

Advice to Beginners
By Ellen Kort

Begin.
Keep on beginning.
Nibble on everything.
Take a hike.
Teach yourself to whistle.
Lie.
The older you get the more they'll want your stories,
make them up.
Talk to stones.
Short out electric fences.
Swim with the sea turtle to the moon.
Learn how to die.
Eat moonshine pie.
Drink wild guaium tea.
Run naked in the rain.
Everything that happens will happen
and none of us will be safe from it.
Pull up anchors.
Sit close to the goddess of the night.
Lie still in a stream and breath water.
Climb to the top of the highest tree until you come to the
branch where the blue heron sleeps.
Eat poems for breakfast, wear them on your forehead.
Lick the mountains bare shoulder.
Measure the color of days around your birthday.
Put your hands over your face and listen to what they tell you.