

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 71 (which corresponds to Litir 375). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh seann sgeulachd Ghàidhealach. Bidh i a' dol airson greis. Tha i gu math fada. Ach nì mi goirid i. Co-dhiù, nas giorra nan àbhaist.

Tha an sgeulachd seo gu math ainmeil. 'S e an t-ainm a th' oirre "Deirdre" no "Deirdre agus Clann Uisne". Tha daoine eòlach air an sgeulachd seo ann an Alba agus ann an Èirinn.

O chionn fhada, bha fear ann an Èirinn. 'S e Colum Cruitire an t-ainm a bh' air. 'S e duine còir a bh' ann. Ach bha e sean. Bha e fhèin agus a' bhean aige gu math sean. Cha robh clann aca. Cha robh dùil aca air clann.

Latha a bha seo thàinig fiosaiche don taigh aca.

"A bheil thu a' dèanamh fiosachd?" arsa Colum ris.

"Tha mi a' dèanamh beagan," fhreagair am fiosaiche. Dh'aontaich e fiosachd a dhèanamh do Cholum.

"An robh clann agad riamh?" dh'fhaighnich am fiosaiche.

"Cha robh, agus cha bhi gu bràth," thuirt Colum.

"Tha sin neònach," ars' am fiosaiche. "Tha mi a' faicinn gum bi nighean agad. Tha rudan uabhasach a' dol a thachairt. Bidh triùir ghaisgeach a' call an cinn – air sàilleabh na h-ìghne."

"An e sin an fhiosachd agad?" thuirt Colum. Bha e feargach. Bha e a' smaoinichadh gun robh am fiosaiche a' faid air.

"Mas e sin an fhiosachd a th' agad, cùm agad fhèin i," thuirt Colum ris an fhiosaiche. "Tha mi fhìn is a' bhean agam sean. Cha bhi clann againn. Cha bhi gu bràth."

Dh'fhalbh am fiosaiche. Cha robh e air falbh fada nuair a dh'fhàs bean Choluim trom. Bha i trom le leanabh. Eadhon ged a bha i sean. Agus bha Colum mì-thoilichte. Carson nach d' fhuair e tuilleadh fiosrachaidh bhon fhiosaiche? Carson a bhiodh a nighean ag adhbharachadh rudan uabhasach? Bàs an triùir ghaisgeach? Bha Colum ag iarraidh an nighean a chur air falbh. Gu àite falaichte sa mhonadh.

Cha do leig Colum duine faisg air an taigh, ach a-mhàin aon bhoireannach. B' ise a' bhean-ghlùin. Rugadh an nighean. Dh'iarr Colum air a' bhean-ghlùin an

leanabh a thoirt leatha. Gu àite falaichte sa mhonadh. Dh'aontaich a' bhean-ghlùin sin a dhèanamh. Chì sinn dè thachair an uair sin an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: bidh i a' dol airson greis: *it will be going [running] for a while*; nì mi goirid i: *I will make it short*; co-dhiù, nas giorra nan àbhaist: *at least, shorter than usual*; tha daoine eòlach air an sgeulachd seo: *people know this story*; o chionn fhada: *a long time ago*; 's e duine còir a bh' ann: *he was a nice guy*; bha e fhèin agus a' bhean aige gu math sean: *he and his wife were very old*; cha robh dùil aca air clann: *they did not expect [to have] children*; latha a bha seo: *one day*; fiosaiche: *a soothsayer*; a bheil thu a' dèanamh fiosachd?: *do you do soothsaying ie do you tell the future?*; dh'aontaich e: *he agreed*; an robh clann agad riamh?: *did you ever have children?*; cha bhi gu bràth: *[I] will never [have children]*; tha sin neònach: *that's strange*; tha mi a' faicinn gum bi nighean agad: *I'm seeing that you'll have a daughter*; tha rudan uabhasach a' dol a thachairt: *terrible things are going to happen*; bidh trìùir ghaisgeach a' call an cinn: *three heroes will lose their heads*; air sàilleabh na h-ìghne: *because of the girl*; gun robh am fiosaiche a' fanaid air: *that the soothsayer was mocking him*; cùm agad fhèin i: *keep it to yourself (ie I don't want to hear it)*; cha robh e air falbh fada: *he wasn't gone long*; nuair a dh'fhàs bean Choluim trom: *when Colum's wife became pregnant*; eadhon ged a bha i sean: *even though she was old*; carson nach d' fhuair e tuilleadh fiosrachaidh?: *why didn't he get more information?*; bha Colum ag iarraidh an nighean a chur air falbh: *Colum wanted to send the girl away*; gu àite falaichte sa mhonadh: *to a secret place in the hills*; cha do leig Colum duine faisg air an taigh: *Colum didn't let anyone close to the house*; ach a-mhàin aon bhoireannach: *except for one woman*; b' ise a' bhean-ghlùin: *she was the midwife*; dh'iarr Colum air a' bhean-ghlùin an leanabh a thoirt leatha: *Colum asked the midwife to take the baby with her*; dh'aontaich a' bhean-ghlùin sin a dhèanamh: *the midwife agreed to do that*.

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