

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 338 (which corresponds to Litir 642). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.macleon@bbc.co.uk.

I'm telling the story The Awisks or The Three Soldiers. The second soldier was in the castle. He put the quarter of mutton in his bag. The woman returned with the light.

"It was strange that you took the light away," said the soldier to her.

"Strange is the man who can't put food in his mouth without a light," she replied. She looked up and down for the mutton. Eventually, she found it in his bag. She was displeased. She asked for the soldier to be thrown amongst the big dogs.

The third soldier was beside the hill. Next morning he saw the red dog. He followed the dog. He went to the castle. He saw the woman. The woman called to him to go to a back door. He went in. The woman took him to a beautiful room. Food was placed in front of him. Amongst the food was a large loaf of wheaten bread.

The woman took the light away. But the soldier didn't have a hungry companion. He didn't put anything in his bag. When the

Tha mi ag innse na sgeulachd *Na h-Amhaisgean* no *Na Trì Saighdearan*. Bha an dàrna saighdear anns a' chaisteal. Chuir e an ceathramh muilt na mhàileid. Thill am boireannach leis an t-solas.

"Bha e neònach gun tug thu an solas air falbh," thuirt an saighdear rithe.

"Tha an duine neònach nach urrainn biadh a chur na bheul gun solas," fhreagair i. Dh'iarr i an ceathramh muilt suas is sìos. Lorg i na mhàileid e. Bha i mì-thoilichte. Dh'iarr i gum biodh an saighdear air a thilgeil am measg nan con mòra.

Bha an treas saighdear fhathast ri taobh a' chnuic. An ath mhadainn chunnaic e an cù ruadh. Lean e air a' chù. Chaidh e don chaisteal. Chunnaic e am boireannach. Ghlaodh am boireannach ris a dhol gu doras cùil. Chaidh e a-steach. Thug am boireannach do sheòmar brèagha e. Chaidh biadh a chur air a bheulaibh. Am measg a' bhìdh bha lofa mòr de dh'aran cruithneachd.

Thug am boireannach an solas air falbh. Ach cha robh companach acrach aig an t-saighdear. Cha do chuir e dad na mhàileid. Nuair a thill am

woman returned with the light, everything was in order.

The night came. The soldier went in order to sleep. But he didn't sleep. There was a loud [continuing] noise next door. Next morning, he said to the woman, "Who are those people that were making noise all night?"

"Those are the Awisks," she replied. "The Awisks stole me. They brought me here. I am the daughter of a king in the Kingdom of Coldness."

That night, the noise started again. The soldier went next door. He said to the Awisks that he would take the one of them with the biggest head and the slenderest legs and he would beat them with him. He did that. The room was empty and quiet.

While the pandemonium ensued, the woman made her escape. She promised the soldier that she would return to marry him. And the story will continue next week.

boireannach leis an t-solas, bha a h-uile rud ann an òrdugh.

Thàinig an oidhche. Chaidh an saighdear a laighe. Ach cha d' fhuair e cadal. Bha fuaim mòr ann an ath dhoras. An ath mhadainn, thuirt e ris a' bhoireannach, "Cò iad na daoine siud a bha a' dèanamh fuaim fad na h-oidhche?"

"Is iad sin na h-Amhaisgean," fhreagair i. "Ghoid na h-Amhaisgean mi. Thug iad an seo mi. 'S e nighean rìgh a tha annam ann an Rìoghachd na Fuarachd."

Air an oidhche sin, thòisich am fuaim a-rithist. Chaidh an saighdear an ath dhoras. Thuirt e ris na h-Amhaisgean gun gabhadh e am fear a bu mhotha dhiubh aig an robh ceann agus a bu chaoil' aig an robh casan agus gun gabhadh e dhaibh leis. Rinn e sin. Bha an seòmair falamh agus sàmhach.

Fhad 's a bha an ùpraid a' dol, rinn am boireannach a dol-às. Gheall i don t-saighdear gun tilleadh i airson a phòsadh. Agus leanaidh an stòiridh an-ath-sheachdain.