

Eence apou a time, by Vagaland

Aald Minnie tells some faersim stories
Shö says da trows comes oot at nicht
Ta waander roond among da hooses
Fae dayset till da moarnin-licht.

Shö says dey wait oot by da brig-stens
Ta tak bad bairns awa some place;
Da warst o dem is Peesterleetie,
Terrie Mittens an Trunsher Face

My maamie says hit's jöst a story
Laek what's ita da Fairy Tells:
Der naethin waitin ida mirkenin
Fir peerie bairns at's furt demsells.

Bit whin da nicht is gettin darker,
Dat dark at I can hardly see,
I tink, 'If A'm bön bad, dan maybe
Da Trows nicht come an look fir me.'

An I maan geng, whin lamps is lichtit,
Fir mylk, becaase we hae nae coo,
Doon ower da gaet, an by da Shapel,
An on alang da burn-broo.

An cross da dark-broon, froadin watter,
Fae steppin-sten ta steppin-sten;
Hit seems dat far ta lichtit windows
Apo da lang hill-gaet my lane.

A'll never leet! A'll tak my pistol,
Da een at Santie brocht fir me,
My bran-new, sheenin automatic
An a box o kyepps ta lodd her wi.

A'll lodd her up, an tak my blinkie;
Dan I can traivel ony place,

An A'm no faered fir Peesterleetie,
Terrie Mittens or Trunsher Face!

Wirds:

dayset	sunset
warst	worst
oot by	beyond, out past
mirkenin	darkening
furt	(adv) outside
demsells	themselves; on their own
bön	been
I maan (or man)	I must
gaet	path, track
geng	go
burn-broo	edge of the burn
froadin	foaming
my lane	on my own (<i>pronounce len</i>)
leet	as used here A'll never leet - I'll pay no heed to that!
brocht (or browt)	brought
kyepps	caps
blinkie	torch, flashlight
faered	scared

Grammar points:

1. Da trows **comes** oot at nicht.

Whin lamps **is** lichtit.

Singular verb after plural noun. This is a traditional Shetland/Scots grammar feature, still commonly heard. It is wrong *in English*.

2. **A'm** bön bad. Use of the verb 'to be' with the perfect tense.

Very commonly used in Shetland. E.g. '**Is** du heard?' '**Is** he left already?'

'**You're** left da gate open.'