## **Talk Show**

## AN INSPECTOR REBUS STORY

Lowland Radio was a young but successful station broadcasting to lowland Scotland\*. It was said that the station owed its success to two very different personalities. One was the DJ on the mid-morning slot, an abrasive and aggressive Shetland Islander\*, called Hamish MacDiarmid. MacDiarmid hosted a phone-in, supposedly concerning the day's headlines, but in fact these were of relatively minor importance. People did not listen to the phone-in for opinion and comment: they listened for the attacks MacDiarmid made on just about every caller. There were occasional fierce interchanges, interchanges the DJ nearly always won by dint of severing the connection with anyone more intelligent, better informed, or more rational than himself.

Radiosender, der ... ausstrahlte • verdankte • Sendeplatz • ruppig • moderierte • angeblich

heftig • Wortwechsel • dadurch, dass er ... abbrach

Das Gebiet zwischen den Städten Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Perth und Dundee bezeichnet man als Lowlands. Es gilt als das wirtschaftliche und kulturelle Zentrum Schottlands. Die Lowlands liegen zwischen den Southern Uplands, dem südlichen Bergland, das bis zur englisch-schottischen Grenze reicht, und den Highlands, dem gebirgigen Hochland im Norden. Noch weiter im Nordosten, in einiger Entfernung zum Festland, befinden sich die Inselgruppen der Orkney- und Shetland-Inseln.

info

(Polizei-)Revier

Rebus knew that there were men in his own station who would try to take a break between ten-forty-five and eleven-fifteen just to listen. The people who phoned the show knew what they'd get, of course: that was part of the fun. Rebus wondered if they were masochists, but in fact he knew they probably saw themselves as challengers. If they could best Mac Diarmid, they would have 'won'. And so MacDiarmid himself became like some raging bull, entering the

ring every morning for another joust with the pica-

dors. So far he'd been goaded but not wounded, but

who knew how long the luck would last ...?

Herausforderer

• übertreffen •

wütend • Stier •

Zweikampf •

gereizt •

anhalten

ätherisch • verführerisch

verführerisch

beruhigend • besänftigend •

Ratschläge

unsicher • schüchtern

The other 'personality' – always supposing personality could be applied to someone so ethereal – was Penny Cook, the softly spoken, seductive voice on the station's late-night slot. Five nights a week, on her show What's Cookin', she offered a mix of sedative music, soothing talk, and calming advice to those who took part in her own phone-in segment. These were very different people from those who chose to confront Hamish MacDiarmid. They were quietly worried about their lives, insecure, timid; they had home problems, work problems, personal problems. They were the kind

## **Übung 1** Sind die folgenden Aussagen wahr oder falsch? Tragen Sie ein T für true oder ein F für false in die Kästchen ein.

- **1.** Hamish MacDiarmid hosted a mid-morning radio show.
- Lots of people listened to his show because it was rather informative.
- **3.** Penny Cook's callers were aggressive and troublesome.
- Penny offered them advice when they told her about their problems.
- **5.** Inspector Rebus listened to Penny's show every night.
- **6.** He did not know what Penny looked like.

of people, Rebus mused, who got sand kicked in their faces. MacDiarmid's callers, on the other hand, were probably the ones doing the kicking...

Perhaps it said something about the lowlands of Scotland that Penny Cook's show was said to be the more popular of the two. Again, people at the station talked about it with the fervour usually reserved for TV programmes.

'Did you hear yon guy with the bend in his tackle ...?'
'That woman who said her husband didn't satisfy her ...'
'I felt sorry for that hooker though, wantin' out o' the game ...'

And so on. Rebus had listened to the show himself a few times, slumped on his chair after closing-time. But never for more than a few minutes; like a bedtime story, a few minutes of Penny Cook sent John Rebus straight to the land of Nod. He'd wondered what she looked like. Husky, comfortable, come-to-bed: the picture of her he'd built up was all images, but none of them exactly physical. Sometimes she sounded blonde and tiny, sometimes statuesque with flowing raven hair. His picture of Hamish MacDiarmid was much more vivid: bright red beard, caber-tossing\* biceps and a kilt\*.

sinnierte

galt als

Eifer

jenen Kerl • Sprung in der Schüssel • Nutte

zusammengesackt • Sperrstunde • Reich der

Reich der Träume • rau

wie von klassischer Schönheit

- rabenschwarz
- leuchtend

Bei den traditionellen Highland Games ist der caber toss eine der schwerathletischen Disziplinen. Das Werfen eines circa 5 Meter langen und bis zu 70 Kilogramm schweren Baumstamms erfordert enorme Kraft und Geschicklichkeit. Dabei ist nicht die Weite ausschlaggebend für den Sieg, sondern die Position des geworfenen Stamms. Das schmale Ende des Stamms, das der Wettkampfteilnehmer in den Händen hält, muss nach dem Wurf möglichst senkrecht nach oben zeigen.

Es ist üblich, dass die Teilnehmer der Highland Games im kilt, dem knielangen, karierten Schottenrock, auftreten. info