

Margaret Oliphant

The Open Door

[ze słownikiem]

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B2

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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,

India - Indie
made it - przybyć lub uzyskać wynik
peculiarly - osobliwie

Edinburgh - Edynburg
neglected - zaniedbywać, zaniedbać
tutor - dawać lekcje, udzielać korepetycji, nauczyciel prywatny, opiekun
lad - chłopak, chłopiec, młodzieniec
doubly - podwójnie
fragile - kruchy

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, przebijać się, przeszyć
crouched - przykucnąć, kucać, przyczać, spiąć, 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
flourish - rozkwitnąć, kwitnąć, dobrze prosperować, wymachiwać, fanfara, zawijas
Scotland - Szkocja

cluster - skupisko, grono, gromada, klaster, zbitka, kasetowy

the opening of a street with its rural **sociability**, the women at their 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.

elevations - elewacje, podniesienie
scraps - złom, pobić się, skrawek, strzęp, resztki
hedgerow - żywopłot
sociability - towarzyskość
wagon - wóz
lumbering - (lumber) ciężko stąpać, drewno, materiał

mansion - rezydencja
Georgian - Gruzini, gruziński, georgiański
edifice - gmach
inhabited - zamieszkały, zamieszkiwać, zajmować, wypełniać
picturesque - malowniczy
tenants - dzierżawca, najemca
vague - niejasny

old building - stary budynek
indistinguishable - nie do odróżnienia
masonwork - prace murarskie
overgrown - zarośnięty
ivy - bluszcz
half filled - wypełniony do połowy
commonplace - pospolity, powszechny, frazes
disjointed - rozebrać, wywichnąć, zwichnąć
pathos - patos
commonness - powszechność, pospolitość
wreck - wrak

gable - wzgórze, szczyt
incrusted - inkrustowane
lichens - porost, liszaj
door-way - drzwi; wejście, przejście

vacant - wolny
winds - wiatr, 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
reign - rządy, panowanie
frost - mróz, oszronić, lukrować, polukrować
intruding - narzucać, przeszkadzać

absent - nieobecny

plunges - pograża się, rzucać się, wpaść, zanurzać, kąpiel, gwałtowny spadek
back into - cofać by wjechać pojazdem na parking

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

circulating - w obiegu, cyrkulować, krążyć, kursować, obiegać
half-dozen - pół tuzina

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?

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!

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

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.

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

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?

telegrams - telegram, depesza

For God's sake, come.

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

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!

thunderbolt - piorun, grom z jasnego nieba

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**."

telegram - telegram, depesza
trembling - (tremble) zadrzeć, drzeć, trząść się, drzenie
haste - pośpiech
brain-fever - zapalenie opon mózgowych; gorączka mózgu

Calls for you day and night.

Let nothing **detain** you.

detain - zatrzymywać, zatrzymać

"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!**

time-tables - kalendarium (np. koncertów, występów); ustalać godzinę
night-train - nocny pociąg
furnished - meblować, umeblować, dostarczyć, dostarczać, zaopatrzyć, zaopatrywać
alas - niestety

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**.

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 **gaspd**, "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?

gallop - cwał, galop, galopować, cwałować
panting - (pant) dyszeć, sapać, ziajać, wydyszeć, wysapać, zadyszka, zasapany
foam - pianka, piana, pienić się
as white as a sheet - blady jak płótno
perspiration - perspiracja, pocenie się
forehead - czoło

long time - długo, długi czas; stary; odwieczny
reluctance - niechęć
fetchd - przynieść, sprowadzić, pójść po, osiągnąć wartość
carriage - przewóz, powóz, karetka, karetko
unwillingness - niechęć

promptly - natychmiast, bezzwłocznie, punktualnie

quickness - szybkość, popędliwość, bystrość
post-chaise - dyliżans

blackness - czerni
scarcely - ledwo, ledwie
gaspd - zachłysnąć się, dyszeć, sapnąć, tchnienie

brougham - kryty powóz jednokonny

stereotyped - stereotyp
wildly - dziko, wściekle

creep - pelznąć, skradać się, wkradać się, przypelznąć, czubek, głupek

dashed - przerywane, myślnik, pauza, kreska, kropla, spadać, lecieć, cisnąć, rzucić hol
moaning - jęk, narzekać, jęczeć
clenched - zacisnąć, ścisnąć, uścisk, zacisk
fury - wściekłość, Furia

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 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**."

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

intervening - interweniować

run a race - ścigać się

jingling - brzęknięć, zadzwonić, dzwonienie, brzęk

hoofs - kopyto

unwilling - niechętny

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

occurred to - przyjść komuś do głowy

blessed - błogosławiony

lethargy - letarg, ospałość

startling - zaskakujące

groaning - (groan) jęczeć, narzekać, skrzypiąć, jęk, jęczenie, wydawanie dźwięków

by degrees - stopniowo, powoli

cry out - krzyknąć, krzyczeć (z bólu)

soothe - koić, ukoić, uspokajać, uspokoić

darling - kochany, kochana, kochanie, droga