

An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 33 (which corresponds to Litir 337). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Cho-dhùin Tormod MacLeòid gluasad gu Astràilia. Bha cuid anns a' choimhearsnachd mì-chinnteach. Bha Astràilia fad air falbh bho Eilean Cheap Bhreatainn. Ach ann an Astràilia bhiodh iad còmhla mar choimhearsnachd fhathast.

Thog iad long. Thog iad air a' chladach i. Bha sin faisg air an eaglais aig Tormod. 'S e Margaret an t-ainm a bh' air an t-soitheach.

Chuir na daoine crìoch air an obair. Bha iad ag iarraidh siùil. Ach cha robh airgead aca. Dh'fheuch Tormod ris an taigh aige a reic. Bha e a' dol a cheannach siùil leis an airgead bhon taigh. Ach airson bliadhna cha b' urrainn dha an taigh a reic.

Bha na daoine ag ùrnaigh còmhla gu tric. Bha an t-airgead a' dol a thighinn tro ùrnaigh, thuirt Tormod. As t-earrach thàinig fear leis an airgead. Cheannaich e taigh Thormoid. Bha an t-airgead aca mu dheireadh thall. Cheannaich iad na siùil.

Bha Margaret, no Mairead, NicLeòid, nighean Thormoid, fichead 's a dhà bliadhna a dh'aois. Ann an ochd ceud deug is leth-cheud (1850) thàinig long a-steach a phort Bhaile Anna. Bha i a' togail fiodh. Bha i à Obar Dheathain ann an Alba. Ach thàinig an reothadh tràth. Bha deigh air a' mhuir. Cha d' fhuair an long a-mach a-rithist. Bha an caiptean is an criutha ann fad a' gheamhraidh.

Bha fear òg à Obar Dheathain air bòrd. B' esan Ùisdean MacAnndrais. Ghabh e fhèin is Mairead NicLeòid gaol air a chèile. Bha iad airson pòsadh. Ach bha iad a' smaoinichadh nach biodh Tormod toilichte.

Chaidh Ùisdean à fianais. Choimhead na daoine air a shon. Cha robh sgeul air. Bhris an deigh. Thill an soitheach a dh'Obar Dheathain. Nuair a bha iad air ais ann an Alba, dh'innis an caiptean an droch naidheachd do phàrantan Ùisdein. Bha an gille marbh. Thuit e tron deigh.

Ach cha robh Ùisdean marbh idir. Bha e beò. Bha e am falach leis fhèin. Bha e am falach ann am bothan. Thug Mairead agus caraid no dha aice biadh dha anns a' bhothan. Cha robh fios aig càch mu dheidhinn.

Nuair a bha an soitheach Albannach aig muir, nochd Ùisdean a-rithist. Leig Tormod leis dhol a dh'Astràilia. Fhuair Ùisdean obair air bòrd an t-soithich, am Margaret. Agus, dà bhliadhna às dèidh sin, nuair a bha iad ann an New Zealand, phòs e Mairead.

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Faclan is abairtean: cho-dhùin Tormod MacLeòid gluasad gu Astràilia: *Norman MacLeod decided to move to Australia; bha cuid anns a' choimhearsnachd mì-chinnteach: some in the community were unsure; bhiodh iad còmhla: they would be together; long: ship; thog iad air a' chladach i: they built her on the shore; 's e X an t-ainm a bh' air an t-soitheach: the vessel was called X; chuir na daoine crìoch air an obair: the people finished the work; siùil: sails; bha e a' dol a cheannach siùil leis an airgead bhon taigh: he was going to buy sails with the money from the house; cha b' urrainn dha an taigh a reic: he couldn't sell the house; ag ùrnaigh còmhla gu tric: often praying together; as t-earrach thàinig fear: in the Spring a man came; mu dheireadh thall: finally; bha nighean Thormoid fichead 's a dhà bliadhna a dh'aois: Norman's daughter was 22 years of age; long: ship; fiodh: timber; Obar Dheathain: Aberdeen; thàinig an reothadh tràth: the freeze came early; deigh: ice; bha an caiptean is an criutha ann fad a' gheamhraidh: the captain and crew were there all winter; b' esan Ùisdean MacAnndrais: he was Hugh Anderson; ghabh e fhèin is Mairead NicLeòid gaol air a chèile: he and Margaret MacLeod fell in love; bha iad a' smaoinichadh nach biodh Tormod toilichte: they thought Norman would not be pleased; chaidh Ùisdean à fianais: Hugh disappeared; choimhead na daoine air a shon: the people looked for him; cha robh sgeul air: there was no sign of him; bhris an deigh: the ice broke; thill an soitheach: the vessel returned; bha an gille marbh: the lad was dead; thuit e: he fell; bha e am falach ann am bothan: he was hiding in a bothy; caraid no dha aice: one or two of her friends; cha robh fios aig càch: the others didn't know; nochd Ùisdean a-rithist: Hugh reappeared; Leig Tormod leis dhol a dh'Astràilia: Norman permitted him to go to Australia; phòs e Mairead: he married Margaret.*

ends