

Amelia Edwards

The Four-Fifteen Express

[ze słownikiem]

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C1

Ekspres o czwartej piętnaście

Z PODRĘCZNYM SŁOWNIKIEM ANGIELSKO-POLSKIM

dla osób znających język angielski co najmniej na poziomie C1

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Ruda Śląska, 2024

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The Four-Fifteen Express

THE FOUR-FIFTEEN EXPRESS

The events which I am about to relate took place between nine and ten years ago.

Sebastopol had **fallen in** the early spring, the peace of Paris had been concluded since March, our commercial relations with the Russian Empire were but recently renewed; and I, returning home after my first **northward** journey since the war, was well pleased with the prospect of spending the month of December under the **hospitable** and thoroughly English roof of my excellent friend Jonathan Jelf, Esq.

, of Dumbleton **Manor**, Clayborough, East Anglia. My way **lay by** the Great East Anglian line as far as Clayborough station, where I was to be met by one of the Dumbleton carriages and conveyed across the remaining nine miles of country.

Having arrived some seven minutes before the starting of the train, and, by the **connivance** of the guard, taken sole possession of an empty **compartment**, I lighted my **travelling-lamp**, made myself particularly **snug**, and settled down to the **undisturbed enjoyment** of a book and a **cigar**.

Great, therefore, was my disappointment when, at the last moment, a gentleman came hurrying along the platform, glanced into my carriage, opened the locked door with a private key, and stepped in. It struck me at the first glance that I had seen him before—a tall, spare man, **thin-lipped**, **light-eyed**, with an **ungraceful stoop** in the shoulders, and **scant** grey hair worn somewhat long upon the **collar**. He carried a light **waterproof** coat, an umbrella, and a large brown japanned **deed-box**, which last he placed under the seat.

Four-Fifteen - czwarta piętnaście

fallen in - zapaść się

northward - północny, na północ

hospitable - gościnnie

manor - rezydencja ziemska, dwór, majątek, posiadłość ziemska

lay by - położyć się; coś obok czegoś; kogoś; odkładać coś (np. pieniądze); lay-by miejsce na poboczu drogi przeznaczone na odpoczynek

connivance - współdziałanie, ciche przyzwolenie

compartment - przedział, postument

travelling-lamp - lampa podróżna

snug - przytulny, zaciszny, miły

undisturbed - niezakłócony

enjoyment - przyjemność, uciecha, zadowolenie

cigar - cygaro

thin-lipped - o wąskich wargach; z zaciśniętymi ustami

light-eyed - o jasnych oczach

ungraceful - niewdzięczny

stoop - pochylnia, schylać się, pochylać, podest

scant - niewielki, stromy, wąty

collar - kołnierz, kołnierzyk, obroża, korona

waterproof - wodoodporny, nieprzemakalny

deed-box - kasetka na dokumenty

I now recognized my companion. I had met him, as I **distinctly** remembered, some three years before, at the very house for which, in all probability, he was now bound, like myself. His name was Dwerrihouse; he was a lawyer **by profession**, and, if I was not greatly mistaken, was **first cousin** to the wife of my host. I thought, observing him by the vague mixture of **lamplight** and twilight, that Mrs.

Jelf's cousin looked all the worse for the three years' wear and tear which had gone over his head since our last meeting. He was very pale, and had a **restless** light in his eye that I did not remember to have observed before. The anxious lines, too, about his mouth were **deepened**, and there was a **cavernous**, hollow look about his cheeks and temples which seemed to speak of **sickness** or **sorrow**. When he had glanced at me for the third or fourth time I ventured to address him.

"Mr. John Dwerrihouse, I think?"

"That is my name," he replied.

"I had the pleasure of meeting you at Dumbleton about three years ago."

Mr. Dwerrihouse **bowed**.

"I thought I knew your face," he said; "but your name, I regret to say--"

"Langford-William Langford. I have known Jonathan Jelf since we were boys together at Merchant **Taylor's**, and I generally spend a few weeks at Dumbleton in the shooting season. I suppose we are **bound for** the same destination?"

"Not if you **are on** your way to the manor," he replied. "I am travelling upon business. You have heard perhaps that we are about to construct a **branch line** from Blackwater to Stockbridge."

"You are an East Anglian director, I presume?"

"My interest in the company," replied Mr. Dwerrihouse, "is **threefold**. I am a director, I am a considerable shareholder, and, as the head of the firm of Dwerrihouse, Dwerrihouse & Craik, I am the company's principal solicitor."

Loquacious, self-important, full of his **pet project**, and apparently unable to talk on any other subject, Mr. Dwerrihouse then **went on to** tell of the opposition he had encountered and the obstacles he had overcome in the cause of the Stockbridge branch. I was entertained with a **multitude** of local details and local **grievances**.

distinctly - wyraźnie

by profession - z zawodu

first cousin - brat cioteczny; brat stryjeczny; siostra cioteczna; siostra stryjeczna

lamplight - światło lampy

restless - bez odpoczynku, niespokojny, niezaspokojony

deepened - pogłębiać, pogłębić

cavernous - jamiste

sickness - choroba

sorrow - smutek

bowed - zginać się, uklonić się, kłaniać się, luk, kokarda

Taylor - Krawiec, Krawczyk, Sznajder

bound for - zdążający do

are on - być włączonym (o maszynach); odbyć lub odbywać się; brać leki lub narkotyki; być na szczycie, w szczytowej formie

branch line - linia oddziału

threefold - trzykrotny, potrójny, troisty, trojaki, trzykrotnie

loquacious - gadatliwy

self-important - zadufany w sobie, zarozumiały

pet project - ulubione zajęcie kogoś, konik

went on to - kontynuować, iść dalej

multitude - mnogość, mnóstwo, multum, bezlik

grievances - żal, skarga

The **rapacity** of one **squire**, the **impracticability** of another, the **indignation** of the **rector** whose **glebe** was threatened; and so on and on and on, till my head **ached** and my attention flagged and my eyes kept closing in spite of every effort that I made to keep them open. At length I was **roused** by these words:

"**Seventy-five** thousand pounds, cash down."

"Seventy-five thousand pounds, cash down," I repeated, in the liveliest tone I could assume. "That is a heavy sum."

"A heavy sum to carry here," replied Mr. Dwerrihouse, pointing significantly to his **breast-pocket**, "but a mere fraction of what we shall ultimately have to pay."

"You do not mean to say that you have seventy-five thousand pounds at this moment upon your person?" I **exclaimed**.

"My good sir, have I not been telling you so for the last **half-hour**?" said Mr. Dwerrihouse, **testily**. "That money has to be paid over at **half-past** eight o'clock this evening, at the office of Sir Thomas's solicitors, on completion of the deed of sale."

"But how will you **get across** by night from Blackwater to Stockbridge with seventy-five thousand pounds in your pocket?"

"To Stockbridge!" echoed the lawyer. "I find I have made myself very **imperfectly** understood. I thought I had explained how this sum only carries us as far as Mallingford-the first stage, as it were, of our journey-and how our route from Blackwater to Mallingford lies entirely through Sir Thomas Liddell's property."

"I beg your pardon," I **stammered**. "I fear my thoughts were wandering. So you only go as far as Mallingford tonight?"

"Precisely. I shall get a **conveyance** from the 'Blackwater Arms.' And you?"

"Oh, Jelf sends a trap to meet me at Clayborough! Can I be the **bearer** of any message from you?"

"You may say, if you please, Mr. Langford, that I wished I could have been your companion all the way, and that I will **come over**, if possible, before **Christmas**."

"Nothing more?"

Mr. Dwerrihouse smiled **grimly**. "Well," he said, "you may tell my cousin that she need not burn the hall down in my honour this time, and that I shall **be obliged** if she will order the blue-room **chimney** to be swept before I arrive."

"That sounds tragic. Had you a **conflagration** on the occasion of your last visit to Dumbleton?"

rapacity - chciwość, pazerność, zaborczość

squire - dziedzic, giermek, drogi Panie

impracticability - niewykonalność, nierealność

indignation - oburzenie

rector - proboszcz, rektor

glebe - gleba, ziemia

ached - boleć, ból

roused - pobudzony, budzić, zbudzić, obudzić, ożywić

seventy-five - Siedemdziesiąt pięć

breast-pocket - kieszeń górna, zewnętrzna górna kieszeń marynarki, brustasza; wewnętrzna kieszeń marynarki; kieszeń na piersi

exclaimed - wołać, zawołać, wykrzykiwać, wykrzyknąć

half-hour - pół godziny

testily - testowo, drażliwie, gniewnie

half-past - pół godziny po

get across - przekazać (np. wiadomość, informację); wyjaśniać (np. co się ma na myśli); przedstawiać się (z jednej strony na drugą); przemieścić (coś z jednej strony na drugą)

imperfectly - niedoskonale

stammered - zająknął się, jąkać

conveyance - przewóz, transport

bearer - tragarz, okaziciel

come over - nagle się poczuć inaczej (np. słabo); ogarniać kogoś (uczucie)

Christmas - Boże Narodzenie

grimly - ponuro, z determinacją

be obliged - być zobowiązanym

chimney - komin, dymnik

conflagration - pożar, pożoga, konflikt, wojna

"Something like it. There had been no fire lighted in my bedroom since the spring, the **flue** was **foul**, and the **rooks** had **built in** it; so when I **went up to** dress for dinner I found the room full of smoke and the chimney on fire. Are we already at Blackwater?"

The train had gradually **come to** a pause while Mr. Dwerrhouse was speaking, and, putting my **head out** of the window, I could see the station some few hundred yards ahead. There was another train before us blocking the way, and the guard was making use of the delay to collect the Blackwater tickets. I had **scarcely ascertained** our position when the **ruddy-faced** official appeared at our carriage door.

"Tickets, sir!" said he.

"I am for Clayborough," I replied, holding out the tiny pink card. He **took it**, glanced at it by the light of his little **lantern**, gave it back, looked, as I fancied, somewhat **sharply** at my **fellow-traveller**, and disappeared.

"He did not ask for yours," I said, with some surprise.

"They never do," replied Mr. Dwerrhouse; "they all know me, and of course I travel free."

"Blackwater! Blackwater!" cried the porter, **running along** the platform beside us as we **glided** into the station.

Mr. Dwerrhouse pulled out his deed-box, put his travelling-cap in his pocket, resumed his hat, took down his umbrella, and prepared to be gone.

"Many thanks, Mr. Langford, for your society," he said, with old-fashioned courtesy. "I wish you a good-evening."

"Good-evening," I replied, putting out my hand.

But he either did not see it or did not choose to see it, and, slightly lifting his hat, stepped out upon the platform. Having done this, he moved slowly away and **mingled** with the departing crowd.

Leaning forward to watch him out of sight, I **trod** upon something which proved to be a **cigar-case**. It had fallen, no doubt, from the pocket of his waterproof coat, and was **made of** dark **morocco** leather, with a silver monogram upon the side. I sprang out of the carriage just as the guard **came to** lock me in.

flue - rura spalinowa, przewód kominowy
foul - faul, oszukiwać, przewinienie, obrzydliwy, brudny, okropny
rooks - oszukiwać, wieża szachowa, gawron
built in - wbudowany, w ścianie; stanowiący część integralną
went up to - podchodzić, zbliżać się do kogoś; studiować na uniwersytecie; sięgać do (czegoś, np. jakiejś ery)

come to - przyjść
head out - wyjść, wyruszyć (gdzieś)
scarcely - ledwo, ledwie
ascertained - ustalać, ustalić
ruddy-faced - o rumianej twarzy

took it - wziąć; znosić, cierpieć, wytrzymać; przyjąć krytykę
lantern - latarnia
sharply - ostro, gwałtownie, surowo, bardzo
fellow-traveller - towarzysz podróży; sympatyk komunizmu

running along - zmykajcie! zmykać!
glided - ślizgać, sunąć, szybować, ślizg, szybowanie

mingled - przylaczać, mieszać

trod - (tread) nastąpić na coś, iść, wdeptać, zdeptać, deptanie
cigar-case - cygarnica
made of - rozumieć coś z czegoś; sądzić o czymś
morocco - maroko, skóra marokańska, marokin, marokański
came to - przyjść

"Is there one minute to spare?" I asked, **eagerly**. "The gentleman who travelled down with me from town has dropped his cigar-case; he is not yet out of the station."

"Just a minute and a half, sir," replied the guard. "You must be quick."

I **dashed** along the platform as fast as my feet could carry me. It was a large station, and Mr. Dwerrhouse had by this time got more than **half-way** to the farther end.

I, however, saw him distinctly, moving slowly with the stream. Then, as I drew nearer, I saw that he had met some friend, that they were talking as they walked, that they presently fell back somewhat from the crowd and stood aside in earnest conversation. I made straight for the spot where they were waiting.

There was a **vivid gas-jet** just above their heads, and the light fell full upon their faces. I saw both distinctly-the face of Mr. Dwerrhouse and the face of his companion.

Running, **breathless**, eager as I was, getting in the way of **porters** and passengers, and **fearful** every instant lest I should see the train going on without me, I yet observed that the **new-comer** was considerably younger and shorter than the director, that he was **sandy-haired, moustachioed, small-featured**, and dressed in a **close-cut** suit of Scotch tweed. I was now within a few yards of them.

I ran against a **stout** gentleman, I was nearly knocked down by a **luggage-truck**, I stumbled over a **carpet-bag**; I gained the spot just as the driver's **whistle** warned me to return.

To my **utter stupefaction**, they were no longer there. I had seen them but two seconds before-and they were gone! I stood still. I **looked to** right and left; I saw no sign of them in any direction. It was as if the platform had gaped and swallowed them.

"There were two gentlemen standing here a moment ago," I said to a porter at my elbow; "which way can they have gone?"

"I saw no gentlemen, sir," replied the guard.

The whistle **shrilled** out again. The guard, far up on the platform, held up his arm, and shouted to me to "come on!"

"If you're going on by this train, sir," said the porter, "you must run for it."

I did run for it, just gained the carriage as the train began to move, was **shoved** in by the guard, and left breathless and **bewildered**, with Mr. Dwerrhouse's cigar-case still in my hand.

eagerly - chętnie, z przejęciem

dashed - przerywane, myślnik, pauza, kreska, kropla, spadać, lecieć, cisnąć, rzucić hol
half-way - w połowie drogi, na półmetku, w miarę

vivid - jaskrawy, żywy, barwny
gas-jet - palnik gazowy; strumień gazu

breathless - zdyszany, zapierający dech
porters - tragarz, portier, ciemne i gorzkie piwo
fearful - przestraszony, strachliwy
new-comer - nowy członek, nowo przybyły, nowicjusz; nowość
sandy-haired - piaskowowłosy
moustachioed - z wąsami
small-featured - drobny, filigranowy
close-cut - prawie nie zdążyć, zostawić sobie mały zapas czasu; prawie coś przegrać, wygrać o mały włos

stout - tęgi, korpulentny, mocny
luggage-truck - ciężarówka bagażowa
carpet-bag - mała torba podróżna z tkaniny przypominającej dywan
whistle - gwizdek, piszczalka, gwizd, świst, gwizdać, świstać

utter - wypowiedzieć, wymawiać, wypowiadać, wydawać, kompletny, zupełny
stupefaction - zdumienie
looked to - oczekiwać czegoś, liczyć na coś (np. pomoc)

shrilled - piskliwy, przeszywający, przenikliwy

shoved - popchnąć, wrzucić, potrącić, wsadzić, pchnięcie
bewildered - zadziwić, zdumieć, oszalać