

# **Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann**

The Deserted House

**[ze słownikiem]**

# Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann

The Deserted House

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**C1**

Opuszczony dom

Z PODRĘCZNYM SŁOWNIKIEM ANGIELSKO-POLSKIM

dla osób znających język angielski co najmniej na poziomie C1

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Ruda Śląska, 2024

Contents

THE DESERTED HOUSE ..... 6

Vocabulary of words translated in this book..... 25

# The Deserted House

## THE DESERTED HOUSE

You know already that I spent the greater part of last summer in X-  
-, began Theodore. The many old friends and **acquaintances** I  
found there, the free, **jovial** life, the **manifold** artistic and  
intellectual interests-all these combined to keep me in that city.

I was happy as never before, and found rich **nourishment** for my  
old **fondness** for wandering alone through the streets, stopping to  
enjoy every picture in the **shop windows**, every **placard** on the  
walls, or watching the **passers-by** and choosing some one or the  
other of them to cast his **horoscope** **secretly** to myself.

There is one broad **avenue** leading to the -- Gate and lined with  
**handsome** buildings of all descriptions, which is the meeting place  
of the rich and fashionable world. The shops which occupy the  
ground floor of the tall palaces are devoted to the **trade in** articles  
of luxury, and the apartments above are the **dwelling**s of people of  
wealth and position.

The **aristocratic** hotels are to be found in this avenue, the palaces  
of the foreign ambassadors are there, and you can easily imagine that  
such a street would be the centre of the city's life and **gaiety**.

I had wandered through the avenue several times, when one day my  
attention was caught by a house which contrasted **strangely** with  
the others surrounding it. Picture to yourselves a low building but  
four windows broad, crowded in between two tall, handsome  
structures.

Its one upper story was a little higher than the tops of the ground-  
floor windows of its neighbours, its roof was **dilapidated**, its  
windows patched with paper, its **discoloured** walls spoke of years  
of neglect. You can imagine how strange such a house must have  
looked in this street of wealth and fashion.

Looking at it more **attentively** I perceived that the windows of the  
upper story were **tightly** closed and curtained, and that a wall had  
been built to hide the windows of the ground floor. The entrance  
gate, a little to one side, served also as a **door-way** for the building,  
but I could find no sign of **latch**, lock, or even a bell on this gate.

**acquaintances** - znajomość, znajomy, znajoma  
**jovial** - jowialny, wesoly  
**manifold** - kolektor, powielać, różnorodny

**nourishment** - pożywienie  
**fondness** - uczucie sympatii, słabość  
**shop windows** - witryny sklepowe  
**placard** - tabliczka, plakat, afisz  
**passers-by** - przechodzień  
**horoscope** - horoskop  
**secretly** - potajemnie

**avenue** - aleja, podjazd  
**handsome** - piękny, przystojny  
**trade in** - oddać stary towar w rozliczeniu za  
nowy ; opuścić żonę lub męża i poślubić kogoś  
młodszego  
**dwelling**s - (dwell) zamieszkiwać, przebywać,  
rezydować, spoczywać, zatrzymywać się, dom

**aristocratic** - arystokratyczny  
**gaiety** - wesolość

**strangely** - dziwnie, dziwacznie

**dilapidated** - zniszczyć, zniszczony  
**discoloured** - odbarwiony, odbarwiać

**attentively** - uważnie, bacznie  
**tightly** - mocno, ciasno  
**door-way** - drzwi; wejście, przejście  
**latch** - zatrzask, ucześcić się, wykorzystać, pojąć,  
zasuwka

I was convinced that the house must be **unoccupied**, for at whatever hour of the day I happened to be passing I had never seen the **faintest** signs of life about it.

**you all**, the good **comrades** of my youth, know that I have been **prone** to consider myself a sort of **clairvoyant**, claiming to have glimpses of a strange world of wonders, a world which you, with your hard common sense, would attempt to deny or laugh away. I confess that I have often lost myself in mysteries which after all **turned out** to be no mysteries at all.

And it looked at first as if this was to happen to me in the matter of the deserted house, that strange house which drew my steps and my thoughts to itself with a power that surprised me. But the point of my story will prove to you that I am right in asserting that I know more than you do. Listen now to what I am about to tell you.

One day, at the hour in which the fashionable world is **accustomed** to **promenade** up and down the avenue, I stood as usual before the deserted house, lost in thought. Suddenly I felt, without looking up, that some one had stopped beside me, fixing his eyes on me.

It was Count P--, who told me that the old house contained nothing **more mysterious** than a cake **bakery** belonging to the **pastry cook** whose handsome shop **adjoined** the old structure. The windows of the ground floor were walled up to give protection to the ovens, and the heavy curtains of the upper story were to keep the **sunlight** from the wares laid out there.

When the Count informed me of this I felt as if a **bucket** of cold water had been suddenly **thrown over** me. But I could not believe in this story of the cake and **candy** factory. Through some strange **freak** of the imagination I felt as a child feels when some **fairy** tale has been told it to conceal the truth it suspects.

I **scolded** myself for a silly fool; the house remained **unaltered** in its appearance, and the visions **faded in** my brain, until one day a chance incident woke them to life again.

I was wandering through the avenue as usual, and as I passed the deserted house I could not resist a **hasty** glance at its **close-curtained** upper windows. But as I looked at it, the curtain on the last window near the **pastry shop** began to move. A hand, an arm, came out from between its folds.

**unoccupied** - niezamieszkane

**faintest** - zasłabnąć, zemdleć, omdlenie, słaby

**you all** - wy

**comrades** - kamrat, kompan, towarzysz, kolega, koleżanka, druh, towarzysza

**prone** - skłonny, leżący na brzuchu

**clairvoyant** - jasnowidz

**turned out** - okazać się; przychodzić, pojawiać się, pójść gdzieś (w jakimś celu, np. żeby zagłosować); zwlec się z wyrażenia, wstawać; wylaczać (światło)

**accustomed** - przyzwyczajając, przyzwyczaić

**promenade** - promenada, przechadzać się, spacerować

**more mysterious** - bardziej tajemniczy

**bakery** - piekarnia

**pastry cook** - cukiernik

**adjoined** - przyległy, dołączyć, przylączyć, przylegać, sąsiadować

**sunlight** - światło słoneczne, światło

**bucket** - wiadro, kubel, ceber, czerpak, łyżka, rzech

**thrown over** - rzucony, przerzucony; narzucony (coś na kogoś, np. koc); porzucony

**candy** - słodycze, cukierek

**freak** - dziwoląg, dziwak, maniak, anomalia

**fairy** - wróżka, wilą, ciota, pedzio

**scolded** - zbesztany, lajać, karcić, rugać, besztąć, ganić, strofować

**unaltered** - niezmienny

**faded in** - wzmocniony, rozjaśniony (np. dźwięk, obraz); wpleciony (np. scena)

**hasty** - pochopnie, pośpieszny

**close-curtained** - zamknięte

**pastry shop** - cukiernia

I took my **opera glass** from my pocket and saw a **beautifully** formed woman's hand, on the **little finger** of which a large diamond **sparkled** in unusual **brilliancy**; a rich **bracelet glittered** on the white, rounded arm. The **hand set** a tall, **oddly** formed crystal bottle on the **window ledge** and disappeared again behind the curtain.

**opera glass** - lornetka teatralna  
**beautifully** - pięknie  
**little finger** - mały palec u ręki  
**sparkled** - skrzyć się, lśnić, błyszczyć, blask  
**brilliancy** - błyskotliwość, blask  
**bracelet** - bransoletka  
**glittered** - blask, brokat, błyszczyć  
**hand set** - słuchawka (z mikrofonem); zestaw ręczny  
**oddly** - dziwnie, osobliwie, cudacznie  
**window ledge** - parapet okienny, podokiennik

I stopped as if frozen to stone; a **weirdly pleasurable** sensation, **mingled** with **awe**, streamed through my being with the warmth of an **electric current**. I stared up at the mysterious window and a sigh of longing arose from the very depths of my heart. When I **came to** myself again, I was angered to find that I was surrounded by a crowd which stood gazing up at the window with curious faces.

**weirdly** - dziwnie  
**pleasurable** - przyjemne  
**mingled** - przylaczać, mieszać  
**awe** - podziw, groza, trwoga, zachwyt  
**electric current** - prąd elektryczny  
**came to** - przyjąć

I **stole away inconspicuously**, and the demon of all things **prosaic** whispered to me that what I had just seen was the rich **pastry** cook's wife, in her Sunday **adornment**, placing an empty bottle, used for **rose-water** or the like, on the window **sill**. Nothing very weird about this.

**stole away** - okraść; wymknąć się  
**inconspicuously** - niepozornie  
**prosaic** - prozaiczny  
**pastry** - ciasto, pieczywo cukiernicze, wypiek  
**adornment** - ozdoba  
**rose-water** - woda różana  
**sill** - próg, parapet

Suddenly a most sensible thought came to me.

I turned and entered the shining, **mirror-walled** shop of the pastry cook.

**mirror-walled** - lustrzane ściany

Blowing the steaming **foam** from my cup of chocolate, I remarked: "You have a very useful addition to your establishment next door.

**foam** - pianka, piana, pienić się

"The man leaned over his counter and looked at me with a questioning smile, as if he did not understand me.

I repeated that in my opinion he had been very clever to set his bakery in the neighbouring house, although the deserted appearance of the building was a strange sight in its contrasting surroundings.

"Why, sir," began the pastry cook, "who told you that the house next door belongs to us?

Unfortunately every attempt on our part to acquire it has **been in vain**, and I fancy it is all the better so, for there is something **queer** about the place.

**been in** - być w; być dostępnym, urzędować; być w domu lub biurze; wpłynąć (dokument)  
**vain** - próżny, daremny  
**queer** - dziwaczny, dziwny, queerowy

"

You can imagine, dear friends, how interested I became upon hearing these words, and that I begged the man to tell me more about the house.

"I do not know anything very definite, sir," he said.

"All that we know for a certainty is that the house belongs to the **Countess S--**, who lives on her estates and has not been to the city for years.

**countess** - hrabina

This house, so they tell me, stood in its present shape before any of the handsome buildings were raised which are now the pride of our avenue, and in all these years there has been nothing done to it except to keep it from actual **decay**.

Two living creatures alone  **dwell** there, an aged **misanthrope** of a **steward** and his **melancholy** dog, which occasionally **howls** at the moon from the back **courtyard**.

According to the general story the deserted house is haunted.

In very truth my brother, who is the owner of this shop, and myself have often, when our business kept us **awake** during the silence of the night, heard strange sounds from the other side of the walls.

There was a **rumbling** and a **scraping** that frightened us both.

And not very long ago we heard one night a strange singing which I could not describe to you.

It was **evidently** the voice of an old woman, but the tones were so sharp and clear, and ran up to the top of the scale in **cadences** and long **trills**, the like of which I have never heard before, although I have heard many singers in many lands.

It seemed to be a French song, but I am not quite sure of that, for I could not listen long to the mad, **ghostly** singing, it made the hair stand erect on my head.

And at times, after the street noises are quiet, we can hear deep sighs, and sometimes a mad laugh, which seem to **come out of** the earth.

But if you lay your ear to the wall in our **back room**, you can hear that the noises come from the house next door.

" He led me into the back room and pointed through the window.

"And do you see that iron **chimney coming out of** the wall there?

It smokes so heavily sometimes, even in summer when there are no fires used, that my brother has often **quarrelled with** the old steward about it, fearing danger.

But the old man excuses himself by saying that he was cooking his food.

Heaven knows what the queer creature may eat, for often, when the pipe is smoking heavily, a strange and queer smell can be smelled all over the house."

The glass doors of the shop **creaked** in opening. The pastry cook hurried into the front room, and when he had nodded to the figure now entering he threw a meaning glance at me. I understood him

**decay** - rozpad, rozkład, degradacja

**dwell** - mieszkać, zamieszkiwać

**misanthrope** - mizantrop

**steward** - steward, organizator

**melancholy** - melancholia

**howls** - wycie, wyc

**courtyard** - dziedziniec, podwórze, dwór

**awake** - budzić się, uświadomić sobie, obudzić, przebudzony

**rumbling** - (rumble) grzmieć, huk, dudnienie, burczenie, bulgotanie

**scraping** - (scrap) pobić się, strzep, resztki, skrobanie, skrawek, wycinek, szarpanina

**evidently** - najwyraźniej, ewidentnie, zauważalnie

**cadences** - kadencja, tempo, rytm

**trills** - tryle, trel (ptaków), wibrujący śpiew

**ghostly** - upiorny, widmowy, zmorowaty

**come out of** - odzyskać przytomność

**back room** - zakulisowy; pokój od tyłu; pomieszczenie na zapleczu

**chimney** - komin, dymnik

**coming out of** - odzyskać przytomność

**quarrelled with** - sprzeczać się (o coś)

**creaked** - skrzypnął, trzeszczeć



perfectly. Who else could this strange guest be, but the steward who had charge of the mysterious house!

Imagine a thin little man with a face the colour of a **mummy**, with a sharp nose, **tight-set lips**, green cat's eyes, and a crazy smile; his hair dressed in the old-fashioned style with a high **toupet** and a bag at the back, and heavily powdered. He wore a faded old brown coat which was carefully brushed, grey **stockings**, and broad, **flat-toed** shoes with **buckles**.

And imagine further, that in spite of his **meagreness** this little person is **robustly** built, with huge fists and long, strong fingers, and that he walks to the shop counter with a strong, firm step, smiling his **imbecile** smile, and **whining** out: "A couple of **candied** oranges-a couple of macaroons-a couple of sugared chestnuts--"

The pastry cook smiled at me and then spoke to the old man. "You do not seem to be quite well. Yes, yes, **old age**, old age! It takes the strength from our limbs." The old man's expression did not change, but his voice went up: "Old age?-Old age?-Lose strength?-Grow weak?-Oho!

" And with this he **clapped** his hands together until the joints cracked, and sprang high up into the air until the entire shop **trembled** and the glass vessels on the walls and counters **rattled** and shook. But in the same moment a **hideous** screaming was heard; the old man had stepped on his black dog, which, **creeping in** behind him, had laid itself at his feet on the floor. "**Devilish** beast-dog of hell!

" **groaned** the old man in his former miserable tone, opening his bag and giving the dog a large **macaroon**. The dog, which had **burst out** into a cry of distress that was truly human, was quiet at once, sat down on its **haunches**, and **gnawed at** the macaroon like a **squirrel**. When it had finished its **tidbit**, the old man had also finished the packing up and **putting away** of his purchases.

"**good night**, honoured neighbour," he spoke, taking the hand of the pastry cook and pressing it until the latter cried **aloud** in pain. "The weak old man wishes you a good night, **most honourable** Sir Neighbour," he repeated, and then walked from the shop, followed closely by his black dog. The old man did not seem to have noticed me at all. I was quite **dumfounded** in my **astonishment**.

"There, you see," began the pastry cook. "This is the way he acts when he comes in here, two or three times a month, it is. But I can get nothing out of him except the fact that he was a former **valet** of

**mummy** - mumifikować, mumia, mamusia, mama

**tight-set lips** - wąskie usta

**toupet** - toupecik, peruka

**stockings** - (stock) stan, zasoby, papier wartościowy, akcja, skarpeta, pończocha

**flat-toed** - płaskostopie

**buckles** - zapinąć, klamra, odkształcenie

**meagreness** - skromność, niewielki, skromny, chudy

**robustly** - solidnie, zdecydowanie

**imbecile** - debil, imbecyl, niedorozwinięty umysłowo, imbecylozaty

**whining** - marudzenie, (whine) biadolić, jęczeć, skomleć, jęk, lkanie, kwilenie

**candied** - kandyzowane, słodczy, cukierek

**old age** - starość

**clapped** - klasnął, bić brawo, zamknąć z hukiem, oklaski, klepienie, huk, klaśnięcie

**trembled** - drżeć

**rattled** - zagrzechotał, zabrzączec, zastukać, grzechotka, grzechotanie, brzęk, szczęk

**hideous** - ohydny, obrzydliwy

**creeping in** - wkradać się

**devilish** - diabelski

**groaned** - jęknął, jęk, jęczeć

**macaroon** - makaronik

**burst out** - wybuchnąć, krzyknąć

**haunches** - pośladek, zad

**gnawed at** - gryźć kogoś, targać kimś; stopniowo coś zmniejszać lub psuć

**squirrel** - wiewiórka

**tidbit** - ciekawostka

**putting away** -

zaoszczędzić, odkładać (pieniądze)

**good night** - Dobranoc!

**aloud** - głośno

**most honourable** - najbardziej honorowy

**dumfounded** - głupi

**astonishment** - zdziwienie, zdziwko

**valet** - kamerdyner, lokaj, służący