

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 77 (which corresponds to Litir 381). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha mi ag innse sgeulachd ainmeil dhuibh – Deirdre agus Clann Uisne. Tha àite faisg air Inbhir Nis a tha co-cheangailte ri Deirdre. 'S e sin Dùn Dearduil. Tha e faisg air Loch Nis. Tha Dearduil a' ciallachadh "Deirdre". Thuir muinntir an àite gun robh an tùr aig Naois is Deirdre air mullach an dùin.

'S e cnoc àrd a th' ann an Dùn Dearduil. Tha dà abhainn aig a bhonn. Bha daoine a' fuireach ann ann an Linn an Iarainn.

Bha mi ann o chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean. Bha coille ann. Ach cha robh e uabhasach doirbh a dhol suas. An turas seo chaidh mi ann le dithis eile agus an cù agam. Bha mi a' dol a dh'innse sgeulachd Deirdre do chàch air mullach an dùin. Ach gu mì-fhortanach, cha do thachair sin.

Dh'fheuch sinn ri faighinn tarsainn abhainn. Chaidh sinn sìos tron choille. Agus chuala sinn fuaim neònach. Bha e àrd mar bheathach ann am pian. No mar bhean-sithe. Bha e rudeigin eagallach.

Chuir an abhainn stad oirnn. Bha cus uisge innte. Chaidh sinn suas an abhainn. Lorg sinn drochaid. Bha rathad ann gu cnoc eile faisg air Dùn Dearduil. 'S e sin an Dùn Garbh. Agus tha e garbh. Tha am fraoch air àrd is tiugh. Tha an raineach air àrd is tiugh.

Eadar an Dùn Garbh is Dùn Dearduil bha e uabhasach garbh. Leig feadhainn a h-uile craobh ann nach robh dùthchasach do dh'Alba. Tha na craobhan nan laighe far an do thuit iad. Cha robh mi riamh a' coiseachd ann an àite cho garbh ann an Alba.

Nuair a bha sinn faisg air Dùn Dearduil a-rithist, chuala sinn am fuaim a-rithist. Bha e mar sgreuchail. Àrd is eagallach. Cuideigin ann am pian? Beathach ann an ribe? No taibhs? Carson a thuir mi sin? Innsidh mi dhuibh an ath-sheachdain.

Mu dheireadh, ràinig sinn mullach Dhùn Dearduil. Bha an sealladh de Loch Nis àlainn. Tha mullach an dùin torrach is feurach. Oir bha daoine a' fuireach ann. Gu mì-fhortanach, cha robh ùine agam sgeulachd Deirdre innse. Bha cabhag oirnn tilleadh don chàr. Cha robh sinn ag iarraidh a bhith glaiste air an dùn san dorchadas, agus rudeigin air choreigin a' sgreuchail mar thaibhs.

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Faclan is abairtean: Bha mi ag innse sgeulachd ainmeil dhuibh: *I was telling you a famous story; tha àite faisg air Inbhir Nis a tha co-cheangailte ri Deirdre: there is a place close to Inverness which is connected to Deirdre; thuir muinntir an àite: the people of the place said; gun robh an tùr aig Naois is Deirdre air mullach an dùin: that Naois and Deirdre's tower was at the summit of the dùin; cnoc àrd: a high hill; tha dà abhainn aig a bhonn: there are two rivers at its base; ann an Linn an Iarainn: during the Iron Age; bha mi ann o chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean: I was there a few years ago; cha robh e doirbh a dhol suas: it wasn't difficult to go up; dithis: two people; bha mi a' dol a dh'innse sgeulachd Deirdre do chàch: I was going to tell the others the story of Deirdre; gu mì-fhortanach: unfortunately; cha do thachair sin: that didn't happen; dh'fheuch sinn: we tried; tarsainn abhainn: across a river; chuala sinn fuaim neònach: we heard a strange sound; beathach ann am pian: an animal in pain; bean-sìthe: a fairy woman; rudeigin eagallach: a little frightening; chuir an abhainn stad oirnn: the river stopped us; cus: too much; garbh: rough; tha am fraoch air àrd is tiugh: the heather on it is high and thick; raineach; bracken; leig feadhainn a h-uile craobh: some people [identity unknown] felled every tree; nach robh dùthchasach: which was not native; nan laighe far an do thuit iad: lying where they fell; cha robh mi riamh a' coiseachd ann an àite cho garbh: I was never walking in such a rough place; sgreuchail: screeching; beathach ann an ribe: an animal in a trap; thaibhs: ghost; carson a thuir mi sin?: why did I say that?; bha an sealladh de Loch Nis àlainn: the view of Loch Ness was beautiful; tha mullach an dùin torrach is feurach: the summit of the hill is fertile and grassy; oir: because; cha robh ùine agam sgeulachd Deirdre innse: I didn't have time to tell the story of Deirdre; bha cabhag oirnn tilleadh: we were in a hurry to return; a bhith glaiste air an dùn san dorchadas: to be stuck on the hill in darkness; agus rudeigin air choreigin a' sgreuchail mar thaibhs: with something or other screaming like a ghost.*

ends