



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BURT

Sam Burt is a recent graduate of Grinnell College, currently living in Grinnell, Iowa. Post-grad, he's enjoying spending his days spread-eagled on the lawn with his dog Abby.

Prairie Burn

SAM BURT

The earth teemed
with jazzy knuckle-cracks
keeping time beneath
high boots and wild ginger
shoots too cool
to light, though
sweating dew...

The burn—too quick
to scorch soil—only
painted,
with oil begged
from every bluestem root,
onto a glossy veneer:

an uneven, inky iridescence;
a toad's damp spine;

wet-shine, smoking
like a body in night-rain,
surprising my downstretched
fingertips with a chalky
black chill

licking nails
as silver
as a cold-sweat shiver. 🍃