

An adventure of mystery and suspense

Two 12 years old boys, a dog, a girl and some adults save the beautiful gardens of the Green Tower of being destroyed, becoming a park and a library for children.

A passionate initiation to the labyrinth of urbanism and the defence of the cultural heritage. For children, young people and adults from 10/11 years old.

*Μολάομαι λυ ευσταθία  
do elbio Roxivos Nijfo da dolojo  
19/11*

## Before starting.....

...reading this book, have a look here to find out something about what you are going to meet in it.

### THE STORY

How Uncle Tomas, who was born so poor, became the owner of the precious House of the Green Tower and of its gardens. And how did he become friend of Estacio, a little boy, only 9 years old when they met.

And why is he afraid that some of his relatives, distant but powerful, will manage to cancel his testament. Because in that testament, Tomas decides to make true his beautiful dream: after his death, the Green Tower shall become a park for the children of the town, and a library.

### THE PERSONAGES

First of all Estacio. He was then 12 years old, some years before this story begun, when he became friend of Uncle Tomas. From then on, he was keeping him company and helping him watering the garden, after school and the schoolwork.

The introduction, how the book begins, is what Estacio wrote on his blue exercise book, traditionally used in the schools of Greece and Cyprus. In that introduction, the narrator is Estacio. But he does not narrate the rest of the story....

Lakis, Estacio's good friend and his schoolmate will always give him his support. Both will manage to draw the attention of more and more people, children and adults to the defence of the Green Tower. All them together will manage to put in practice the will of Uncle Tomas.

Aris is Uncle Tomas' dog and a good friend of Estacio and of Lakis, who are going to save it when they will find out that some criminals have kidnapped it. It has been named after the Greek god of war, but it is not more than a playful and sweet puppy which only bolls to the bad guys.

Monica, a young French girl on her twenties, but who looks like sixteen. She speaks Greek, although with some small mistakes. Uncle Tomas calls her grandchild, but she is not his grandchild although she also calls him grandfather. Which mystery bounds them?

### THE LANGUAGE

There are not many books translated from Modern Greek to Portuguese. Only two countries have Greek as official language: Greece and Cyprus. Both, as Portugal, belong to the European Union.

The ancient Greek language is one of the most prestigious languages in the history of the Humanity. Some of the first and most important books of the literature of all times have been written in ancient Greek: The Iliad and the Odyssey, for instance. Great authors wrote in ancient Greek: Hesiod, Platan, Aristoteles, Esquile, Sophocles, Euripedes. On the contrary of what many people think, Greek has never been a "dead language". But it is true that Modern Greek is quite different in some aspects from the

ancient Greek – Estacio would not quite understand what Platan would tell him, if he could speak with him! – Although in some other aspects, very similar – many of the words of Platan, when read slowly, would seem as the same he uses or very familiar.

## CYPRUS

As you already know, the writer Elli Pionidou, the author of this book, comes from Cyprus, a country that, like Portugal, is a member of the EU. Although the author don't say that the Mystery of the Green Tower takes part in Cyprus, several events in the book are related to the history of that country.

The territory of the Republic of Cyprus coincides with the one of the island with the same name, situated in the Mediterranean, very near to the south part of Turkey. The capital is the town of Nicosia (in Greek, Lefkosa).

In this book, the journalist Andre, the narrator, relates that his father and uncle fought against the English dominance, in the movement which would lead Cyprus to its independency (chapter 8). In ancient times the island had been occupied by Egyptians, Assyrians and Persians, and then by Greeks, having been uninterruptedly since then an area of Greek culture. Nevertheless in 1489 the Republic of Venice has dominated Cyprus. But in 1570, like Greece, Cyprus became part of the Ottoman Empire, and so would remain till the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When the Turks were then defeated by Europe, Cyprus began to be ruled by the English from 1878, as a decision of the Berlin Congress. In 1914, with the begin of the First World War, Cyprus became then to be officially considered as a colony of the British Empire.

### Cypriots, Greeks and Turks

In the meantime, some time before, after the Independence War (1821-1830), Greece, expelling the Turks, became a modern independent nation. The peoples of Greek culture, which initially had stayed out of the independent Greece, like Creta and Cyprus, never stopped feeling Greek. From 1930 on, start in Cyprus the rebellions against the English and supporting the union of Cyprus with Greece, the “enosis”, Greek word which means “union”. Although the Cypriots didn't achieve the union with Greece, they managed to get the independence, as a result of a treaty signed between Cyprus, Greece and the United Kingdom, in 1960.

Because there was a Turkish community in the island, the Turkish-Cypriots got the vice-presidency of the new country. But the relationships between Greeks and Turks were difficult and so remained. The Greek-Cypriots continued wishing the union with Greece, wish was very disapproved by the Turks. In 1974 the conflict between the two communities deteriorated and Turkey, supporting the Turkish-Cypriot community, invaded Cyprus and occupied with troops the northern part, declaring the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. But that “republic” has never been recognized by the Organisation of the United Nations, neither by the European countries – actually the only country that recognizes it is Turkey. As a consequence of this invasion many Greek-Cypriots lost their houses and belongings, which is referred, when speaking about the family of teacher Cristina (chapter 4). With the entrance of Cyprus in the European Union in 2004, there was the hope of a reunification of the island, but there are still serious problems to be solved before that can be possible.

Another event of great importance for the relationships between Greeks and Turks was the Catastrophe of Minor Asia, in 1951-1922. Aunt Arguiro (see chapter 4) when she was still a child she had to flee from Esmirna, a Turkish town where she used to live and which was mostly inhabited by Greeks, and came as a refugee to Cyprus. That war then between Greek and Turks had such terrible consequences for the Greeks that became known as the Great Catastrophe.

### Emigration, economy, tourism

Another outstanding aspect of Cyprus in the modern era is the importance of the emigration (actually like in Greece ...and in Portugal!). Sometimes in this book is reported about some people who emigrated to America (the daughters of aunt Arguiro, in chapter 4; Regina, the daughter of Uncle Vagoris, in chapter 6), or those who think about emigrating to Australia (Estacio himself, in chapter 8), the two first destinies of that emigration.

Today, with its Mediterranean climate and its beaches of warm water, Cyprus has an important tourist industry. Its economy counts also with other services and industries and a specialized agriculture on the export of citric fruits ( Nicos' farm has big orange orchards – chapter 5). It has also the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest Merchant Navy in the world due to the fact that a big amount of vessels from other countries are registered under Cypriot flag, which bring great profits to the country.

(Note of the Portuguese editor, based on encyclopaedic references and others)

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