jealous, because they got children and they all stack with the children, the boys off they went, and hello... we went for hunting and we lost one hunt, because I was going with Tom too , eh...*

Athina: you went hunting with them??...

*Adrianna: ah, yeah, you should have seen some, ah yeah, most of them, not always, but...*

Athina: What were you hunting?

*Adrianna: Hares, rabbits, thinks like that..*

Athina: and did you shoot?

*Adrianna: Oh, yes, I got twenty two gun, I got everything, you no idea the life I used to have with them...*

Athina: So, you were quite unusual...

*Adrianna: ... comparing to the others? Because I think I brought up with the boys with my family, as I say, I have t go to the soccer , the other day I was exhausted, I am going to the soccer, you know, ... and the other day, even Maria said to me: " as you like it because Roger wants to go", I said: "pardon", Roger is now interested, he is coming for me...*

(haha)

*They don't want to accept that, they don't want to accept that. And that's...*

Athina: Do you think it was because your father was in bed most of his life, so he wasn't

*Adrianna: That helps a lot too, I think. He, we, always together. Yeah... there is nobody home: "oh, I'm the boss, you do as you told", nothing like that.*

Athina: So, what happened to Tom, how did he die?

*Adrianna: Tom's got, we supposed to go in ninety eighty one to Greece, to going to, we kept the house, to start building and all that, we still have the shop, we rent the shop, ready to go, for six months again. And Tom had the first heart attack out of the blue.*

Athina: How old was he?

*Adrianna: When he passed away, thirty nine.*

Athina: ah, so it was a congenital thing, was it in his family or ...

*Adrianna: No, nothing. His mother passed from cancer, yeah, but he hasn't got, he didn't have a cancer. Anyway, then the doctors didn't allow him to travel and waited for about two months and then after he's been to hospital and everything, allowed to go to Gree., for holiday and we went there for two months, we coming back for two months and we went for to look for the, the section was there, my uncle will take care of the, there is a lot of work in there with the, there it is nightmare when you going to do, building a house in Greece, especially in Athens, it's a nightmare. Anyway, him and my husband went round and around, they fixed few, most of the things to start building the house, October sometime... On the fourth of September we came back to New Zealand, and everything's normal, work, you know, Tom since he had this heart attack, he didn't work...*

Athina: Where was he working?

*Adrianna: We were working, we have cafe that time.*

Athina: So, after the Ford you opened up a cafe...

*Adrianna: No, no..., we have that, on no... after the Fords no. eh... seventy seven? Seventy eight? Ah... you lost me there...*

Athina: So, you were five years at Ford...

*Adrianna: Yeah... but,... after the Fords, no, it cant be after the Fords, because after the Fords my koumparos left for Greece for two months and I ran his coffee-shop. But what year, I can't remember... "the popular milk bar"...*

Athina: "popular milk bar"...

*Adrianna: ...it used to be in Corner place, where MacDonald's is now...*

Athina: What was the address?

*Adrianna: Eleven Corner place...*

Athina: ...Corner place... mmm...

*Adrianna: ...now it's MacDonald's got it. If it's still there, I think it's still there. But I only ran it for few months, they just went for summer holiday. From there, but what year was when we have the new, the shop, ours own shop...*

Athina: Ah, so you bought a shop yourself?

*Adrianna: Yeah, yes...*

Athina: What was that called?

*Adrianna: "Adrian's coffee lounge", in Cuba..*

Athina: "Adrian's... coffee lounge"...

*Adrianna: yeah, in Cuba, Cuba mall, in Cuba street, Cuba mall, now. Yeah...*

Athina: And so you had it at the time when he had his heart attack?

*Adrianna: Yeah, yes. When in the Sundays, something to clean up, you know how it goes the weekends, you cleaning and all that because you working every day from six in the morning to late at night and all that., and then I was at home , washing and whatever you have to do when you working twenty four seven there, so, and then he is coming at home and said: "Adrianna, Adrianna" he said "I am not feeling well, I am not feeling well", I said "what's wrong?" he said "call an ambulance", I called the ambulance, and the ambulance coming in but I was halfway to in something in there, I said to the driver "I follow you", anyway, I take the car, the time I follow them... he stayed there for three weeks, that was that....*

Athina: ... Three weeks so...

*Adrianna: ... and then... he survived the heart attack...*

*Adrianna: Oh yeah, the first lot, yeah. And then after that, we take him, we went to Greece just for two months, supposed to go for good,, ah, no for good, but to establish everything we need to for six months but the way he was sick I can't (... J, he's got everything here, why should we go back t Greece? So, yeah... we went in there, doing whatever, we coming back on fourth of September and everything was nice, smoothly,, everything, we were working the shop, and all that, and, it was life as usual,, alright, we always have this problem, because he's*

*got a heart attack, you know, and we thought any minute he'll pass away. And one night, it was my name day, Monday, is was St. Andrew's day, Monday, they coming, I didn't have a party that time because it was during the week day and we cant wait to the next week for the celebrations we just did it, just coffee, and finger food and things like that, eh.. Monday.. .nah... on Thursday, I think he said to me it was St. Savvas day, or something, Agiou Savva, December, I said to him "I'm going home early to do the Christmas tree" and the staff they say "you go ahead, you go and we look after and everything" and they went. And Tom's come, lock the shop, come home and it was a bowl like that, grapes, eat, eat, eat, I even asked the girls what Tom's eat, because when I was there , I don't give him, I knew he's got heart problems, I don't give him fatty staff and all that, and Maria said just give bacon and egg., and so much grapes... the blood comes, thrombosis, what do they call it, too thick to.. .he came in by ten o'clock we went to bed, ten thirty he said to me "I can't sleep, take to a hospital" , nut it's not the first time, I took him to the hospital, he was so scaring, you no idea, how freighted he was, and every now and then, floop, I put him in the car, take him to a hospital, they check him, he was scared, oh, "cant get a breath" or something like that and that time, and I always cal his brother, his friends, you know, they all went there, and the last few times I can't be bothered, disturbed all the people, enough, just we going to have a check-up, and that day I said to him "should I call your brother ?", he said "no, don't bother" .. .from ten o'clock , they stabilize him, he was ok... two thirty in the morning, passed away, just like that... And why he was there, sitting there, because they didn't have a bed empty to take him upstairs, somewhere else, but he was with the heart, all this pr.. machinery, and all that... he just gone...*

Athina: So, what happened after that then, so he died and you were on your own, you didn't even have your children, any children, you were living by yourself then or were you with the other people?

*Adrianna: oh... Tom passed away on the fourth and we buried him in Greece the fifteen of December...*

Athina: ... Ah, you took him to Greece ...

*Adrianna: ...took him to Greece, because he's always say "dead or alive, I want to come here"..*

Athina: ... so where, did he, where is he buried in Greece?

*Adrianna: in Akarnan... in Aitoloakarnania, in Akarnania.*

Athina: ...ah... in Akah...

*Adrianna: Akarnania, Aitoloakarnania...*

*Athina: In Crete...*

*Adrianna: No, no, no...*

*Evangelia: Aitoloakarnania.*

*Adrianna: From Mainland Greece...*

*Athina: Alokarnani...*

*Adrianna: Aitoloakarnani...*

**Evangelia: Which one was his village?**

*Adrianna: Kantila.*

*Athina: Kantila... and, so you were on you own, and what was that like?*

*Adrianna: I stayed there for six months...*

*Athina: ...ah...*

*Adrianna: ah, yeah... I stayed there six months and I come back here..*

*Athina: ... and did you ever think of not coming back? Think of staying there?*

*Adrianna: ...but what I was doing there? Ehhhhh. This is my home, this is my life...*

*Athina: So you still had your business here, the cafe...*

*Adrianna: Yeah, because everybody step in and help me out, look after by the time I came back..*

*Athina: And what did you do at the cafe? Did you ....*

*Adrianna: I have to sell it afterwards, I couldn't do it anymore, I sell the house, I bought a beautiful apartment in Roseneath, and after a few years I started a new business. After., yeah..  
.I do the duchess shish kebab. The only one for fourteen years around there.*

*Athina: And did you cook or...?*

*Adrianna: I cook them, I cut the meat, I prepared. I make a beautiful kebab and sell it all by myself. I didn't want nothing, all I wanted to be left alone and I did it quite well you know.*

*Athina: And how many days a week did you do that?*

*Adrianna: There was five, but then I started Saturday because the mall opened and the mall is open seven, six days, I have to do it. It is in your leased you see you can't..*

*Athina: So was that your life, just the, your work?*

*Adrianna: Yeah, those days, yeah yeah.*

Athina: Did you have friends?

*Adrianna: Who wants to know you then.*

Athina: Because you were a widow?

*Adrianna: A businesswoman are beautiful and all that jazz. Ahh*

Athina: So were women worried their husbands might...

*Adrianna: Yes and I didn't realize what they thinking. I mean if somebody's pass husband all that we always go there and ask them Christmas and New Year or Easter come and have a lunch with us. I would've never go, but ask you eh, hello, I mean I've done this before with you lot, but no.*

Athina: So people didn't even ask you..., is that because you not only didn't have a husband but you didn't have children so they thought you could do what ever you like.

*Adrianna: I don't know, I don't know what they think but I don't think it's fair.*

Evangelia: And all theses girls that you came together, didn't you have any contacts, did you maintain your friendship?

*Adrianna: .. Where are these girls?*

Παπουτσάκη... for support...

*Adrianna: .. Where are these girls, ...most of them left...yes...around here there were not more than two or three, but when you don't have much to do, you would seen the girl or something else, she might have invited you to her child's wedding or to her own, so to speak, but as we had so many from Akarnania, even these, we didn't do, but other girls, the way we came, like my bridesmaid with whom we came together, yes...we kept...but when you need someone, they didn't support me ..no...*

Evangelia: ... the Greek Community, so to say, the Cretan Community, didn't you feel...

*Adrianna: ....the Cretan, the Cretan Community, when they found out that I got married to someone from Akarnania, I was a foreigner for them, you no idea what I went through with that, I, because I didn't have...in the Cretan Association, they had never invited me as a Cretan, never, the last time they invited me...the first time they invited me it was when the Cretan Association became apart, when they were arguing and they were causing problems and they couldn't; find, they didn't want to celebrate the battle of Crete, and no one was going*



*there, they couldn't find a single person...oh...oh....*

Evangelia: ... and so...

Athina: ... all right...

*Adrianna: And some Cretan notifies me and he says: "Andrianna, that's the case" "now?" I say, we went to a dance that was taking place there, they say: "come on guys, lets get together, to reform the Cretan Association again", I say: "where the hell, you were there before, you know all those years. Any way I follow suit them my husband. I was non*

Athina: So how did you meet your current husband?

*Adrianna: Roger, see this man, he was here.*

*Adrianna: They used to live together.*

Athina: Ah George Stefanidis.

*Adrianna: George, they used to live on the same, on the same, um, they have apartments the same building. They know each other. George used to have a hair salon around the corner from where I have my shop.*

Athina: Ah, So George Stefanidis...

*Adrianna: He makes that, to get the match, marry matches what ever you call it.*

Evangelia: Introduce you.

*Adrianna: Introduce me.*

Athina: So you were having your Dutch shish kebab...

*Adrianna: Yeah, and round the corner Joe's hair salon. Roger was working..*

Athina: Did we establish were that was? Where was the Dutch shish kebab?

*Adrianna: Number Manners Street.*

Athina: Manners Street.

*Adrianna: Mmm*

Athina: And so George introduced you to Roger Weston.

*Adrianna: To Roger. Afterwards when George used to come, have lunches there, he say one day he's going to Greece, He's going to Kastoria.*

Athina: Roger?

*Adrianna: No.*

*Athina & Adriana; George.*

*Adrianna: I didn't know Roger then.*

Athina: Ah ha.

*Adrianna: And then I said to George, all right go see my brother in Salonika. So George went and see my brother in Saloniki, and of course my brother Stavros said 'look after Adriana', you know by her self and all that and George, I must admit he always anytime I ask something he always there for me. I must admit it I have no, any problems with him. But I didn't when I lost.... I didn't know him when I lost Tom. I get to know him when I got the new shop in ah Manners Mall. And we became friends and when he comes back from Greece George came on day and said I got a nice guy for you would you make a blind., ah no. First time he said just going to the, to this place where they do dances, every .... dances, you know the old guys and woman's.*

Athina: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

*Adrianna: And he said to me to go there one night. I said do what? Oh you meet someone and all that. I said George, I haven't done these things before, what the hell you want me to go, what to do? And then I was thinking, I said what about you find a partner, what about me? Oh, you find your way back. Then I said to him no go get I said to him! lam not interested. And afterwards I don't know how and what he came back one day said eh Adriana how about if I... I got a good mate of mine but he is a very nice person he is handsome you see. But, you see that time I was healthy and I wasn't you know all bad, I wasn't I wasn't too bad I was..I was.. I won't say I was beautiful but I was, you know, dressed nicely and all that. It was I wasn't just any body but any way and he was sorry about Rogers not beautiful handsome. He say he is not handsome but he's nice boy. And I say George, you give me a headaches, I say. No, no, no you you want it. I say let me think about it. They already talk it with Roger you see and one day say on Wednesday so and so in the place. Thurs.. Fri..Wednesday we went there and we meet then that was it. It was just like we clicked like that.*

Athina: So he, is he younger than you, Roger?

*Adrianna: Oh yes.*

Athina: Roger Weston w,e,s,t,o,n.

*Adrianna: But I got to get the photos. If you see us then, you think we were brother and sisters, we so look alike.*

Athina: So why did you click? What did you think was...?

*Adrianna: I don't know. I don't know, his manners, his... I don't know what was it.*

Athina: So was he married before or..?

*Adrianna: He was married, oh a few years back, years back, yeah.*

Athina: But he'd divorced?

*Adrianna: Oh yes, yeah.*

Athina: So, um, the Greek community abandoned you when your husband died.

*Adrianna: My friend yeah.*

Athina: Did you have any other friends? I mean New Zealanders?

*Adrianna: No, because I put my self down to work.*

Athina: Ok.

*Adrianna: That's what I was doing.*

Athina: And did you face any kind of discrimination from New Zealanders because you were Greek, because you were successful?

*Adrianna: No, I never.*

Evangelia: Did you have New Zealand friends? Did you make New Zealand friends?

*Adrianna: Ah yes I did have and I still do but when... I have to get up five o'clock in the morning or six o'clock in the morning. The taxi rung up to make sure I wake up and pick me up and take me to work. Most of the time I sit in the... to spend more time there than back home by myself. Um, when I lost Tom, I didn't loose just Tom I lost every thing and I felt isolated and I. I., you know. Even my kids, my grand...*

Athina: Godchildren.

*Adrianna: Yeah they rang and all that. I never said come along and, never. Why? You tell me why? Just I wanted to be ... I was sooo hurt, because my husband die. I don't know why I was hurt so much.*

Athina: Because you loved him.

*Adrianna: I don't want to know anybody.*

Evangelia: So you isolated yourself for a while, yeah.

Athina: So you were grieving, you were grieving, mmm.

Evangelia: So, you know, you married a Greek and you lived with him in New Zealand, and you married a New Zealander. So how, how does your husband who is not Greek accept your Greekness or your culture and you his?

*Adrianna: I don't know. Roger is very, very, very nice. Ah, I don't know how..*

Athina: How is it different, how is the marriage different between you know.. How would you compare the two?

*Adrianna: Each of them has got their own.. .but Tom was wonderful too. But eh Tom, eh Tom, don't do something for example see another man or go off or something like that, which lots of them round here, we have this problem. Tom will never accept, Tom will never accept.*

Evangelia: To talk to another man, a..

*Adrianna: No, no, to talk, to have an affair, because a lot goes round here now, yeah? He will never accept that.*

Athina: Your first husband?

*Adrianna: Yeah.*

Athina: Yes well..

*Adrianna: He's the type of person, you know what I mean?*

Athina: Well, would Roger accept that would he?

*Adrianna: Ah, he will, he will.*

Athina: So He's quite enlightened?

*Adrianna: Ah, he's not as sort of... .urn .. these words. Ah..*

Athina: Possessive.

*Adrianna: Possessive, yeah. That's a word...*

Athina: Are you telling us you have had an affair?

*Adrianna: No darling, no, but I will just give you an example. No, I was happy enough, ah God help me now. But why, it was my both husband and especial Thomas, handsome, beautiful. Oh yeah, he was very handsome they blinkin jealous that I know that. No, I will never have excuse for it. I wearing the best clothes, very few of them wearing that. Ok now, I haven't got the money I suppose I used to have and all that. But those days I have the money I enjoyed them. The same as Tom, used to dress beautiful. Urn..*

**Athina: So he was a bit jealous of because you were beautiful and had nice clothes. So he'd watch you.**

Athina: So..

*Adrianna: Yeah, we had this., yeah, yeah, um, yeah.*

Athina: So..

*Adrianna: Ah Roger, I mean Tom. I'm the person too that I don't want to wear fur coat for example and my husband with just a shirt and a jacket, you know, which just happens round us. I will never accept that, but he will never accept that but he will never accept that to see me below me.*

Athina: Yeah

*Adrianna: You know he always, yeah...*

Athina: So it is more..

*Adrianna: Which is Rogers, Roger says as long as suits you and all that. I think that.. I don't know quality. How can I explain!*

Athina: He's a lot more easy going and it...

*Adrianna: Yes, yes, um, yeah.*

Athina: So, how long after you met him did you get married?

*Adrianna: With Roger, ah, twice hours we went to Greece. Once my mother was passed away just before we reached there, ninety nine, the first time we went there to met him. Have no chance, and then I went two years later, my uncle lakovos passed away. I said Roger forget it, we go back to New Zealand. I wanted to marry there, he wants to, because both married in New Zealand, so.. So, then I came back here I have the cancer.*

Athina: Ah, before you got married?

*Adrianna: Oh yeah.*

Athina: Ah, so you got breast cancer before you got married?

*Adrianna: Mmm, mmm.*

Athina: So you were going out with Roger for a few years before?

*Adrianna: Oh, yes, before get married. Why we married? We don't need to married, we could've been partners.*

Athina: Were you living together?

*Adrianna: The rest of us. Eh?*

Athina: Were you living together?

*Adrianna: Oh yes we live together, oh yes. But, when Roger said to me, when this... the doctors got to have the., make the operation, he said to me just sign your will and every thing because it's very aggressive and to be prepared for it*

Athina: Να

*Adrianna: We used to live in a little beve and he said to me I know it is hard but we have to discuss these things and he say what I have to do and what after and all that. And then he said to me I know that you took your husband Tom to Greece, that you .. that's what you want me to take you there in case something happens. Ah, and I said look, Tom wants to go there. I took him with his mother and father there. I don't necessary want to go there I said to him, and say can I be buried with you, when you die? And I said to him Roger, I have no idea because we not married, you not a Greek Orthodox person. I don't know I said to him. All right he said, I ring up Father George. He rang up Father George, he didn't know a thing about it. Arch Bishop, then the Arch Bishop was in Greece and we leave it to there, and then he say, can we get married? This was on., on ah, sixteenth of August I have the operation and the eight of December I got married with Roger, because he didn't want me to die before get married.*

*Athina: So, how many years had you been living with him?*

*Adrianna: Oh, ninety eighty-nine, yeah, ninety eighty-nine, yeah.*

*Athina: And you found out you had cancer.. ?*

*Adrianna: In two thousand and one.*

*Athina: Two thousand and one and you'd been living together.*

*Adrianna: Oh, yes.*

*Athina: And then you got married...*

*Adrianna: Yeah, in two thousand and one.*

*Athina: So, when you discovered you had cancer, did you find the lump or did you have a mammogram, or what happened?*

*Adrianna: Every year, mammogram, or every two years mammogram. It was about three weeks or four weeks before, when I have this. Over night according to the doctors when I ask them, what brings this up? He say, something worries you he say dramatically because since it comes up over night. I think ninety., two thousand and one, second time in went I there, the first time was Mum, no, Dad was still alive, nineteen ninety. Anyway when we went there with Roger, I think it was ninety..no, ninety. Ah, ninety ninety nine I didn't went home because there was nobody there. But on ninety... Two thousand and one I went there because of my brother from Athens went and stayed in my Mother's Father's house, and I went in there, we went in there and we stayed there and we sleeping there and I felt that it was a completely stranger's house, it worries me so much that Mum and Dad wasn't there.*

*Athina: Oh, right.*

*Adrianna: That's the only thing, because I didn't have any other problems at the time.*

Athina: Well, I mean how can a doctor tell you that any way, I mean it's...

Athina: No, but he did say that something, something worries you dramatically to come this like, over night.

Athina: Since they don't know....what he says...I mean, they don't know why are taking such a thing....

*Adrianna: I know.*

Athina: So, um, can I just ask you, um, so you had, they found the lump and you had it removed, the lump, or did they remove the whole lump

*Adrianna: Oh yes,*

Athina: The lump, or did they remove the whole lump, or did they remove the whole breast?

*Adrianna: The whole breast, yeah.*

Athina: And then they, um, took the lymph nodes.

*Adrianna: Eleven of them.*

Athina: Eleven, and then they gave you radiation and chemo?

*Adrianna: Chemo, radiotherapy, yeah*

Athina: Chemo first and radiotherapy. That was in two thousand and one?

*Adrianna: Yeah the chemo was one Friday and the last chemo one Friday the follow Saturday I got married.*

Athina: And then you got married.

*Adrianna: They want to before I die, to get married.*

Athina: Yeah, that was nine years ago?

*Adrianna: Yeah, the cancer is in remission, but you can never tell.*

Evangelia: But you're feeling good now?

*Adrianna: Yeah, I have no problem with it.*

Evangelia: Adrianna, shall we ask you a few questions on your presence in the Greek Community, we know that you are going to the church every Sunday, eh, often...

*Adrianna: .. eh...not every Sunday, but...eh, yes, I go. We go to the festivals, here and*

*there...yes...*

Evangelia: ... did you always use to go to the church?

*Αντιάννα: ....those years, eh, no, not just like now that I have all the time in the world, those years we didn't use to go very often....*

Evangelia: ...you told us that you were once invited to assist the Cretan Association....

*Adrianna: ... yes...*

Evangelia: ... and you were, from what we know, president of the Cretan Association Tsera for some...

*Adrianna: .. yes, for eleven years...*

Evangelia: ... for eleven years, that's a long time....

*Adrianna .....tell me about it..*

Evangelia: ... tell us few things about your involvement in the Cretan Association and in the Community, what did you do, why did you get involved?

*Adrianna: Ah, it's a long story... eh, don't you see, these days we were so many Greeks and Cretans, particularly a lot of Cretans, people used to join in and then leave, and the Associations use dto change, and there was life, but the last twenty years not many left, everybody has gone or many have died, the children grew up, they distanced themselves completely from the Greek traditions, and the things we do, one to another, so to keep the few that left to us, so to say, I join the Community, there was no one else...*

Evangelia: ... when?

*Adrianna: ...there were, when was it..., eleven years ago, in 200.....,when....eh..no, earlier because in 1999 I went to Crete, to the commemoration of the battle of Crete as the President, then it must have been before, maybe in 1997, or earlier, '96, '97 yes, in '96, because in '97 I got sick, I started all these ...*

Evangelia: ... and you went to the battle of Crete as the President of the Cretan Association?

*Adrianna: ... yes, I have photographs, we have video, yeah, yes!!! And we went there, we got excited, I went with Roger, how wonderful it was after the celebration had finished, how*



*wonderful was everything!! Very nice!! What a hospitality....*

Evangelia: ... Did you go to Chania?

*Adrianna: In Chania where we went and we did all...I laid about fourteen wreaths that time....*

Evangelia: ...for whom did you lay the wreaths?

*Adrianna: ...for New Zealanders and the Cretan Association of New Zealand, and it was, wherever we used to go, we were going everywhere, we had the bus, and it was taking us to all the monuments, to Galatas, here and there, it took us everywhere, and we laid wreaths to everybody....*

Evangelia: ...and did you meet here the families of many New Zealander soldiers?

*Adrianna:...very many....*

Ευγγελία:... who died....

*Adrianna: ... Yes, because when I became the President of the Cretans, who had invited me a couple of times before becoming a President, we used to have about three – four hundred veterans as members those days...*

Evangelia: ... New Zealanders??

*Adrianna: New Zealanders....*

Evangelia: ... in the Cretan Association...

*Adrianna: New Zealanders, Cretans were enrolled in the Association, because they were veterans of the Battle of Crete, not all...*

Evangelia: ... of the Cretans....

*Adrianna:...not the whole New Zealand, the veterans, not only these, they were Cretans, the Cretan Veterans, we used to call them....*

Evangelia: .. where? Did they come here in New Zealand?

*Adrianna: ...they were here, and they came, we commemorate the Battle of Crete, from Greece, every year they send to us, from the Defense, military Officers, accordingly we have them every year, only last year they didn't send us, because they have their own problems, fair enough, and there are also the Veterans from the New Zealand Army Forces, all these, the Greek Embassy, and all together, we organize a nice, historical, celebration, which we do*

*every year, it is not just now....*

Evangelia: .. bond between New Zealand and Crete all these years that you are here in New Zealand....

Adrianna: ....mmm....

Evangelia: .... have you ever had the experience of New Zealanders who when you were mentioning that you were coming from Crete, they knew of Crete, what did they know of Crete?

*Adrianna: I know nothing of such things, when I came in New Zealand, I didn't meet, I wasn't involved directly with the Cretans, I told I was married to a foreigner, I was a foreigner, I didn't know what was going on between New Zealand and Crete, I didn't know these things before I arrived here, and when I came here, the first years, I didn't know, I was indeed aware of the Cretan Association, but there was also an Akarnanian Association, Cypriot Association, from Mitilini and from all the places, we have these clubs, so yes, whenever, we were going to the Cretan celebrations, that's a different thing, but for the battle of Crete, in which they invite you, I wasn't aware. I knew nothing! And afterwards slowly I also found out the history of the battle of Crete, the bond between Crete and New Zealand, previously I didn't know that, I didn't know!!*

Evangelia: ....so you learned a part of your history in a .....

Adrianna: ... in the end of the world...excuse me...

Evangelia: ... other country....

*Adrianna: ... and to invite me to Hailton, the battle, something, they were organizing something, I don't remember, ah, yes, they had, they had, it was, the sixty years were approaching, and even before the sixty years, in 1999, I, was invited to go to Hamilton, they were plenty there, they way they told me, to make a picture frame, I have photographs, I will find them, a frame, where did they put it...the granddaughters of the veterans, embroidered with golden thread and the invited the President of the Cretans, to inaugurate it, so I went, but before we went there, we got to the hotel and I said "Miss O'Connor", she was the secretary, she had also come to Crete twice, and I said: "Miss O'Connor, do I have to give a speech?", "yes" she said to me, "you have to, if you want" she said, she was always a very nice lady, anyway, and I said to her "will there be many people?" "eh, about fifty" said, "that's alright" και ο Rodgers wrote for me a very nice speech, and, yes I went, a very big Hall, up to*

*there, packed with Veterans 250-300, I have photographs, but where are they, you don't see them all, you see, I was confused, that was my .....with the veterians, eh?., and of course I was the first president woman in New Zealand, hello...!!! They never have a Greek woman as a president except the Philoptocho, which is the ladies auxiliary, it's a different thing. And the old men, you know, the veterans, they are my little princes, my dear Virgin Mary...ah...but it was so beautiful people. Ah, I can never forget them. Most of them they are gone. Any way I have the speech and all that, when we finish we went in there and they all, and few days later, month later I supposed to go to Crete, and every body say I give you five dollars, light me a candle. I get the roses for that, and all that. I said look, I hope I be ok to go there, I say, but I don't want any of your money. This is more than anything. So we went in there, I say good-bye to them and particularly one veteran. He passed away I been told, but he's got, they went to the fiftieth anniversary in Crete. They gave them a green tie with the Crete on it. He takes it off, this veteran, seventy, eighty years old and he give it to Roger. We didn't have it. We didn't even know fifty, Cretan born they, they didn't ever invite us. That's how angry and frustrated I was. Any way the veteran give that tie to Roger, and he said to me, John kill Kiklis something, that's my brother's name, an he's lay in Souda, hello Soula, he's lay in Souda Bay. And we went in there, we look every where and we can't find it, but we went and bought four, we looking the thing, and how many veterans, how many New Zealanders passed away when it was four seventy five and we bought candles, and we get the school. It was after the Battle of Crete and the TV, and we got it on the film that, and, um, it was the school kids, give us only seven because it was exams. They give seven kids and we went to every head stone. We have to ask the, um, what call it from England, the British High Commission because they look after the grave yard, and I rang her up, just about giving me the hell. I said look, I came in, three hundred veterans wants me to light a candle. I need to do it and I had to put my foot down and I make it. I tell you another story, we haven't got time, eh? And we went in and we light each head stone one candle, and they put it on the news and all that, it wasn't.. .It was, it was beautiful. The next time the sixtieth it was two hundred peop.. thousand people included and what's his name the president of Greece the first one? Stefanopoulos, and we give him the king candonos, open the, the candonos door, that was all.. .I been there done that. When he's coming here we have him a few years back here.*

Athina: Ah.

Adrianna: The Government House, the Governor General, the, ah, what's his name the

*President of Greece? And the embassy was there, the archbishop New Zealand and Greek, and there's me with my husband the third table.*

Evangelia: ...well it seems...

*Adrianna: ...ah..ha..*

Evangelia: ... that while after your first marriage to a Greek man you were isolated, because they didn't consider you, not any more, as a member of the Cretan Association...

*Adrianna: .. um..uhm...eh....*

Evangelia: ... as soon as you got married to a New Zealander you suddenly became a member of the Cretan....

*Adrianna: ... why....*

Evangelia: ... Association....

*Adrianna: ... why????*

Evangelia: γγελία... why is this?

*Adrianna: ....eh...why? Because those days we used to live as we were in our villages but later, years had passed, and people started, woke up, eh, some of them, not all, still some of us sleep anyway, but I don't know why. I don't know*

Evangelia: ...maybe because Roger is a New Zealander, a foreigner, while you husband...

*Adrianna: I don't know, I don't know, I don't know...*

Evangelia: ,,but is it interesting that he shows interest in the Greek....

*Adrianna: Oh yeah...*

Evangelia: ... culture...

*Adrianna: ..He has done a lot of work for everybody, he helps everybody, oh yeah...*

Athina: It sounds like there's not many Greeks left, and so it's brought you closer because..

*Adrianna: Probably, ah.*

Athina: There is no new blood. Greeks haven't been coming, they've just been leaving.

*Adrianna: They leaving, they not, because we used to be twelve thousand plus now we be*

*lucky if we are four, three, four, oh yeah. But there is a lot of children, they didn't ... somewhere along the line there is something wrong there, because, I haven't got children and I mustn't talk about it, but I think.. I have a feeling that some families let kids go and they lost the Greek..*

Evangelia: Connection.

*Adrianna: Yeah, community and church, traditions.*

Athina: There is not enough Greeks here for them to marry other Greeks, so they marry, and they, yeah, they disperse.

*Adrianna: I don't know what it is.*

Evangelia: But, but you know...Adrianna is married to a New Zealanders but she shows interest...

Athina: Yeah, but she is still first generation, its the second generation they lose the language, they lose the...

Evangelia: mmmm....

*Adrianna: ...but it's a shame because whatever we do, we are working very hard, we keep the Greek community and Greek schools, but it's the parents' fault, I reckon. The parents supposed to send the kids to learn to keep up the language and the traditions. Don't you think?*

Athina: Its difficult! My parents...

*Adrianna: Why?*

Athina: My parents sent me to Greek school, but to go to school during the day and then to go to Greek school afterwards...

*Adrianna: But what is wrong with that?*

Athina: Well, when you are a child you want to go out and play, and so I went till I was twelve and then I said to my parents I don't want to do it any more, and they said you will regret this all your life and I do, but when you are a child you want to go and play. You're at school all day you don't want to go to another school afterwards.

*Adrianna: Yeah, but some of them could doing it.*

Athina: And it's, it's really difficult. I tried to teach my children Greek, but you have to hear it around you.

*Adrianna: Mmm. True.*

Athina: There is just not enough Greeks.

*Adrianna: You see, I hardly go out. I don't go much out, well I go when I need to, but I am not a person that I go around, you know, visiting and have a tea there, coffee there. I am not that type, I am not the person. All my life I all ways like that, not now, I always like that. With Roger we always speak English. You see even my English, they think I am a foreigner here, go back home I am a foreigner because I never been to school. If I been to school and learn and speak the right way, put the right words on the right sentences, yeah, but., and I lost every thing, but, and now I am scared there's a lot of times I want to say Greek words and I just can't bring it in, because I don't..*

Athina: Don't use them.

*Adrianna: Communicate much with Greeks.*

Athina: Because the immigrant experience isn't it?

*Adrianna: Yeah, true*

Athina: As soon as you leave our country you lose something and then you go back and you are ξένη.

*Adrianna: Yes, but you can see so many examples round the world. The Greeks doing very, very well, even in Australia.*

Athina: Yeah, but..

*Adrianna: Colleges, every thing.*

Athina: Yeah, but, here?

*Adrianna: What you mean?*

Athina: How, why do you think that is?

*Adrianna: I don't know.*

Athina: Well, think about the size.

*Adrianna: Well, that's, yeah, true, yeah, yeah.*

Athina: Yeah, because forty thousand, how many did we say was in Melbourne?

*Adrianna: Seven, eight hundred thousand, darling. They got their own colleges, their own prime ministers, their own... you know more than me surely.*

Athina: Yean, but when I was growing up there was forty thousand Greeks in Adelaide, seventy thousand in Melbourne. They have children, they marry other Greeks, they multiply and it becomes a bigger community..

*Adrianna: Yeah, mmm*

Athina: And it becomes a bigger community and so I think that's the problem here is that people have been leaving.

*Adrianna: Yeah, they leaving.*

Athina: And it's been a dying population.

*Adrianna: Mmm, mmm, true.*

Athina: Whereas over there, they have been growing. Now, you didn't introduce yourself before. Do you want to introduce yourself... ?

Evangelia: But I was going to introduce at the beginning.

Athina: Yes.

Evangelia: Ok, well, this, this has been Evangelia Papoutsaki speaking for a little while with Adriana Tsidima on the Greek communities.

Adrianna, thank you very much for your time and your will to share with us your experiences. So, in order to conclude this interview, one last question, or rather one-two last questions. The first one is: after so many living in New Zealand, a Cretan girl in New Zealand, what is, which is the New Zealand side in you? What would you classify as New Zealand feature in your identity?

*Adrianna: Χμ.. I don't think I can answer that, can you say the word in English, I might get it better?*

Evangelia: Yeah, um, you came when you were eighteen, ...

*Adrianna: Yeah.*

Evangelia: And you were from Crete, and you lived almost all your life in New Zealand.

*Adrianna: True.*

Evangelia: Yeah, so are you a Cretan, are you a Greek, are you a New Zealand and

Greek, a New Zealand and Cretan. Who are you?

*Adrianna: I wish if I know.*

Evangelia: All of them.

*Adrianna: All of them bit, but, yes I'm New Zealand... Greek... Greek - New Zealander. Crete and Greece to me the same.*

Evangelia: Some features which are from New Zealand and you adopted in your character, in your manners, after so many years, what would you say that the features are?

*Adrianna: ... mmm....*

Evangelia: ... did you accept some habits in New Zealand which are different?

*Adrianna: Not really, no! Oh well, you live and learn everyday, I mean, yeah, but, ah, nope, it's a bit tricky question, because, come on, those years back, I have a spoon but I didn't have a fork now I got a fork, a knife and spoon, and, yeah, but it was different circumstances, and then, and then now ...*

Athina: Have you enjoyed been financially independent?

*Adrianna: Yeah, but although, never... money never, never worried.. .never. I don't know I used to have a lot of money. I lost a lot of money, I make it, I lost it. I give up, easy come easy go now. I not worried about money. Although if I need what ever I can buy it. It's not that I'm..I'm, you know, depend on you or them or there, you know.*

Athina: Would this have been possible if you had stayed in Greece?

*Adrianna: O oh, ooh this another f..*

Athina: Would you have been able to own a cafe and..?

*Adrianna: Ah, not those years, no, no I don't think so, come on let's face it, no.*

Evangelia: Back then.

*Adrianna: No, back then, no. No way.*

Athina: So, because I know my mother wouldn't go back to Greece because she didn't want to be financially dependant on other people.

*Adrianna: Other people, yeah. If I have no my, my independence I won't go there, no way. But even if I got money, I can go live in the country, but, it's not for me now. I am getting older.*



*I don't know.*

Athina: So, do feel this is your home?

*Adrianna: Oh, yes.. yes. Don't take me wrong, I love Greece, but, eh. What three and a half quarters of my life, stay here.*

Athina: Mmm, good place to stop.

Evangelia: Thank you very much, as a last footnote, is there any comment that you believe we didn't pick it up during our discussion that you want to add? Maybe a last thought?

*Adrianna: mmmm...*

Evangelia:..hahaha...thank you very much....

*Adrianna: Thank you too, girls!!!*

Transcription by Ilias Pavlidis

