

Jumping ships – By Camilla PART II

Coming back was a strange thing. We'd been **gone** for just a year and not much had changed back home, **whereas** I felt like a completely different person from who I was before we went **cruising**. So much had happened in that year. My brother and I had both made lifelong friends with other cruiser kids, beginning by just using hand gestures and smiles and ending with us both speaking fluent English by the end of the year. We'd gotten to see how differently life could be lived – everything from people doing ceramics in **muddy huts** in Morocco to multimillionaires living on massive super **yachts** in Anguilla. Cruising and constantly coming to new places and meeting new people had taught me more than I will ever truly **grasp**, but it had also left me **lacking** in what was considered important back home – what to wear, who the cool new celebrities were and that it apparently was time to start wearing makeup. My old friends and I were simply on completely different **wavelengths**, and it was quite a shock coming back from the open and worry-free environment of being a cruiser kid, trying to adapt back into the confined social environment that is our average western society. Eventually I did adapt, for a while. However, I have always kept with me the curiosity and **wanderlust** that I had acquired over that year.

Years passed by as my parents worked hard to get a new boat that we eventually bought and sailed back to Sweden from the Med. As mum and dad planned and prepared for the next sailing adventure, the time had come for me to go to high school, and there was really only one option for me – the sailing college. It's not as it may sound. A college which is all about sailing, but rather about having the world as your classroom. To make this possible, the students sail for 2 months each year on a 50 meter long ship named Gunilla. You learn all about old school sailing, new cultures and how to work as a team with your 44 classmates and the crew onboard. Together we'd take her through Europe, down to Northern Africa, over the Atlantic to the Caribbean and back each year, although you'd do different parts of the trip over a total of three years and six months of sailing.

GONE (away from a place)

WHEREAS (used to compare or contrast two facts)

CRUISING (= SAILING)

MUDDY (= full of or covered in mud)

HUT (= a small, simply built house or shelter)

YACHT (= a large boat, used for pleasure trips and racing)

GRASP (= hold, or understand)

LACKING (= having none or not enough of something)

BE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH (= have the same way of thinking as someone else)

WANDERLUST (= a strong desire to travel)