

# **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

# Contents

THE FOUR-FIFTEEN EXPRESS .....	6
Vocabulary of words translated in this book.....	27

# 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, zbliżyć 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; znieść, 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