

Margaret Oliphant

The Open Door

[ze słownikiem]

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C1

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Prawa autorskie:

eVirtualis sp. z o.o., ul. Karola Goduli 36, 41-712 Ruda Śląska

Redakcja:

Julia Czapelka

Projekt okładki:

Jan Paluch

Kontakt:

biuro@zeslownikiem.pl

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Ruda Śląska, 2024

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The Open Door

THE OPEN DOOR

I took the house of Brentwood on my return from **India** in 18-, for the temporary accommodation of my family, until I could find a permanent home for them. It had many advantages which **made it peculiarly** appropriate.

It was within reach of **Edinburgh**; and my boy Roland, whose education had been considerably neglected, could ride in and out to school; which was thought to be better for him than either leaving home altogether or staying there always with a **tutor**. The lad was **doubly** precious to us, being the only one left to us of many; and he was fragile in body, we believed, and deeply sensitive in mind.

The two girls also found at Brentwood everything they wanted. They were near enough to Edinburgh to have masters and lessons as many as they required for completing that **never-ending** education which the young people seem to require nowadays.

Brentwood stands on that fine and wealthy slope of country-one of the richest in Scotland-which lies between the Pentland Hills and the **Firth**. In clear weather you could see the blue **gleam** of the great **estuary** on one side of you; and on the other the blue heights.

Edinburgh-with its two lesser heights, the Castle and the Calton Hill, its **spires** and towers **piercing** through the smoke, and Arthur's Seat lying **crouched** behind, like a **guardian** no longer very **needful**, taking his **repose** beside the **well-beloved** charge, which is now, so to speak, able to take care of itself without him-lay at our **right hand**.

The village of Brentwood, with its **prosaic** houses, lay in a hollow almost under our house. Village architecture does not flourish in **Scotland**.

Still a cluster of houses on different **elevations**, with **scraps** of garden coming in between, a **hedgerow** with clothes laid out to dry, the opening of a street with its rural **sociability**, the women at their

India - Indie

made it - przybyć lub uzyskać wynik

peculiarly - osobliwie

Edinburgh - Edynburg

tutor - dawać lekcje, udzielać korepetycji,

nauczyciel prywatny, opiekun

doubly - podwójnie

never-ending - niekończący się

firth - zatoka

gleam - lśnić, błyszczeć, poświata, poblask, blysk

estuary - ujście rzeki, estuarium

spires - iglica, szczyt, czubek, szpic

piercing - przenikliwy, świdrujący, rozdzierający, przebijając się, przeszyć

crouched - przykucnąć, kucać, przyczać, spać, gotować się

guardian - stróż, obrońca, strażnik, opiekun, opiekunka, gwardian

needful - potrzebny, potrzebujący

repose - odpocząć, odpoczywać, opierać, kłaść, odpoczynek, spokój

well-beloved - ukochany

right hand - prawy

prosaic - prozaiczny

Scotland - Szkocja

elevations - elewacje, podniesienie

scraps - złom, pobić się, skrawek, strzęp, resztki

hedgerow - żywopłot

sociability - towarzyskość

doors, the slow **wagon lumbering** along, gives a centre to the landscape.

In the park which surrounded the house were the ruins of the former **mansion** of Brentwood, -a much smaller and less important house than the solid **Georgian edifice** which we **inhabited**. The ruins were **picturesque**, however, and gave importance to the place. Even we, who were but temporary tenants, felt a vague pride in them, as if they somehow reflected a certain consequence upon ourselves.

The old building had the remains of a tower, -an **indistinguishable** mass of **masonwork**, **overgrown** with **ivy**; and the shells of the walls attached to this were **half filled** up with soil. At a little distance were some very **commonplace** and **disjointed** fragments of buildings, one of them suggesting a certain **pathos** by its very **commonness** and the complete **wreck** which it showed.

This was the end of a low **gable**, a bit of grey wall, all **incrusted** with **lichens**, in which was a common **door-way**. Probably it had been a servants' entrance, a backdoor, or opening into what are called "the offices" in Scotland.

No offices remained to be entered, -pantry and kitchen had all been swept out of being; but there stood the door-way open and **vacant**, free to all the **winds**, to the **rabbits**, and every wild creature. It struck my eye, the first time I went to Brentwood, like a **melancholy** comment upon a life that was over.

A door that led to nothing, -closed once, perhaps, with anxious care, **bolted** and guarded, now **void** of any meaning. It impressed me, I remember, from the first; so perhaps it may be said that my mind was prepared to attach to it an importance which nothing justified. The summer was a very happy period of repose for us all; and it was when the family had settled down for the winter, when the days were short and dark, and the **rigorous** reign of **frost** upon us, that the incidents occurred which alone could justify me in **intruding** upon the world my private affairs.

I was absent in London when these events began.

In London an old Indian plunges **back into** the interests with which all his previous life has been associated, and meets old friends at every step.

I had been circulating among some **half-dozen** of these and had missed some of my home letters.

It is never safe to miss one's letters.

In this **transitory** life, as the **prayer-book** says, how can one ever be certain what is going to happen?

wagon - wóz

lumbering - (lumber) ciężko stąpać, drewno, materiał

mansion - rezydencja

Georgian - Gruzyn, gruziński, georgiański

edifice - gmach

inhabited - zamieszkały, zamieszkiwać, zajmować, wypełniać

picturesque - malowniczy

indistinguishable - nie do odróżnienia

masonwork - prace murarskie

overgrown - zarośnięty

ivy - bluszcz

half filled - wypełniony do połowy

commonplace - pospolicie, powszechny, frazes

disjointed - rozebrać, wywieźć, zwichnąć

pathos - patos

commonness - powszechność, pospolitość

wreck - wrak

gable - wzgórze, szczyt

incrusted - inkrustowane

lichens - porost, liszaj

door-way - drzwi; wejście, przejście

vacant - wolny

winds - wiać, przewijać, pozbawić tchu, wiatr

rabbits - królik, żółtodziób

melancholy - melancholia

bolted - przykręcony, rzucić się do ucieczki, zaryglować, błyskawica, śruba, belt

void - próżnia, otchłań, pusty

rigorous - rygorystyczny

frost - mróz, oszronić, lukrować, polukrować

intruding - narzucać, przeszkadzać

back into - cofać by wjechać pojazdem na parking

half-dozen - pół tuzina

transitory - przejściowy

prayer-book - książeczka do nabożeństwa; modlitewnik kościoła anglikańskiego

All was well at home.

I knew exactly (I thought) what they would have to say to me: "The weather has been so fine, that Roland has not once gone by train, and he enjoys the ride beyond anything.

" "Dear **papa**, be sure that you don't forget anything, but bring us **So-and-so**, and so-and-so,"-a list as long as my arm. Dear girls and dearer mother!

I would not for the world have forgotten their commissions, or lost their little letters!

When I **got back to** my club, however, three or four letters were lying for me, upon some of which I noticed the "immediate," "urgent," which old-fashioned people and anxious people still believe will influence the post-office and **quicken** the speed of the mails.

I was about to open one of these, when the club porter brought me two **telegrams**, one of which, he said, had arrived the night before. I opened, as was to be expected, the last first, and this was what I read: "Why don't you come or answer?

For God's sake, come.

He is much worse.

" This was a **thunderbolt** to fall upon a man's head who had one only son, and he the light of his eyes!

The other **telegram**, which I opened with hands **trembling** so much that I lost time by my **haste**, was to much the same purpose: "No better; doctor afraid of **brain-fever**.

Calls for you day and night.

Let nothing detain you.

" The first thing I did was to look up the **time-tables** to see if there was any way of getting off sooner than by the **night-train**, though I knew well enough there was not; and then I read the letters, which **furnished, alas!**

too clearly, all the details. They told me that the boy had been pale for some time, with a scared look. His mother had noticed it before I left home, but would not say anything to alarm me.

This look had increased day by day; and soon it was observed that Roland came home at a wild **gallop** through the park, his pony **panting** and in **foam**, himself "as white as a sheet," but with the **perspiration** streaming from his forehead.

papa - tata

so-and-so - taki owaki (użyte zamiast obelgi); tamtą, tamtego; tego-i-tego (jeżeli nie znamy czyjegoś imienia)

got back to - odezwać się do kogoś; oddzwonić lub odezwać się do kogoś kiedy będzie się miało odpowiedź; wrócić, powrócić (do wcześniej wykonywanej czynności)

quicken - przyspieszyć, przyśpieszyć, wzmóc, poruszyć

telegrams - telegram, depesza

for god's sake - na miłość boską, na litość boską

thunderbolt - piorun, grom z jasnego nieba

telegram - telegram, depesza

trembling - (tremble) zadrzeć, drzeć, trząść się, drżenie

haste - pośpiech

brain-fever - zapalenie opon mózgowych; gorączka mózgu

time-tables - kalendarium (np. koncertów, występów); ustalać godzinę

night-train - nocny pociąg

furnished - meblować, umeblować, dostarczyć, dostarczać, zaopatrzyć, zaopatrywać

alas - niestety

gallop - cwał, galop, galopować, cwałować

panting - (pant) dyszeć, sapać, ziając, wydyszeć, wysapać, zadyszka, zasapany

foam - pianka, piana, pienić się

as white as a sheet - błydy jak płótno

perspiration - perspiracja, pocenie się

For a **long time** he had resisted all questioning, but at length had developed such strange changes of mood, showing a **reluctance** to go to school, a desire to be **fetchd** in the carriage at night,-which was a ridiculous piece of luxury,-an **unwillingness** to go out into the grounds, and nervous start at every sound, that his mother had insisted upon an explanation.

When the boy-our boy Roland, who had never known what fear was-began to talk to her of voices he had heard in the park, and shadows that had appeared to him among the ruins, my wife **promptly** put him to bed and sent for Dr. Simson, which, of course, was the only thing to do.

I hurried off that evening, as may be supposed, with an anxious heart.

How I got through the hours before the starting of the train, I cannot tell.

We must all be thankful for the **quickness** of the railway when in anxiety; but to have thrown myself into a **post-chaise** as soon as horses could be put to, would have been a relief.

I got to Edinburgh very early in the **blackness** of the winter morning, and **scarcely** dared look the man in the face, at whom I **gasped**, "What news?

" My wife had sent the **brougham** for me, which I concluded, before the man spoke, was a bad sign.

His answer was that stereotyped answer which leaves the imagination so **wildly** free,-"Just the same.

" Just the same!

What might that mean?

The horses seemed to me to creep along the long dark country road.

As we **dashed** through the park, I thought I heard some one **moaning** among the trees, and **clenched** my fist at him (whoever he might be) with **fury**.

Why had the fool of a woman at the gate allowed any one to come in to disturb the quiet of the place?

If I had not **been in** such hot haste to get home, I think I should have stopped the carriage and got out to see what **tramp** it was that had made an entrance, and chosen my grounds, of all places in the world,-when my boy was ill!

-to **grumble** and **groan** in. But I had no reason to complain of our slow pace here. The horses flew like **lightning** along the intervening path, and drew up at the door all panting, as if they had **run a race**.

My wife stood waiting to receive me, with a pale face, and a candle in her hand, which made her look paler still as the wind blew the

long time - długo, długi czas; stary; odwieczny

reluctance - niechęć

fetchd - przynieść, sprowadzić, pójść po, osiągnąć wartość

unwillingness - niechęć

promptly - natychmiast, bezzwłocznie, punktualnie

quickness - szybkość, popędliwość, bystrość

post-chaise - dyliżans

blackness - czerni

scarcely - ledwo, ledwie

gasped - zachłysnąć się, dyszeć, sapnąć, tchnienie

brougham - kryty powóz jednokonnny

wildly - dziko, wściekle

dashed - przerywane, myślnik, pauza, kreska, kropla, spadać, lecieć, cisnąć, rzucić hol

moaning - jęk, narzekać, jęczeć

clenched - zacisnąć, ścisnąć, uścisk, zacisk

fury - wściekłość, Furia

been in - być w; być dostępnym, urzędować; być w domu lub biurze; wpłynąć (dokument)

tramp - włóczęga, tramp

grumble - narzekać, narzekanie, pomruk, burczenie

groan - jęk, jęczeć

lightning - błyskawica, piorun, grom, błyskawiczny, błyskawicowy

run a race - ścigać się

flame about. "He is sleeping," she said in a whisper, as if her voice might wake him.

And I replied, when I could find my voice, also in a whisper, as though the **jingling** of the horses' furniture and the sound of their **hoofs** must not have been more dangerous.

I stood on the steps with her a moment, almost afraid to go in, now that I was here; and it seemed to me that I saw without observing, if I may so say, that the horses were **unwilling** to **turn round**, though their stables lay that way, or that the men were unwilling.

These things **occurred to** me afterwards, though at the moment I was not capable of anything but to ask questions and to hear of the condition of the boy.

I looked at him from the door of his room, for we were afraid to go near, lest we should disturb that blessed sleep.

It looked like actual sleep, not the **lethargy** into which my wife told me he would sometimes fall.

She told me everything in the next room, which communicated with his, rising now and then and going to the door of the communication; and in this there was much that was very **startling** and confusing to the mind.

It appeared that ever since the winter began-since it was early dark, and night had fallen before his return from school-he had been hearing voices among the ruins; at first only a **groaning**, he said, at which his pony was as much alarmed as he was, but **by degrees** a voice.

The tears ran down my wife's cheeks as she described to me how he would start up in the night and **cry out**.

"Oh, mother, let me in!

oh, mother, let me in!

" with a pathos which rent her heart.

And she sitting there all the time, only longing to do everything his heart could desire!

But though she would try to **soothe** him, crying, "You are at home, my **darling**.

I am here. Don't you know me? Your mother is here!

" he would only stare at her, and after a while spring up again with the same cry.

At other times he would be quite reasonable, she said, asking **eagerly** when I was coming, but declaring that he must go with me as soon as I did so, "to let them in.

" "The doctor thinks his nervous system must have received a shock," my wife said.

"Oh, Henry, can it be that we have pushed him on too much with his work-a delicate boy like Roland?

And what is his work in comparison with his health?

jingling - brzęknąć, zadzwonić, dzwonienie, brzęk
hoofs - kopyto

unwilling - niechętny
turn round - odwrócić się, obrócić się dookoła; zmienić na lepsze

occurred to - przyjść komuś do głowy

lethargy - letarg, ospałość

startling - zaskakujące

groaning - (groan) jęczeć, narzekać, skrzypnąć, jęk, jęczenie, wydawanie dźwięków
by degrees - stopniowo, powoli

cry out - krzyknąć, krzyczeć (z bólu)

soothe - koić, ukoić, uspokajać, uspokoić
darling - kochany, kochana, kochanie, droga

eagerly - chętnie, z przejęciem