

How It Begins

by [Marjorie Stelmach](#) in the [September 2022](#) issue

*While I thought that I was learning how to live,
I have been learning how to die.*

— *Leonardo da Vinci*

It will come to you wrapped
in the soft cerements
 of the after-dark rains,
will enter your awareness like
the whisper of a long-ago companion.

You will want to stay.

No one will insist you welcome it.
At first, you will speak more often
 in the future tense,
but soon you will tire of words
and wish for a silence in which to

make ready.

You may trust in this: that all will be
accomplished with immense care.

Your body,
old companion, will still be there
to lead you, having always known

the way.