

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 109 (which corresponds to Litir 413). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha sgeulachd ainmeil co-cheangailte ri Beinn Ghulbain. Tha Beinn Ghulbain ann an Gleann Sìdh. 'S e an t-ainm air an sgeulachd "Diarmaid agus Gràinne". Seo agaibh geàrr-chunntas dhith.

Bha Fionn MacCumhail a' dol a phòsadh Gràinne. Bha cuirm mhòr aca. Bha Diarmaid aig a' chuir. 'S e fear eireachdail a bh' ann. Bha ball-seirce air aodann – *a love spot*. Ball-seirce. Bha e a' cumail a bhonaid sìos airson am ball-seirce fhalach. Bha boireannaich a chunnaic am ball-seirce a' gabhail gaol air.

Aig a' chuir bha coin a' sabaid. Dh'fheuch na fir ris na coin a chur bho chèile. Bha Diarmaid nam measg. Thog e a bhonaid beagan. Chunnaic Gràinne am ball-seirce. Ghabh i gaol air Diarmaid.

"Ruithidh thu air falbh leam," thuir i ris.

"Cha dèan mi sin," arsa Diarmaid. "Cha tèid mi leat." Chaidh Diarmaid a dh'àite fad' air falbh. Thog e taigh. Dh'fhuirich e ann.

Madainn a bha seo ghlaodh Gràinne aig an doras. "A bheil thu a-staigh a Dhiarmaid?" thuir i.

"Tha," fhreagair Diarmaid.

"Thig a-mach is falbh leam," thuir Gràinne.

"Cha tig is chan fhalbh."

"Feumaidh tu," thuir i.

"Chan eil àite dhan tèid sinn," thuir Diarmaid, "air nach bi fios aig Fionn. Marbhaidh e mi."

"Thèid sinn do Charraig," thuir Gràinne. "Tha uiread de Charraigeann ann 's nach bi fios aige cò an tè anns a bheil sinn." Dh'fhalbh iad còmhla gu Carraig an Daimh. Rinn iad an dachaigh ann. Bha Diarmaid na shaor agus na iasgair. Bha Gràinne a' reic nan soithichean fiodha a bha Diarmaid a' dèanamh. Ach bha leapannan air leth aca.

Latha a bha seo thàinig bodach mòr. 'S e Ciofach Mac a' Ghoill an t-ainm a bh' air. Rinn Gràinne is am bodach plana. Bha iad a' dol a mharbhadh Dhiarmaid. Thug am bodach ionnsaigh air Diarmaid. Bha am bodach làidir ach bha Diarmaid na bu làidire. Chuir e am bodach fodha.

Rug Gràinne air sgian. Stob i ann an cas Dhiarmaid i. Theich Diarmaid. Is cluinnidh sinn na thachair an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan is abairtean: Tha Beinn Ghulbain ann an Gleann Sìdh: *Ben Gulabin is in Glenshee*; seo agaibh geàrr-chunntas dhith: *here is a shortened account of it*; a' dol a phòsadh: *going to marry*; cuirm: *feast*; 's e fear eireachdail a bh' ann: *he was a handsome man*; airson am ball-seirce fhalach: *to hide the love spot*; a' gabhail gaol air: *falling in love with him*; dh'fheuch na fir ris na coin a chur bho chèile: *the men tried to keep the dogs from each other*; bha Diarmaid nam measg: *Diarmaid was among them*; ruithidh thu air falbh leam: *you'll run away with me*; cha dèan mi sin: *I won't do that*; cha tèid mi leat: *I won't go with you*; ghlaodh Gràinne aig an doras: *Gràinne shouted at the door*; thig a-mach is falbh leam: *come out and come away with me*; cha tig is chan fhalbh: *No! ie I won't come [out] and I won't leave [with you]*; feumaidh tu: *you must*; air nach bi fios aig Fionn: *that Fionn won't know of*; marbhaidh e mi: *he'll kill me*; tha uiread de Charraigeann ann 's nach bi fios aige cò an tè anns a bheil sinn: *there are so many Carraigs that he won't know which one we're in*; bha Diarmaid na shaor agus na iasgair: *Diarmaid was a carpenter and fisherman*; soithichean fiodha: *wooden vessels*; rinn Gràinne is am bodach plana: *Gràinne and the old man made a plan*; thug am bodach ionnsaigh air Diarmaid: *the old man attacked Diarmaid*; chuir e am bodach fodha: *Diarmaid got the old man under him*; rug Gràinne air sgian: *Gràinne seized a knife*; stob i ann an cas Dhiarmaid i: *she stuck it into Diarmaid's leg*.

ends