

In tae th' selkie world

Many years ago thaur lived a cheil called Archie. He lived in a wee but-an-ben in th' west ay scootlund wi' his guidwife an' bairns. Every day he went it seal huntin' fur a livin'. Usually he caught abit thee ur fower a day. Ain braw winter morn he was it seal huntin'. He was gettin' huir ur a woriat fur he hud nae caught a body seal 'at day an' if he hud tae gang haem withit a body his guidwife woods teel heem aff. He looked hopelessly doon at th' spear he held in his hain an' sighed. He hud picked up his lucky a body 'at day, it hud special, shinin' stones encrusted doon th' side an' it shain in th' settin' sin. Suddenly he heard a stooshie. It was comin' frae a large rock. He crept up tae it an' peeked roon th' side only tae see a huge seal wi' brammer smooth skin sunnin' itself oan a rock. Withit a second thooght he plunged th' spear in tae th' side ay th' seal. Unluckily th' seal rolled awa' takin' th' spear wi' it. He stared efter it despairingly. Aw ay a sudden thaur was a flash ay barry, brecht lightnin' an' it started tae poor wi' rain. He kent he coods nae gang haem withit a seal but he was awreddy drooched ben. He trudged haem crestfallen.

Luckily his guidwife an' bairns waur it. A few hoors later thaur cam a knock oan th' duir. He opened it an' peered it in tae th' darkness. "Hello" he called. But aw 'at replied was th' howl ay th' win' an' th' patterin' ay th' rain. He shook his heed an' started tae close th' duir, but jist as he turned awa' a voice called frae th' darkness ay th' nicht "help" He ance again flung open th' duir an' thaur stuid a cheil. His clase waur tattered an' patched an' his coocon was smudged wi' mud an' dirt. "Please help me" he cried. "My guidwife is dyin' an' mah bairns ur starvin'". "I-I-I'll come straecht away" Archie stammered, reachin' fur his jeekit. He slipped it oan an' ain stepped it in tae th' poorin' rain. He shivered. Th' cheil beckoned heem an' together they walked roon tae th' back ay th' hoose. Suddenly somethin' dazzled Archie. When he hud recovered he gasped! Thaur in front ay them stuid a cart but strangest ay aw was 'at harnessed tae th' cart stuid tois bonnie horses but they weren't normal they waur glowin' a bonnie, deep blue. He blinked an' frowned th' horses waur noo a mirk shade ay pink! Th' cheil beckoned again an' they leaped oan tae th' cart. As he jumped up a strange tinglin' spreid ower heem. He

frowned again. he was jist in th' wey o say somethin' when th' cart jolted an' he was knocked back in tae his seat. they zoomed pest th' landscape. everythin' was a blur. then th' cart jolted again an' they cam tae a gonnae-no. they climbed slowly it ay th' cart an' archie realised they waur standin' oan a sheer cliff. "my hoose is doon there" the stranger said. "d-doon thaur?" stammered archie pointin' doon ower th' cliff. "of coorse" answered th' stranger calmly. archie peered ower th' side. he coods see naethin' but th' crashin' brine below. stumblin' forward he looked again. aw ay a sudden he felt a vice loch grip oan his shoolders an' he was pushed forward towards th' poondin' brine. he turned his heed an' saw th' stranger. he was in th' wey o say hoo he felt when they burst th' braw brine he thought it was th' end ay heem. then he gasped. he was breathin'. they carried oan doon until they cam tae a cae. it hud a wooden duir encrusted wi' pearls. as they swam towards it it opened tae reveal a vest close in th' close thaur stuid thousands ay selkies. "please" pleaded th' stranger. "help mah mammy th' queen selkie". "i'm sorry Ah don't ken onie first aid" answered archie. "joost

push th' woonds together" replied th' stranger. He led heem in tae a side room an' oan a white scratcher gart ay silk lay a seal. He recognised it as th' a body 'at hud got awa' frae heem. He pulled it th' chib an' as best he coods fused th' woond together it was noo only a faint scar. The seal rose frae 'er scratcher an' thanked Archie happily. They walked it ay th' room an' a' fowk cheered. The cheil cam ower tae heem 'at hud broocht heem haur. "Yoo can gang haem but ye main tryst ne'er tae harm anither seal in yer life" said th' cheil. "Promise" vowed Archie an' eveyain was satisfied. The cheil took heem haem an' jist as he was in th' wey o shake his hain when he drapped a poke ay gauld in tae his hans. "tThank ye, thank yoo" said Archie happily an' he lived happily ever efter withit killin' anither seal again.