

BOOK CLUB REPORT – January 16, 2018

A lively group of ten met to discuss Madder Carmine by Edmonton writer and photographer, Tyler Enfield. This is the story of Dante's Inferno written as an American Western and offered the group a delightful trip through a funny, imaginary, and gross, Hills of Appalachia hell, just like Dante's Inferno but from a different perspective. Most readers were in awe of the number of creative, profound and outright funny statements the author managed to jam into the story; for example: "hemophiliac glass cutters" and "vegetarian cannibals". The story follows Dannon's search for his Madder Carmine along with a slave guide named Virgil as they trek the country side and swamps, searching for their redemption in the women they hold in their hearts in a town called Vahallah (heaven). Some of the characters they meet along the way are a mule named Jimmy-on a-Rope, Levi-Such and Such: a snake charmer, Otis and wife Birdy are the boatmen on the Styx, A Cherokee Chief as a sibyl, Sister Dinah, Tally Rose the prostitute, and Odessa, Virgil's original owner, and the Devil in Will Lawson, who is trying to kill them. The group enjoyed the authors humor and profound and funny statements but mostly felt there were too many characters and too many stories to examine. It would have been an easier read had we all read the Inferno beforehand. However, it did conger up a great discussion and was rated as 7.1. The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2018 and the book will be The Shoe on the Roof by Will Ferguson.