

Mary Courtney

Making Safe

Peace is stroking the dragon outside the cave
Giving him food, scratching his scales
Tending his tooth, soothing his rumbling
Pulling splinters from his flaming tongue
Singing *Georgina Kissed the Dragon* - his lullaby song

Peace is stroking the dragon outside the cave,
Getting on with the dragon-work

Tending and tending, pretending
Knowing it's what happens on the outside
It's the countenance that counts -
What you see is what is real
What you do, not what you feel

So getting on with it on with it on with it
Getting on, with the dragon-work

Hoping tending may lead to a better ending
Or if not better, then at least not worse.
Taking a tinge of a tincture of Marcus Aurelius
A blarn of the blarney, a prayer to St Delius
Then getting on with it on with it on with it

Getting on with it on with it on with it
Getting on, with the dragon-work

Stroking the dragon outside the cave
Giving him cloves, paring his nails
Heeling his hooves, soothing his blundering
Pulling fingers from his flaming tongue
Repeating the safe of the safe combination

Peace is stroking the dragon outside the cave
Keeping a bolt in your pocket, just in case