

(Source: Greek daily)



[Translated Version]

The first time...

she had to change a tyre by herself
By **Sophia Sarli** – Actress

I have been driving for countless years but I had never changed a tyre. I know the procedure but my hands are not up to it – as they say. Many a time have I had a flat tyre but it was always daytime and there was invariably some good guy nearby or I was close to a tyre repair shop – so lucky I was. I had always dreaded that this might happen to me late at night as, because of my work, I return home late on most evenings. And one night it happened! I was driving along Vassilissis Sophias avenue when, at two in the morning, I realised that I must have a flat tyre. I did not, however, stop, hoping that I had made a mistake. At the nearest traffic lights, I got off only to see that my tyre was dead flat. A car had stopped behind me and its driver asked “tyre?”. I shook my head and asked him in desperation “Do you think that I can drive on as far as Chalandri?” The man looked at me with incredulity. “Out of the question” he retorts, and comes out of his car. “May I help you?” he asks, and starts the necessary procedure. I volunteer to help him and he gives me the “cross”, but seeing my ineptitude he tells me politely “O.K, it is not necessary!” And then I notice that his one arm, from the elbow down, had been amputated! I watched, in shock, with what ease he made all the necessary movements, using only one arm and the top part of his other arm. When he was finished, I could stupidly only keep on repeating the words “thank you” and got into my car in shame. And then I realised that the terms “inability” and “disability” can only be relative terms.