

# 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 57 (which corresponds to Litir 361). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

Bha Dòmhnall MacAoidh ann an geòla. Bha e faisg air Inbhir Theòrsa. Bha e a' dol a dh'fhaighinn uisge ann am baraillean. Bha e air a thoirt am bruid ceithir bliadhna roimhe. A-nise bha e faisg air an dachaigh aige. Bha sin ann an Dùthaich MhicAoidh.

Chunnaic e feadhainn eile bhon sgìre aige fhèin. Bha iadsan ann am bàta eile. Dh'èigh iad air a chèile. Thionndaidh na maraichean an geòla. Chaidh iad air ais don luing. Chuir iad an seòl an àirde. Dh'fhalbh an long.

Chaidh trì bliadhna eile seachad. Bha Dòmhnall naoi bliadhn' deug a dh'aois. Bha iad a' seòladh faisg air costa mu thuath na h-Alba. Chaidh iad gu Loch Eurabol airson uisge. Bha Dòmhnall ag iarraidh teicheadh dhachaigh.

Chaidh e fhèin is fear eile gu tìr ann an geòla. Lìon iad baraillean le uisge. Dh'iarr Dòmhnall air an fhear eile leum a-steach don bhàta. Tharraing Dòmhnall na ràimh a-mach. Phut e an geòla gu muir.

Dh'èigh Dòmhnall air an duine eile, "Beannachd leat!" Agus theich e. Air mullach cnuic choimhead e air ais. Bha geòla eile aig na maraichean. Bha iad a' tighinn às a dhèidh. Rinn Dòmhnall cabhag. Lorg e imir coirce. Bha adagan ann. Chaidh e am falach am broinn adag.

Làigh e gu sàmhach. Ruith na maraichean seachad air. An ceann greis, thill iad. Làigh Dòmhnall gu sàmhach airson greis a bharrachd. An uair sin, dh'èirich e. Cha robh sgeul air duine. Às dèidh seachd bliadhna bha e saor.

Air an làrna-mhàireach ràinig e Armadal. Chunnaic e athair. Bha e air a dhol liath. Chunnaic an croitear an srainnsear òg. Cha do dh'aithnich e e. Dh'iarr Dòmhnall cuid na h-oidhche air.

"Ceart gu leòr," thuirt athair, "ach feumaidh mi bruidhinn ris a' bhean agam." Chaidh iad a-steach. Bha màthair Dhòmhnail ann. Cha do dh'aithnich i an gille aice.

"O mo mhàthair!" dh'èigh e. "Nach eil sibh gam aithneachainn?!" Uill, dh'aithnich an uair sin. Is tha mi cinnteach gu robh deòir gu leòr a' sruthadh.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** bha Dòmhnall MacAoidh ann an geòla: *Donald Mackay was in a dinghy*; faisg air Inbhir Theòrsa: *near Thurso*; baraillean: *barrels*; bha e air a thoirt am bruid ceithir bliadhna roimhe: *he was kidnapped four years earlier*

*(before); Dùthaich MhicAoidh: The Mackay Country [of N Sutherland]; dh'èigh iad air a chèile: they shouted to each other; thionndaidh na maraichean an geòla: the seamen turned the dinghy (around); chaidh iad air ais don luing: they went back to the ship; chuir iad an seòl an àirde: they hoisted the sail; dh'fhalbh an long: the ship departed; Loch Eurabol: Loch Erribol; bha Dòmhnall ag iarraidh teicheadh dhachaigh: Donald was wanting to run (flee) home; dh'iarr Dòmhnall air an fhear eile leum a-steach don bhàta: Donald asked the other man to jump into the boat; tharraing Dòmhnall na ràimh a-mach: Donald pulled the oars out; phut e an geòla gu muir: he pushed the dinghy out to sea; air mullach cnuic choimhead e air ais: at the top of a hill he looked back; a' tighinn às a dhèidh: coming after him; cabhag: hurry; imir coirce: field of oats; chaidh e am falach am broinn adag: he hid inside a stook; làigh Dòmhnall gu sàmhach airson greis a bharrachd: Donald lay quietly for a bit longer; cha robh sgeul air duine: there was no sign of anybody; às dèidh seachd bliadhna bha e saor: after seven years he was free; air an làrna-mhàireach ràinig e Armadal: [on] the next day he reached Armadale; bha e air a dhol liath: he had gone grey; chunnaic an croitear an srainnsear òg: the crofter saw the young stranger; cha do dh'aithnich e e: he didn't recognise him; dh'iarr Dòmhnall cuid na h-oidhche air: Donald asked him for a night's lodgings; nach eil sibh gam aithneachainn?: don't you recognise me?; dh'aithnich an uair sin: [she] recognised [him] then; gu robh deòir gu leòr a' sruthadh: that many tears were running (ie they all had a good blub!)*

ends