

*The female of the species
loses her next turn
and picks a penalty card.*

*On most days, those
partly sunny days that bridge the
rainbow sunshine days and the mudcold-
gray days*

*womanhood outfits me in a
flannel shirt and jeans
and hands me a hardhat just like
everyone else's. I go about my work like
a giraffe foraging the high branches:
stretching myself comfortably.
As I hang lighting fixtures and make splices,
I sing to myself*

*and tell myself stories.
Everything I do
is competent enough.*

*The female of the species
advances 1 space
and awaits her next turn.*

Susan Eisenberg ©1982

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- Susan Eisenberg is a member of Local 103 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in Boston. In 1982 she graduated from IBEW 103's apprenticeship program in its first class to include women. A recent book of her poetry, *It's a Good Thing I'm Not Macho*, is available from Whetstone Press, 94 Green Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Eisenberg gives poetry readings for labor and women's groups and conferences.