

THE PAINTBRUSH PRAIRIE

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THE GOOD EARTH

.....In the early Spring, before the first blade of prairie grass or prairie forb emerges from the soil, and a myriad of colors, forms, and angles become distractions, the "THE GOOD EARTH" itself is the most conspicuous element of the prairie landscape. At the time, if our senses are acute enough, we will hear the ice crystals in the soil earth expanding and breaking, and at decibel levels only slightly higher than the beating of butterfly wings, the sound of capillary action in the soil as moisture rises to the surface and disperses as wisps of vapor into the atmosphere. We would feel the hibernators beginning to stir from their winter nests and the swell of the soft earth beneath our feet. "THE GOOD EARTH" is awakening.

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