

**Positive
Stories
For
Negative
Times**

**Season 2
2021/22**

Presented by

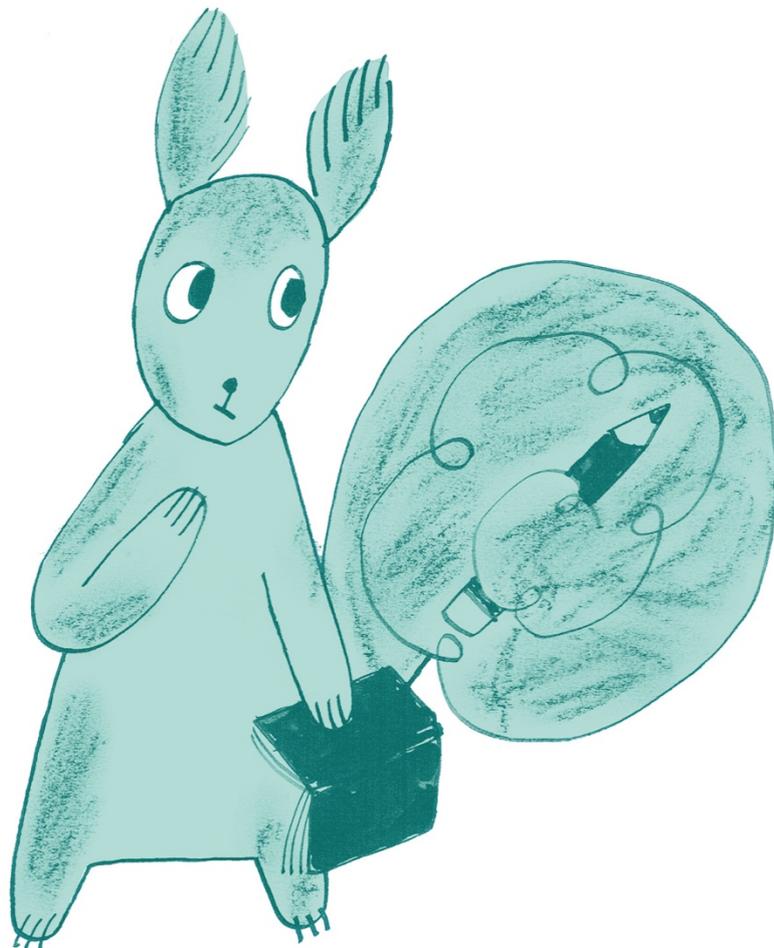
**WONDER
FOOLS**

In association with



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

by Douglas Maxwell



CAST

P7/S1/S2s

Cleo (f)
Jess (f)
Lachlan (m)
Shelly The Boy (m)
Joop (m)
Sharp (m)
Shelly (f)
Kirsty (f)
Marion/Propeller (f)
Classmate (m/f)

Younger

Georgie (f)

Adults

Mrs Sisko (f)
Mum (f)
Rude Teacher (m/f)
Mrs Strain (f)
Grampa (m)
Mr Proudhand (m)
(*On TV*) Boris Johnson (m)

FairyGodcarer

Libra (None/Every)

NOTES

The stage directions in this play are written so they can be read aloud.

They can be distributed amongst a large group of performers, line by line, section by section or they can be given to a Storyteller, or a group of Storytellers.

But you don't need to do that if you don't want to.

If you'd rather you can treat them as traditional stage directions and show us what they describe.

Or you can read some and show others or use them in any other way you like. Whatever's best for your production.

It's entirely up to you...

ONE

At first...

There's nothing.

*Then the big bell rings...
And a rumble thunders from deep within...
Louder and louder
Till the double doors crash open and out they pour...*

*The Primary Sevens.
No. That's wrong. They're not Primary Sevens anymore.
Today is their very last day.*

*See...you can tell by the way they charge for the gate
Their school shirts scribbled in Sharpie
Leavers Hoodies swung over their shoulders
Tears from some
Shouts from others
Everyone running like mad for the summer.*

*No, not everyone.
Cleo waits by the door...as she always does.
She likes to have a wee word with her teacher at the end of each day...*

- Cleo Mrs Sisko...Can I tell you the memory that I'll never forget?
- Mrs Sisko What, from Primary Seven?
- Cleo Yeah.
- Mrs Sisko I'll bet it was when you were voted School Captain.
- Cleo Nah. Although that was pretty cool. No, my favourite Primary Seven memory was when we all went on our outward-bound week to Glen Hunter, 'member? I was the only one who was brave enough to climb up to the top of the climbing wall...and I stood there...teetering on the very top edge...and my legs were shaking in fear...but I spread out my arms...and I screamed and I screamed as loud as I could...do you remember that Mrs Sisko?
- Mrs Sisko (*Smiling*) Of course. That was you being you, Cleo. Brave and inspirational. Tell you something...I'm really gonna miss that. Just like I'm gonna miss your wee hand shooting up before I've even finished asking a question.
- Cleo And all my suggestions for how to make your lessons better. You'll probably miss those as well won't you?
- Mrs Sisko (*Not so sure about that one*) Eeem...yeah. Probably.
- Cleo Well, don't you worry Mrs Sisko, I'm sure the new P7s will be just as brave and inspirational as I was. (*Heading off*) Have a good summer!
- Mrs Sisko You too, pet. (*Calling after Cleo as she moves off...*) Hey Cleo! Wait. One last cuddle. (*As she gives her a hug...seriously...*)

Listen...High School is...it can be a little bit different at first. Okay? Just be yourself...and don't let anyone... (*doesn't finish that thought.*) Just you be you.

Cleo I will. Are you crying Mrs Sisko?

Mrs Sisko (*Wiping the tears*) Who me?! No! My Hay Fever always kicks in on the last day of term. It's a weird coincidence.

Cleo Oh no. Do you have any medicine that works?

Mrs Sisko Yeah. It comes all the way from Russia, and when you mix it with Diet Coke it's a wonder-cure. (*Seriously...*) I'm here if you need me, right Cleo?

Cleo Right. But I'm not worried.

#

Jess (*Shyly*) I'm a wee bit worried.

Cleo Are you Jess?

Jess Aye.

Cleo What, about going to High School?

Jess Aye. A wee bit.

Cleo I don't think you should be worried.

Jess Don't you? How?

Cleo Cos what's there to worry about?

Jess Well...what if I don't Glow Up?

Cleo We all grow up, Jess. That's just a fact of life in't it?

Jess. No. "Glow Up". Like, when people see you again after the summer and you're all like...*better* than you used to be. Like, more beautiful and more mature and more clever and stuff. And they're all like that, "Oh my God I didn't recognise you! You've totally Glowed Up!" And I'll be like that, "Who me? No I haven't! Shut up! Oh my God!"

Cleo Oh. Glowed Up. Yeah. (*A lie*) I know all about Glowing Up.

Jess When are you getting a phone C? Honestly. Needs to be soon. Tell your mum you need it for High School or you'll die. You're the last one left.

Cleo I don't want a phone. What I want...is to kick-start Descendants Club.

*Cleo and Jess are in Cleo's room.
They've been best pals since Nursery School
Confidantes since before they could talk*

*In the real world Jess is shy, but that's alright
Cleo's got enough words for them both.
They're wearing bits and pieces of fancy dress
Because on the last Friday of every month that's what they do...*

Cleo (Looking at her watch) Right. I doubt anyone else is coming. As usual.

Jess But...what if we get to High School and...? (*Trails off*)

Cleo And what?

Jess And we just, like...disappear?

Cleo Disappear?

Jess Yeah. Or worse...what if they *see* us? Like...really see us. And they laugh.

Cleo Who?

Jess I dunno. Everyone. The older ones. Teachers. Boys.

Cleo Boys?! Who cares about boys! Minging wee robots.

*Stand aside!
An army of boys, coming through!*

Boys (*Chanting as they march past....*) FOOTBALL! FORTNITE!
FORTNITE! FOOTBALL! FOOTBALL! FORTNITE!
FORTNITE! FOOTBALL!...etc. etc....

Jess (*When they've gone...*) They're not ALL like that. There's a WhatsApp group for our class right, and some of them are actually pretty okay on it. Sometimes. A wee bit. Kind of.

Cleo Who?

Jess I dunno. Lachlan? He's all like...

Lachlan (*On WhatsApp, very excited...*) Yesiree. Musicals are the ultimate best cos everyone sings together at the end. I know it's cheesy but if everyone sings at the end then it makes tomorrow easier to deal with and what's wrong with that? I pure loveheart musicals. Who else pure lovehearts musicals? Gif Of The Guy From Schitt's Creek Going... (*Makes a happy face*).

Jess And Shelly The Boy's alright.

Cleo Shelly The Boy does WhatsApp?! Oh my God. I've never even heard him speak. What does he say?

Jess Not much. Just, like...

Shelly The Boy (*On WhatsApp, quietly...*) Hi.

Jess Or...