

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 104 (which corresponds to Litir 408). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk

Tha aon stòiridh eile agam mu Chalum Beag. Bha Calum a' goid sprèidh. Ach bu toigh leis an uachdaran e. Bho àm gu àm bha an t-uachdaran a' dìon Chalum nuair a bha daoine eile feargach leis.

Turas a bha seo, ghoid Calum molt. Sin wedder ann am Beurla. Molt. Chaidh Calum a ghlacadh. Bha am molt aige. Chaidh e air beulaibh an uachdarain. Bha fianais làidir ann. Bha am molt aig Calum! Smaoinich an t-uachdaran. Dh'òrdaich e Calum agus am molt a chur do chealla anns a' chaisteal. Bha a' chealla os cionn na talmhainn. Bha tuill bheaga sa bhalla.

Fhuair na daoine, a bha feargach le Calum, deoch is biadh. Bha iad ag ithe 's ag òl. Chaidh an t-uachdaran suas don chealla.

"A bheil sgian gheur agad?" dh'fhaighnich e de Chalum.

"Tha," fhreagair Calum.

"Cuiridh mi luchd-ceannach thugad airson do mhuilt," thuirt an t-uachdaran. Agus dh'fhalbh e. Thuirt e rud neònach, nach tuit? "Cuiridh mi luchd-ceannach thugad airson do mhuilt." Ach bha fios aig Calum dè bha e a' ciallachadh. Thug e an sgian a-mach. Mharbh e am molt. Gheàrr e am molt ann am piosan beaga. Thilg e na piosan a-mach air na tuill sa bhalla.

Shìos fodha, bha coin. Bha an t-acras orra. Dh'ith iad na piosan dhen mholt. Às dèidh ùine, thuirt an t-uachdaran gun robh e ag iarraidh Calum Beag fhaicinn – agus an fhianais na aghaidh. Ach nuair a dh'fhosgail iad a' chealla, cha robh sgeul air a' mholt. Thuirt an t-uachdaran nach robh cùis ann. Bha Calum saor airson a dhol dhachaigh.

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: tha aon stòiridh eile agam: *I have one more [other] story;* bha e a' goid sprèidh: *he was stealing livestock;* bu toigh leis an uachdaran e: *the landlord liked him;* a' dìon Chalum: *protecting Calum;* air beulaibh an uachdarain: *in front of the landlord;* fianais làidir: *strong evidence;* dh'òrdaich e Calum agus am molt a chur do chealla: *he ordered Calum and the wedder to put in a cell;* os cionn na talmhainn: *above the ground;* tuill bheaga sa bhalla: *small holes in the wall;* feargach: *angry;* deoch is biadh: *drink and food;* sgian gheur: *a sharp*

knife; cuiridh mi luchd-ceannach thugad airson do mhuilt: I'll send you buyers for your wedder; thuir e rud neònach, nach tuir?: he said a strange thing, didn't he?; dè bha e a' ciallachadh: what he was meaning; thilg e na pìosan a-mach air na tuill sa bhalla: he threw the pieces out of the holes in the wall; shìos fodha, bha coin: down below him were dogs; gun robh e ag iarraidh Calum Beag fhaicinn: that he was wanting to see Calum Beag; agus an fhianais na aghaidh: and the evidence against him; cha robh sgeul air a' mholt: there was no sign of the wedder; nach robh cùis ann: bha Calum saor airson a dhol dhachaigh: Calum was free to go home.

ends