

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 75 (which corresponds to Litir 379). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Chaidh mac Rìgh Lochlainn sìos don taigh. Bha Naois anns an taigh. Bha, agus a bhràithrean Ailleán is Àrdan, agus Deirdre. Sheall mac Rìgh Lochlainn a-staigh air toll na h-iuchrach. Bha e ag iarraidh Deirdre fhaicinn.

Ach chunnaic Naois a shùil. Thog e dìsinn geal. Thilg e tron toll e. Chuir an dìsinn sùil mac Rìgh Lochlainn a-mach.

Chuir Rìgh Uladh trì cheud gaisgeach sìos don taigh. Bha e ag iarraidh orra Deirdre a thoirt air ais. Bha e ag iarraidh orra Naois is a bhràithrean a mharbhadh.

“Tha iad a’ tighinn,” thuirt Deirdre.

“Thèid mi a-mach agus caisgidh mi iad,” arsa Naois.

“Cha tèid. Thèid mise,” thuirt a’ chiad mhac aig Fearchar Mac Ro. Chaidh e a-mach. Mharbh e trian de na gaisgich.

Dh’èigh Rìgh Uladh, “Cò tha a’ marbhadh nan gaisgeach agam?”

“Tha mise, a’ chiad mhac aig Fearchar Mac Ro.”

Dh’iarr an Rìgh air dhol don taobh aigesan. Gheall e fearann dha. Chaidh a’ chiad mhac aig Fearchar Mac Ro a-null dha.

An uair sin, chuir an Rìgh trì cheud gaisgeach eile sìos don taigh.

“Tha iad a’ tighinn,” thuirt Deirdre.

“Tha,” arsa Naois, “ach thèid mi a-mach agus caisgidh mi iad.”

“Cha tèid. Thèid mise,” thuirt an dàrna mac aig Fearchar Mac Ro. Chaidh e a-mach. Mharbh e dà thrian de na gaisgich.

Dh’èigh an Rìgh, “Cò tha a’ marbhadh nan gaisgeach agam?”

“Tha mise, an dàrna mac aig Fearchar Mac Ro.”

Dh’iarr an Rìgh air dhol don taobh aigesan. Gheall e fearann dha. Chaidh an dàrna mac aig Fearchar Mac Ro a-null dha.

An uair sin, chuir an Rìgh trì cheud gaisgeach eile sìos don taigh.

“Tha iad a’ tighinn,” thuirt Deirdre.

“Tha,” arsa Naois, “ach thèid mi a-mach agus caisgidh mi iad.”

“Cha tèid. Thèid mise,” thuirt an treas mac aig Fearchar Mac Ro. Chaidh e a-mach. Mharbh e trì trian de na gaisgich.

Dh’èigh an Rìgh, “Cò tha a’ marbhadh nan gaisgeach agam?”

“Tha mise, an treas mac aig Fearchar Mac Ro.”

Dh’iarr an Rìgh air dhol don taobh aigesan. Gheall e fearann dha.

“Cha ghabh mi sin bhuat,” thuirt an treas mac. Thill e a-steach don taigh. Bhruidhinn e ri Naois, Aillean, Àrdan is Deirdre. “Tha mi a’ dol dhachaigh,” thuirt e, “a dh’innse do m’ athair gu bheil sibh a-nis sàbhailte.”

Dh’fhalbh e, a dh’innse da athair gun robh Clann Uisne sàbhailte. Ach thuirt Naois gum bu chòir dhaibh an taigh fhàgail agus tilleadh a dh’Alba.

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Faclan is abairtean: chaidh mac Rìgh Lochlainn sìos don taigh: *the son of the King of Scandinavia went down to the house*; bha, agus a bhràithrean: *and so were his brothers*; sheall e a-staigh air toll na h-iuchrach: *he looked in through the keyhole*; bha e ag iarraidh Deirdre fhaicinn: *he was wanting to see Deirdre*; chunnaic Naois a shùil: *Naois saw his eye*; thog e dìsinn geal: *he picked up a white die*; thilg e tron toll e: *he threw it through the hole*; chuir X sùil Y a-mach: *X put Y’s eye out*; chuir Rìgh Uladh trì cheud gaisgeach sìos don taigh: *The King of Ulster sent three hundred heroes down to the house*; bha e ag iarraidh orra Deirdre a thoirt air ais: *he was wanting them to bring Deirdre back*; caisgidh mi iad: *I’ll stop them*; cha tèid. Thèid mise: *you won’t [go]. I’ll go*; a’ chiad mhac: *the first son*; trian: *a third*; cò tha a’ marbhadh nan gaisgeach agam?: *who is killing my heroes?*; dh’iarr an Rìgh air dhol don taobh aigesan: *the King asked him to go over to his side*; gheall e fearann dha: *he promised him land*; chaidh X a-null dha: *X went over to him*; dàrna: *second*; dà thrìan: *two-thirds*; trì trian: *three-thirds*; cha ghabh mi sin bhuat: *I won’t accept that from you*; thill e a-steach: *he returned inside*; tha mi a’ dol dhachaigh, a dh’innse do m’ athair gu bheil sibh sàbhailte: *I’m going home, to tell my father that you’re safe*; a dh’innse da athair: *to tell his father*; gum bu chòir dhaibh an taigh fhàgail agus tilleadh a dh’Alba: *that they should leave the house and return to Scotland*.

ends