

Fiona Macleod

Green Branches

[ze słownikiem]

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C1

Zieleń gałęzi

Z PODRĘCZNYM SŁOWNIKIEM ANGIELSKO-POLSKIM

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Ruda Śląska, 2024

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Green Branches

GREEN BRANCHES

In the year that followed the death of Manus MacCodrum, James Achanna saw nothing of his brother **Gloom**. He might have thought himself alone in the world, of all his people, but for a letter that **came to** him out of the west. True, he had never accepted the common opinion that his brothers had both **been drowned** on that night when Anne Gillespie left Eilanmore with Manus.

In the first place he had nothing of that inner conviction concerning the fate of Gloom which he had concerning that of Marcus; in the next, had he not heard the sound of the feadan, which no one that he knew played except Gloom; and, for further **token**, was not the tune that which he hated above all others-the "Dance of the Dead"-for who but Gloom would be playing that, he hating it so, and the hour being late, and no one else on Eilanmore?

It was no sure thing that the dead had not come back; but the more he thought of it the more Achanna believed that his sixth brother was still alive. Of this, however, he said nothing to any one.

It was as a man set free that, at last, after long waiting and patient trouble, with the disposal of all that was left of the Achanna heritage, he left the island. It was a grey memory for him.

The **bleak moorland** of it, the **blight** that had lain so long and so often upon the crops, the rains that had swept the **isle** for grey days and grey weeks and grey months, the **sobbing** of the sea by day and its dark moan by night, its **dim relinquishing** sigh in the calm of **dreary ebbs**, its hollow, **baffling roar** when the **storm-shadow** swept up out of the sea-one and all **oppressed** him, even in memory.

gloom - smutnieć, zaciemniać, mrok, przygnębienie

came to - przyjść

been drowned - zostać zagłuszonym; pochłoniętym (np. przez emocje, dźwięk); utonąć

token - żeton

bleak - smętny, marny, niewesoły, ponury, przygnębiający

moorland - wrzosowiska

blight - zgnilizna

isle - wyspa

sobbing - (sob) zaszlochać, lkać, szloch, płacz, szlochanie, lkający

dim - ściemniać, ciemny, marny, słabe

relinquishing - zrzec, zrezygnować

dreary - ponury

ebbs - odpływ

baffling - (baffle) pokrzyżować, zbić, wprawić, zbijający z tropu, zaskakujący

roar - ryczeć, zaryczeć, ryk

storm-shadow - cień burzy

oppressed - gnębić, ciemnić, przygnieść, przytłoczyć

He had never loved the island, even when it lay green and **fragrant** in the green and white seas under white and blue skies, fresh and sweet as an Eden of the sea.

He had ever been lonely and **weary**, tired of the mysterious shadow that lay upon his folk, caring little for any of his brothers except the eldest-long since **mysteriously** gone out of the ken of man-and almost hating Gloom, who had ever borne him a **grudge** because of his beauty, and because of his **likeness** to and **reverent heed** for Alison.

Moreover, ever since he had **come to** love Katreen Macarthur, the daughter of Donald Macarthur who **lived in** Sleat of Skye, he had been eager to live near her; the **more eager** as he knew that Gloom loved the girl also, and **wished for** success not only for his own sake, but so as to put a slight upon his younger brother.

So, when at last he left the island, he sailed **southward gladly**. He was leaving Eilanmore; he was bound to a new home in Skye, and perhaps he was going to his **long-delayed**, long **dreamed-of** happiness. True, Katreen was not pledged to him; he did not even know for sure if she loved him.

He thought, hoped, dreamed, almost believed that she did; but then there was her cousin Ian, who had long **wooed** her, and to whom old Donald Macarthur had given his blessing. Nevertheless, his heart would have been lighter than it had been for long, but for two things. First, there was the letter.

Some weeks earlier he had received it, not recognizing the writing, because of the few letters he had ever seen, and, moreover, as it **was in** a **feigned** hand. With difficulty he had **deciphered** the manuscript, plain printed though it was. It ran thus:

"Well, Sheumais, my brother, it is wondering if I am dead, you will be.

Maybe ay, and maybe no.

But I send you this writing to let you know that I **know all** you do and think of.

So you are going to leave Eilanmore without an Achanna upon it?

And you will be going to Sleat in Skye?

Well, let me be telling you this thing.

Do not go.

I see blood there.

And there is this, too: neither you nor any man shall take Katreen away from me.

You know that; and Ian Macarthur knows it; and Katreen knows it; and that holds whether I am alive or dead.

I say to you: do not go.

It will be better for you, and for all.

fragrant - pachnący, wonny

weary - zmęczony, znużony, męczący, nużyć, znużyć

mysteriously - tajemniczo, zagadkowo

grudge - uraza

likeness - podobieństwo, podobizna

reverent - pełen szacunku, pełen czci, nabożny

heed - posłuchać, baczenie, baczyć

come to - przyjść

lived in - zamieszkać, przytulny

more eager - bardziej chętny

wished for - życzyć sobie czegoś

southward - na południe

gladly - chętnie

long-delayed - znacznie opóźniony

dreamed-of - wymarzony

dreamed-of - wyobrażać sobie (coś)

wooed - zabiegać o względy, uwodzić, pozyskiwać

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

feigned - udawać, grać, pozorować, pozować

deciphered - rozszyfrowywać, rozszyfrować

ay - tak

know all - mędrak, mądrała

Ian Macarthur is away in the north-sea with the **whaler-captain** who came to us at Eilanmore, and will not be back for three months yet.

It will be better for him not to come back.

But if he comes back he will have to reckon with the man who says that Katreen Macarthur is his.

I would rather not have two men to speak to, and one my brother.

It does not matter to you where I am.

I want no money just now.

But put aside my portion for me.

Have it ready for me against the day I call for it.

I will not be patient that day; so have it ready for me.

In the place that I am I am **content**.

You will be saying: why is my brother away in a remote place (I will say this to you: that it is not further north than St.

Kilda nor further south than the **Mull** of Cantyre!), and for what reason? That is between me and silence.

But perhaps you think of Anne sometimes. Do you know that she lies under the green grass? And of Manus MacCodrum?

They say that he **swam out** into the sea and was drowned; and they whisper of the **seal-blood**, though the minister is **wrath** with them for that.

He calls it a **madness**.

Well, I was there at that madness, and I played to it on my feadan. And now, Sheumais, can you be thinking of what the tune was that I played?

"Your brother, who waits his own day,

"GLOOM."

"Do not be forgetting this thing: I would rather not be playing the 'Damhsa-na-Mairbh.' It was an ill hour for Manus when he heard the 'Dan-nan-Ron'; it was the song of his soul, that; and yours is the 'Davsna-na-Mairv.'"

This letter was ever in his mind; this, and what happened in the **gloaming** when he **sailed away** for Skye in the **herring-smack** of two men who lived at Armandale in Sleat.

For, as the boat moved slowly out of the haven, one of the men asked him if he was sure that no one was left upon the island; for he thought he had seen a **figure on** the rocks, waving a black **scarf**.

Achanna shook his head; but just then his companion cried that at that moment he had seen the same thing.

So the **smack** was put about, and when she was moving slowly through the haven again, Achanna **sculled ashore** in the little coggly **punt**.

whaler-captain - kapitan wielorybnika

content - treści, zadowalać, zawartość, zadowolony

mull - gaza, muslin, przemyśliwać, rozmyślać

swam out - wypłynąć, odpłynąć
seal-blood - przypieczetowany krwią
wrath - gniew, złość

madness - szaleństwo, obłąd, świr

gloaming - zmrok, zmierzch
sailed away - odpłynąć
herring-smack - kuter rybacki

figure on - planować; oczekiwać
scarf - szalik

smack - uderzyć, dać klapsa, klaps, trzaśnięcie, plaśnięcie
sculled - łopatką
ashore - na brzeg, do brzegu, na lądzie
punt - grać, funt irlandzki, łódź płaskodenna

In **vain** he searched here and there, calling loudly again and again.

vain - próżny, daremny

Both men could hardly have been mistaken, he thought.

If there were no human creature on the island, and if their eyes had not played them false, who could it be? The **wraith** of Marcus, **mayhap**; or might it be the old man himself (his father), risen to bid **farewell** to his youngest son, or to warn him?

wraith - upiór, widmo, zjawa

mayhap - może

farewell - pożegnanie, pożegnalny, żegnać się, pożegnać się

It was no use to wait longer, so, looking often behind him, he made his way to the boat again, and **rowed** slowly out **toward** the smack.

rowed - wiosłować, rządzić

toward - ku, do, w stronę, w kierunku

Jerk-jerk-jerk across the water came, low but only too loud for him, the opening **motif** of the "Damhsa-na-Mairbh." A horror **came upon** him, and he drove the boat through the water so that the sea **splashed** over the **bows**. When he came on deck he cried in a **hoarse** voice to the man next him to put up the **helm**, and let the smack swing to the wind.

motif - motyw

came upon - natknąć się na (coś), natrafić na (coś)

splashed - zachlapany, plusk, pluskać

bows - (bow) zginać się, uklonić się, kłaniać się, kokarda, dziób, łuk do strzelania

hoarse - chrypka, zachrypnięty, ochryply

helm - kierować, drążek sterowy

"There is no one there, Callum Campbell," he whispered.

"And who is it that will be making that strange music?"

"What music?"

"Sure it has stopped now, but I heard it clear, and so did Anndra MacEwan. It was like the sound of a **reed** pipe, and the tune was an **eery** one at that."

reed - trzcina, stroik, stroikowy, trzciniowy, piszczałka, płocha

eery - upiorny, pelen grozy, niesamowity, przedziwny, tajemniczy

"It was the Dance of the Dead."

"And who will be playing that?" asked the man, with fear in his eyes.

"No living man."

"No living man?"

"No. I'm thinking it will be one of my brothers who was drowned here, and by the same token that it is Gloom, for he **played upon** the feadan. But if not, then-then--"

played upon - wykorzystywać, wykorzystać słabość

The two men **waited in breathless** silence, each **trembling** with **superstitious** fear; but at last the elder made a sign to Achanna to finish.

waited in - zostać w domu, czekając na czyjąś wizytę

breathless - zdyszany, zapierający dech

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

superstitious - przesądny

"Then-it will be the **Kelpie**."

kelpie - kelpie, duch wodny w postaci konia, który topi dosiadających go jeźdźców

"Is there-is there one of the-cave-women here?"

"It is said; and you know of old that the Kelpie sings or plays a strange tune to **wile seamen** to their death."

wile - nęcić, oszukać, fortel

seamen - marynarz

At that moment the fantastic, **jerking** music came loud and clear across the bay. There was a horrible suggestion in it, as if dead bodies were moving along the ground with long **jerks**, and crying and laughing wild. It was enough; the men, Campbell and MacEwan,

jerking - (jerk) szarpać, pchać, podrzucać, szarpnięcie, drgający

jerks - szarpać, pchać, cisnąć, szarpnięcie, nagły ruch

would not now have waited longer if Achanna had offered them all he **had in** the world.

Nor were they, or he, out of their panic **haste** till the smack stood well out at sea, and not a sound could be **heard from** Eilanmore.

They stood watching, silent. Out of the **dusky** mass that lay in the **seaward** way to the north came a red **gleam**. It was like an eye staring after them with **blood-red** glances.

"What is that, Achanna?"

"It looks as though a fire had been lighted in the house up in the island. The door and the window must be open. The fire must be fed with wood, for no **peats** would give that flame; and there were none lighted when I left. To my knowing, there was no wood for burning except the wood of the shelves and the bed."

"And who would be doing that?"

"I know of that no more than you do, Callum Campbell."

No more was said, and it was a relief to all when the last **glimmer** of the light was absorbed in the darkness.

At the end of the voyage Campbell and MacEwan were well pleased to be quit of their companion; not so much because he was **moody** and **distraught** as because they feared that a spell was upon him—a fate in the working of which they might become involved.

It needed no vow of the one to the other for them to come to the conclusion that they would never land on Eilanmore, or, if need be, only in broad **daylight**, and never alone.

The days went well for James Achanna, where he made his home at Ranza-beag, on Ranza Water in the Sleat of Skye. The farm was small but good, and he hoped that with help and care he would soon have the place as good a farm as there was in all Skye.

Donald Macarthur did not let him see much of Katreen, but the old man was no longer opposed to him. Sheumais must wait till Ian Macarthur came back again, which might be any day now.

For sure, James Achanna of Ranza-beag was a very different person from the youngest of the Achanna-folk, who held by on lonely Eilanmore; moreover, the old man could not but think with pleasure that it would be well to see Katreen able to walk over the whole land of Ranza, from the **cairn** at the north of his own Ranza-Mñr to the burn at the south of Ranza-beag, and know it for her own.

But Achanna was ready to wait. Even before he had the secret word of Katreen he knew from her beautiful dark eyes that she loved him.

As the weeks went by they managed to meet often, and at last Katreen told him that she loved him too, and would have none but him; but that they must wait till Ian came back, because of the pledge given to him by her father. They were days of joy for him.

had in - zawierać w sobie coś

haste - pośpiech

heard from - usłyszeć, mieć od kogoś wiadomości lub relację

dusky - mroczny, śniady, smagły

seaward - od strony morza, w kierunku morza, od lądu

gleam - lśnić, błyszczeć, poświata, poblask, błysk

blood-red - krwistoczerwony

peats - torf

glimmer - migotać, migotanie, iskra, płomyk, przebłysk

moody - ponury, posepny

distraught - zrozpaczony

daylight - światło dzienne

cairn - kopicie