



THE LANGUAGE OF LIFE | FRANCIS S. COLLINS

HARPER



## *the* PRAIRIE FAIRY

*The prairie fairy is real, you know,  
I'm a man of faith, and I know it's so,  
So come and walk down the trail with me,  
And I'll try to explain prairie reverie.*

*The fairy and I went to the prairie,  
And climbed down a flower the color of cherry,  
And the fairy told me that this was a door  
To a world of mystery and fanciful lore.*

*And then she took me to the roots deep down  
To see the carbon being placed in the ground,  
And I met the microbes and other living things,  
Thriving on what the plants were manufacturing.*

*An earthworm I met said he doesn't work for a living,  
But simply lives off of what the plant is giving,  
"The carbon comes down and into my snout  
And then into the soil as I move about."*

*In the spring the fairy gave me a ring,  
Saying the time has come for me to bring,  
Buyers of carbon stored by prairie roots,  
She gave me a wink – we're in cahoots.*

*And once the money began to flow,  
The fair fairy reflected a golden glow,  
Money for prairies bodes well for her,  
And just like a cat, I can hear her purr.*

*The fairy and I need help with this vision,  
To pull humans forward on this critical decision,  
Carbon neutral requires creating a market,  
A billion tons of carbon stored is our target.*

*The time is upon us to become carbon neutral,  
We'll heal the Earth, and make ourselves useful,  
But we all must pay the farmer and rancher  
To plant more prairies – now that's the answer.*

*So welcome to Earth church  
Let the prairie be your pew  
Become one with the fairy  
And help remove carbon too.*