

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Greek House

**The Story of a Painter's Love Affair with the Island of Sifnos
by Christian Brechneff**

1. What was the author's upbringing like? Describe his parents and their background. How was their relationship with their son?
2. Why did Christian go to Sifnos? Where he stay the first 5 years on the island?
3. How did Christian end up buying a house in Exambela? What did his parents think of it? Who was Joanna and how did she help?
4. What happened with the shop owner when Christian wanted to convert the money into drachmas for the house? What was the carpenter Stephanos like?
5. Discuss Christian's experiences when he was renovating the house. What were his neighbors' reactions to his house and his decorating?
6. Who were his dear friends on the island? What were some of the negative experiences he had with the villagers? Who was crazy Aphrodite?
7. What was a typical day like for Christian in Sifnos? How did Tim spend his days?
8. Discuss Christian's life in Sifnos, in New York City, and in Switzerland. How was Christian different from Christo?
9. How did Christian come to terms with his sexuality? What were the changes towards homosexuality in the 70s till today? Do you think the Sifniots accepted who he was?
10. What were all the changes on the island in 30 years? What were some of the major changes in Christian's life in 30 years? Why did Christian end up selling his house on Sifnos? What was his experiences with the real estate agent Spiridulla?