

I contend that the house at the bay (unlike The Glen) is on the seaward side of the road. This house does not appear at all in the first section of the story, only its reticent gatepost. The bungalows are mentioned several times and plainly they are on the seaward side, along with the paddocks.

The house is mentioned for the first time at the beginning of section two, in words of significance.

'A few moments later the back door of one of the bungalows opened . . .' Stanley Burnell is off for his early-morning swim and the 'story' house is one of the bungalows. It could not be plainer.

In the story no-one crosses a road to get to the paddock. When the little girls had finished their breakfast and their father was gone they 'ran into the paddock like chickens let out of a coop'. And it is unlikely that a paddock was ever attached to The Glen on its seaward side.

When the back door opened, the figure in the bathing-suit 'flung down the paddock, cleared the stile, rushed through the tussock grass into the hollow, staggered up the sandy hillock, and raced for dear life over the big porous stones . . .' That is the same route to the sea as was followed later by the little girls.

Beryl watched Kember 'leave the road, step along the paddock beside their (the Burnells') palings as if he were coming straight towards her.'

These passages all indicate that the house is on the seaward side of the road. The sea is behind the house and surely not half so far away as it is from The Glen. It is also close enough for one to 'just hear the soft swish of the sea at full tide sweeping the pebbles'. The house is close to the other bungalows and when Linda and Jonathan talked in the front garden 'the voices of children cried from the other gardens'. As I have shown, the house is in the middle section of the bay and from the front windows one can see the manuka tree, the road and the sorrowful bush. 'We are dumb trees, reaching up in the night' it said, for the bush was up-valley. Under the manuka tree in the middle of the front grass patch Linda Burnell sat. So the sun was there in the morning. And Jonathan, when he called to take his boys home, met Linda walking in the front garden. Later he went to the washhouse, which stands on the seaward side of the house. The house paddock is at the back and beyond it are the sandhills and the sea. 'And now the quick dark came racing over the sea, over the sand-hills, up the paddock. You were frightened to look in the corners of the washhouse.'

That washhouse is 'a small tin shed standing apart from the bungalow' and it has a little window. And, consistently, 'somewhere, far away, grandma was lighting a lamp.' I wonder whether the little tin shed has survived and whether it could be described as prominent, like the washhouse at The Glen.