

Diarmid Murchadh

Gender	Hero	Allegiance	Role	Apparent Age
Male	Yes	Dael/Ranald	Supporting	35

Stories/Function

Diarmid Murchadh serves as the [7th Earl of Uisdean](#), acting as a reluctant but vital bridge between the rebellious “Sea Kings” and the central authority of [King Alasdair V](#). Having succeeded to the title following the controversial death of his cousins, his primary narrative function is navigating the blood feud between his house and the Crown while maintaining the stability of the [Kingdom](#).

Description

Diarmid is a dark-haired man with the first signs of grey showing at his temples. Born in 739, he was the grandson of the 4th Earl and never expected to inherit the Earldom. Consequently, he received a sophisticated education, matriculating at the [University of Dalreoch](#) in 753 to study Liberal Arts and Philosophy. He is a Master of Arts and a seasoned traveller, having visited Berenicia, Zushonia, and Skyss as a courier and assistant to the Secretary of State.

Politically, he is strategic and cautious. He is a veteran of the [Queen's War](#), where he served as Agitant of the [Unicorn Troop](#). Though he lacked a mount, he campaigned with the troop in support of [Queen Caoimhe](#). Following the Queen's exile, he developed a close friendship with [Iain Alpin](#) while acting as a courier to keep links with the exiled monarch open.

Marriage and Scandal

Diarmid's personal life and succession are mired in tragedy and political tension:

- **First Marriage:** He married Niamh Sioltach, the youngest daughter of the [Earl of Duffjord](#), in 756 as a reward for his service to the Unicorn Troop. Niamh died in childbirth in 763, though their son, Diarmid, survived.
- **Second Marriage:** In 773, he married [Senga Riata](#), a woman highly educated in statecraft and household management. They recently welcomed a daughter, Caoimhe.
- **The Succession Scandal:** Diarmid became Earl in 773 only after his cousins, the 5th and 6th Earls, were killed by the King at [Caer Suibhne](#). While the King claims they attempted treason, Diarmid is privately convinced of their murder and the breach of hospitality, though he has been forced to swear an oath of allegiance under threat of extirpation.

Relationships

People

- [King Alasdair V](#): His sovereign, whom he distrusts but serves to preserve his family lands.
- [Senga Riata](#): His second wife and close confidante.
- [Sir Iain Alpin](#): A long-time friend from their years in exile and service to the former Queen.

- **Diarmid Murchadh**: His eldest son and heir (born 763).
- **Murdo Sioltach**: His former father-in-law and a key naval ally.

Places

- **Uisdean Mor**: His ancestral seat and the heart of the Murchadh raiding power.
- **Dalreoch**: Where he spent his youth as a student and courtier.
- **Caer Suibhne**: The site of his cousins' deaths and his own forced oath of allegiance.

[Skyss - Story Background](#) [Characters](#) [Skyss - Places](#) [Pantheon of Skyss](#) [Other Background](#)

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