



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.*