

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 76 (which corresponds to Litir 380). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha Clann Uisne – Naois, Deirdre, Ailleann is Àrdan – a' dol a thilleadh a dh'Alba. Cha robh Rìgh Uladh, Conachar, toilichte. Chaidh e gu draoidh. Dh'iarr e air an draoidh stad a chur orra. Chuir an draoidh coille thiugh ro Chlann Uisne. Ach chaidh iad tron choille gu furasta.

“Feuchaidh mi dòigh eile,” thuirt an draoidh. Chuir e muir mhòr air a' mhachair ro Chlann Uisne. Ach cha do chuir sin stad orra.

“Feuchaidh mi dòigh eile airson stad a chur orra,” thuirt an draoidh. Agus reòdh e a' mhuir. Bha i cruaidh, cnapach. Bha na cnapan geur agus puinnseanta. Thuirt Àrdan gun robh e a' fàs fann.

“Suidh air mo ghualainn,” arsa Naois. Shuidh Àrdan air gualann Naois. Cha robh e ann fada, ge-tà, nuair a chaochail e.

Thuirt Ailleann gun robh esan a' fàs fann cuideachd. Dh'iarr Naois air Ailleann grèim a chumail air. Ach thàinig laigse a' bhàis air Ailleann. Chaochail e. Chunnaic Naois gun robh a bhràithrean marbh. Leig e osna a' bhàis. Agus chaochail e.

“Tha Clann Uisne marbh,” thuirt an draoidh ris an Rìgh.

“Tiorraich a' mhuir,” thuirt an Rìgh, “gus am faic mi Deirdre.” Thiorraich an draoidh a' mhuir. Bha trìuir mhac Uisne nan laighe marbh. Bha Deirdre os an cionn a' caoineadh.

Thug an Rìgh seachad òrdugh sloc a chladhach faisg air loch. Bha cuirp nam bràithrean air an cur ann.

Bha Deirdre na suidhe aig an uaigh. Leum i a-steach agus laigh i ri taobh Naois. Bha ise a-nise marbh cuideachd.

Dh'òrdaich an Rìgh corp Deirdre a thogail às an uaigh. Dh'òrdaich e a tiodhlacadh ann an sloc eile. Bha an sloc eile air taobh thall an locha.

Tro thìde phòs an Rìgh deagh bhean. Shìos aig an loch, dh'fhàs craobh ghiuthais às an uaigh aig Deirdre. Dh'fhàs craobh ghiuthais às an uaigh aig Naois. Chuir geugan an dà chraoibh snaidhm na chèile os cionn an locha.

Dh'òrdaich an Rìgh an dà chraoibh a ghearradh sìos. Ach dh'fhàs iad a-rithist. Chuir iad snaidhm na chèile os cionn an locha. A-rithist dh'òrdaich an Rìgh an dà chraoibh a ghearradh sìos. Ach a-rithist, dh'fhàs iad. Chuir iad snaidhm na chèile os cionn an locha. Bha an Rìgh a' dol a dh'òrdachadh treas turas na

craobhan a leagail. Ach chuir a bhean stad air. Cha do rinn e geur-leanmhainn air na mairbh tuilleadh.

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: Bha X a' dol a thilleadh a dh'Alba: *X were going to return to Scotland*; Rìgh Uladh: *The King of Ulster*; dh'iarr e air an draoidh stad a chur orra: *he asked the druid to stop them*; chuir X coille thiugh ro Y: *X put a thick forest in front of Y*; tron choille gu furasta: *through the forest easily*; feuchaidh mi dòigh eile: *I'll try another way*; chuir e muir mhòr air a' mhachair: *he put a big sea on the plain*; reòdh e a' mhuir: *he froze the sea*; cruaidh, cnapach: *hard and lumpy*; geur: *sharp*; puinnseanta: *poisonous*; gun robh e a' fàs fann: *that he was growing weak*; suidh air mo ghualainn: *sit on my shoulder*; cha robh e ann fada, ge-tà, nuair a chaochail e: *he wasn't there long, however, when he died*; dh'iarr Naois air Aillean grèim a chumail air: *Naois asked Aillean to keep hold of him*; thàinig laigse a' bhàis air Aillean: *the weakness of death came upon Aillean*; chaochail e: *he died (the expression means literally "he changed")*; gun robh a bhràithrean marbh: *that his brothers were dead*; leig e osna a' bhàis: *he le out the sigh of death*; tiormaich a' mhuir: *dry the sea*; bha trìuir mhac Uisne nan laighe marbh: *the three sons of Uisne were lying dead*; os an cionn a' caoineadh: *above them, weeping*; Thug X seachad òrdugh sloc a chladhach: *X gave an order to dig a pit*; corp Deirdre a thogail às an uaigh: *to lift Deirdre's body from the grave*; air taobh thall an locha: *on the far side of the loch*; phòs an Rìgh deagh bhean: *the King married a good wife*; dh'fhàs craobh ghiuthais às an uaigh: *a pine tree grew from the grave*; chuir geugan an dà chraoibh snaidhm na chèile: *the branches of the two trees intertwined with each other*; an dà chraoibh a ghearradh sìos: *to cut down the two trees*; bha an Rìgh a' dol a dh'òrdachadh treas turas na craobhan a leagail: *the King was going to order for a third time that the trees be felled*; chuir a bhean stad air: *his wife stopped him*; cha do rinn e geur-leanmhainn air na mairbh tuilleadh: *he persecuted the dead no longer*.

ends