

# **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 73 (which corresponds to Litir 377). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).*

Dh'fhosgail Deirdre doras a' bhothain. Chaidh an sealgair a-steach. Bha an sealgair a' smaoinichadh gu robh Deirdre uabhasach bòidheach. Thuirt e sin. Cha robh muime Deirdre toilichte. "Cùm do bheul dùinte mu dheidhinn Deirdre," thuirt i.

Bhruidhinn an sealgair mu Naois mac Uisne, agus a bhràithrean – Ailleán is Àrdan.

"Dè an coltas a th' orra?" dh'fhaighnich Deirdre.

"Tha am falt aca cho dubh ris an fhithreach. Tha na gruaidhean aca cho dearg ris an fhuil," thuirt an sealgair.

Dh'fhalbh an sealgair. Ach cha robh e a' dol a chumail a bheòil dùinte. Smaoinich e mu Chonachar, Rìgh Uladh. Cha robh bean aig Conachar. Chaidh an sealgair gu lùchairt an Rìgh. Bhruidhinn e ris an Rìgh. "Chunnaic mi am boireannach as bòidheach ann an Èirinn," thuirt e.

"Cò i?" dh'fhaighnich an Rìgh, "agus càite a bheil i?" Air an làrna-mhàireach thug an sealgair an Rìgh don bhothan aig Deirdre. Nuair a ràinig iad am bothan, ghnoig an Rìgh an doras. Ach cha d' fhuair e a-steach.

"Fosgail an doras," dh'èigh an Rìgh.

"Cò sibh?" dh'fhaighnich a' mhuime.

"Is mise Conachar, Rìgh Uladh," fhreagair an Rìgh. Dh'fhosgail am boireannach an doras sa bhad.

Chunnaic an Rìgh Deirdre. Smaoinich e nach fhaca e riamh boireannach cho bòidheach rithe. Thug e Deirdre air falbh leis. Thàinig a' mhuime cuideachd. Chaidh iad uile gu lùchairt an Rìgh.

Bha an Rìgh ag iarraidh Deirdre a phòsadh. Ach cha robh Deirdre cinnteach. Bha i aineolach mu ghnothaichean daoine. Thuirt i ris an Rìgh gun robh i ag iarraidh latha agus bliadhna. An uair sin bhiodh i deònach a phòsadh. Dh'aontaich an Rìgh.

Anns a' bhliadhna sin, dh'ionnsaich Deirdre tòrr bho boireannaich eile. Latha a bha seo bha i fhèin is na boireannaich eile a-muigh air cnoc. Chunnaic iad triùir fhear. Bha cuimhne aig Deirdre air na thuirt an sealgair. B' iad seo triùir mhac Uisne! Agus b' e sin Naois! Ghabh Deirdre gràdh air Naois. Dh'fhalbh i às a dhèidh.

Bha fios aig Ailleán is Àrdan mun bhoireannach aig Conachar, Rìgh Uladh. Cha robh i pòsta aig an Rìgh, ge-tà. Agus bha eagal orra gum biodh Naois ga h-iarraidh. Chunnaic iad am boireannach òg a' tighinn. Choisich iad na bu luaithe. Chì sinn mar a thachair an uair sin anns an ath Litir.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** dh'fhosgail Deirdre doras a' bhothain: *Deirdre (we're continuing with the story of Deirdre) opened the door of the bothy; muime: foster-mother; cùm do bheul dùinte mu dheidhinn Deirdre: keep your mouth shut about Deirdre; bhruidhinn an sealgair mu Naois mac Uisne, agus a bhràithrean: the hunter spoke about Naois son of Uisne, and his brothers; dè an coltas a th' orra?: what do they look like?; tha am falt aca cho dubh ris an fhitheach: their hair is as black as the raven; tha na gruaidhean aca cho dearg ris an fhuil: their cheeks are as red as [the] blood; cha robh e a' dol a chumail a bheòil dùinte: he wasn't going to keep his mouth closed; Rìgh Uladh: The King of Ulster; bean: wife; lùchairt: palace; chunnaic mi: I saw; as bòidhche ann an Èirinn: the most beautiful in Ireland; air an làrna-mhàireach: [on] the next day; ghnoig an Rìgh an doras: the King knocked the door; cha d' fhuair e a-steach: he didn't get in; cò sibh?: who are you?; sa [anns a'] bhad : immediately; nach fhaca e riamh: that he never saw [had never seen]; boireannach cho bòidheach rithe: a woman as beautiful as her; thug e Deirdre air falbh leis: he took Deirdre away with him; bha an Rìgh ag iarraidh Deirdre a phòsadh: the King wanted to marry Deirdre; bha i aineolach mu ghnòthaichean daoine: she was ignorant about human matters; an uair sin bhiodh i deònach a phòsadh: then she would be willing to marry him; a-muigh air cnoc: outside on a hill; trìuir fhear: three men; bha cuimhne aig Deirdre air na thuit an sealgair: Deirdre remembered what the hunter said; ghabh Deirdre gràdh air Naois: Deirdre fell in love with Naois; dh'fhalbh i às a dhèidh: she went [left] after him; bha eagal orra gum biodh Naois ga h-iarraidh: they feared that Naois would want her; chunnaic iad am boireannach òg a' tighinn: they saw the young woman coming; choisich iad na bu luaithe: they walked more quickly.*

ends