



## **At First I Was Afraid... (I Was Petrified!)**

**Douglas Maxwell**

*Libra is a Fairy Godcarer. In this speech, they appear before Cleo, who struggles with anxiety. Libra reassures Cleo that it's okay to be worried sometimes.*

**LIBRA:** It's fine to be worried. Worrying means that you're imagining consequences, yeah? It means you have something at stake in your own life. People who don't worry don't care, and who cares about people who don't care? D'you know what I mean?

You've just got to keep those worries in their place. They're not the main course... they're a spice. A little bit of zest to sprinkle over your life here and there for a bit of oomph. After all, you can't eat a great big bowl of paprika, can you now? No. So keep the worries in a tiny little jar at the back of your mind cupboard where they belong.

*(Cleo is still petrified.)*

But okay... I'm not gonna lie: sometimes things do go wrong. Accidents happen. Mistakes are made. Stuff doesn't always turn out the way you want it to. Sometimes you fail. Sometimes you get ill. It's a crazy world... it's a maddening world... but it is no way an awful world. Because for all the problems humankind has caused, humankind will find a solution. Trust me. Humankind is astonishingly good at finding solutions to things. In fact it's our most attractive trait. And yeah, it would be quite nice if humankind didn't cause all the problems in the first place, but what ye gonna do? And guess who's finding the solutions to all those problems?

*(Cleo doesn't know.)*

Worriers. But nothing'll get done if all the worriers stay in their bedrooms will it? Nah, we need the worriers out there on the street: putting their hands up... volunteering... making suggestions... starting clubs... taking risks... ignoring the haters... climbing that wall and screaming at the tops of their lungs.

*(Seriously.)* Do you believe me, Cleo? Can you feel... in your heart... that you... you... have the power to make this a better world? Can you be brave? Can you inspire?

*(Cleo nods.)*