

## SYNOPSIS

### Ellis Island by M Ann Elias

ELLIS ISLAND is based on the real life story of George and Anastasia “Stasia” Diamandis as they emigrated from Greece during a time in America’s history when immigration from Europe was at its peak. Born in Izmir, Turkey, Stasia and her family flee Izmir to escape the harassment they have endured for years at the hands of the Turkish government only to find things are no better in Athens. After her sister, Thespi gets married and leaves for America, Stasia is left with nothing more in her life than her work at the family tailor shop, going to church and living at home with her parents. But, Stasia is determined to keep her promise to Thespi and meet her in America - she just has to find a way to make that happen. Meanwhile, her parents have other ideas – they have arranged her betrothal. When an old friend, George Diamandis, comes into the shop one day, Stasia’s world is turned up-side down. What Stasia does not plan on is the impact that her experiences have on her family, her life and her view of human kind. Through her travels, she discovers that life is hard and rarely fair but it is the people who surround her and how firmly she believes in her dreams that matter most. Along the way, she meets other immigrants who all share the same dream - the opportunity to start a new life in a land that rewards courage and ambition. The unexpected, amusing, catastrophic and terrifying events that befall Stasia also serve as the experiences that force her to grow-up and realize that being an adult is not always about getting your way, but learning how to compromise. Despite the arduous journey, Stasia discovers that being an adult means knowing that good things must be earned, that careful planning has its rewards and the understanding that what one wants is not always what one needs.