

# Queen Caoimhe Ranald

[Queen Caoimhe](#) (whose name means “Beautiful, gentle, kind”) was the former reigning monarch of the [Grand Duchy of Dael Riata](#). She was the only child of King [Alasdair IV](#) (reigned 700–739) and the mother of the current sovereign, [Alasdair V](#).

## Accession and Regency

Caoimhe came to the throne at the age of nine in 739, following the death of her father in an ambush by [Bernician](#) nobles during his ill-fated attempt to claim the southern throne. Due to her youth, she was governed by a council of regents that included [Sean Alpin](#), the Earl of [Ardmor](#). During this period, the Earl's wife, [Ealasaid Riata](#), acted as the Queen's matron and oversaw her welfare.

Early in her reign, she made a significant political move to “clip the wings” of the [Murchadh](#) family by translating the father of [Bhaltair Gilranald](#) to the Earldom of [Norpen](#), displacing the Murchadhs from those northern islands.

## Scandal and Religious Tension

As she reached adulthood, Caoimhe's rule became increasingly controversial:

- **The Skyssian Merchant:** She became enamoured with a “[suspicious Skyssian merchant](#)” and confided in her matron that she intended to marry him and name him Prince Consort. While the merchant eventually escaped Dael Riata, he was the father of her son, [Alasdair V](#) (born 754).
- **Religious Reforms:** She attempted to re-introduce Skyssian gods to Dael Riata, seeking to replace the traditional Daelian deities worshipped by the small folk and the nobility.

## Deposition and Abdication

The combination of her Skyssian relationship and her religious policies led to a civil war beginning in 754, during which the Queen was captured. A coalition of powerful nobles—including [Domnhall Murchadh](#) and [Sean Alpin](#)—feared she would bring Dael Riata under the control of Skyssian factions. Under immense pressure and for the “integrity of the kingdom,” Queen Caoimhe was forced to abdicate in 756/7. She was succeeded by her infant son, with the realm entering a long period of regency dominated by the very nobles who had deposed her.

## Relationships

### People

- [Alasdair IV](#): Her father, whose death led to her childhood accession.
- [Alasdair V](#): Her son and successor.

- [Sean Alpin](#): Her former regent and advisor who eventually helped orchestrate her removal.
- [Domnhall Murchadh](#): A leader of the coalition that forced her abdication, who held his own claim to the throne through his mother.

## Places

- [Dalreoch](#): The capital where she was raised as a ward.
- [Norpen](#): The site of her political maneuver against the Murchadh family.

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

fantasy, world-building, Skyss, skyss chars, Caoimhe, Ranald, 2026, Player: James

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Last update: **15 Mar 2026 15:48**

