

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 72 (which corresponds to Litir 376). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha mi fhathast ag innse dhuibh na sgeulachd “Deirdre agus Clann Uisne”. Chuir Colum Cruitire a’ bhean-ghlùin air falbh leis an leanabh gu bothan sna beanntan. Bha dragh air Colum mu na thuirt am fiosaiche ris. Thuirt am fiosaiche gu robh rudan uabhasach a’ dol a thachairt. Thuirt e gun robh triùir ghaisgeach a’ dol a chall an cinn. Air sàilleabh na h-ìghne.

Bha an leanabh, Deirdre, a-nise ann an àite fad air falbh sna beanntan. Bha i còmhla ri a muime. Thug Colum biadh is aodach dhaibh airson latha agus bliadhna. Thuirt e gun robh e a’ dol a thilleadh le biadh a-rithist aig deireadh na bliadhna. Agus thill e. Agus thill e le biadh a h-uile bliadhna.

Bha Deirdre agus a muime a’ fuireach còmhla gus an robh Deirdre ceithir bliadhn’ deug a dh’aois. Fad na h-ùine sin, chan fhac’ iad duine. Dh’ionnsaich Deirdre tòrr bho a muime. Ach cha do bhruidhinn i ri duine sam bith eile. Bha Deirdre uabhasach bòidheach. Cha robh boireannach ann an Èirinn cho bòidheach rithe.

Oidhche gheamhraidh a bha seo bha sealgair anns an sgìre. Bha e air chall. Bha an t-acras air. Bha e uabhasach sgèth. Laigh e sìos. Agus chaidil e. Bha e ri taobh a’ bhothain. Ach cha robh fios aige air sin.

Thàinig aisling air. Dh’èigh e a-mach na aisling. Chuala Deirdre e agus thuirt i ri a muime, “A mhuime, gu dè tha siud?”

“Chan eil càil,” fhreagair a’ mhuime. “Dìreach eun.”

Dh’èigh an duine a-rithist na aisling. “A mhuime, gu dè tha siud?” arsa Deirdre.

“Chan eil càil. Dìreach eun na coille.”

Dh’èigh an duine treas turas.

“O, gu dè tha siud, a mhuime?” arsa Deirdre.

“Dìreach eun air chall. Thèid e seachad,” thuirt am boireannach.

“O, a mhuime,” thuirt Deirdre, “Leigidh mi an t-eun a-steach.”

Leum Deirdre suas. Chaidh i don doras. Dh’fhosgail i an doras. Cha robh eun ann. Bha sealgair ann. Leig Deirdre a-steach e. Bha an t-acras air an t-sealgair.

Nuair a chunnaic an sealgair Deirdre, smaoinich e nach robh boireannach ann an Èirinn cho bòidheach rithe. Agus cha robh an t-acras air tuilleadh.

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Faclan is abairtean: tha mi fhathast ag innse dhuibh: *I'm still telling you/relating;* chuir X a' bhean-ghlùin air falbh: *X sent the midwife away;* leis an leanabh gu bothan sna beanntan: *with the baby to a bothy in the mountains;* gu robh rudan uabhasach a' dol a thachairt: *that terrible things were going to happen;* gun robh trìuair ghaisgeach a' dol a chall an cinn: *that three heroes were going to lose their heads;* air sàilleabh na h-ìghne: *because of the girl;* fad air falbh: *a long way away;* còmhla ri a muime: *along with her foster-mother;* biadh is aodach: *food and clothes;* thill e le biadh a h-uile bliadhna: *he returned with food every year;* ceithir bliadhna' deug a dh'aois: *fourteen years of age;* dh'ionnsaich Deirdre tòrr: *Deirdre learned a lot;* cha do bhruidhinn i ri duine sam bith eile: *she didn't speak [ie she never spoke] to anybody else;* cho bòidheach rithe: *as beautiful as her;* sealgair: *hunter;* air chall: *lost;* laigh e sìos: *he lay down;* chaidil e: *he slept;* ri taobh a' bhothain: *beside the bothy;* cha robh fios aige air sin: *he didn't know [ie realise] that;* dh'èigh e a-mach na aisling: *he cried out in his dream;* chuala Deirdre e: *Deirdre heard him;* gu dè tha siud?: *what's that?;* chan eil càil: *nothing;* eun na coille: *a bird of the forest;* treas turas: *a third time;* thèid e seachad: *it'll go past [the bothy];* leigidh mi an t-eun a-steach: *I'll let the bird in;* dh'fhosgail i an doras: *she opened the door;* Èirinn: *Ireland;* cha robh an t-acras air tuilleadh: *he was no longer hungry.*

ends