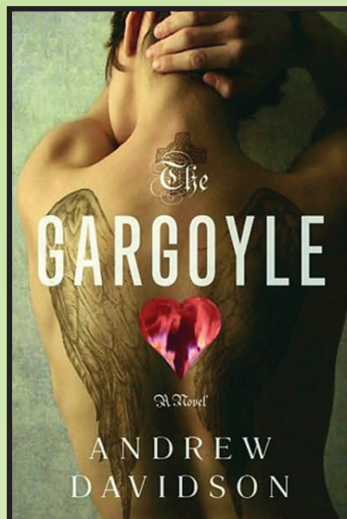


# LOL

## LADIES ON LITERATURE

A Kelowna based book club with a difference...our appreciation of literature is matched only by our love of wine and a good time! That's our twitter tag (please follow us!) and why not join us on line? Let us know what you're book club is reading. We'd love to see your insights, receive your recommendations (including recipes and wine) and maybe share a few laughs.

We're well into our second season and the literature-loving ladies who hosted the following books selected Canadian content: all of them award winning. Here's to this nation's writers and their novels, worthy reads from our deep pool of talent.



**The Gargoyle**  
by Andrew Davidson

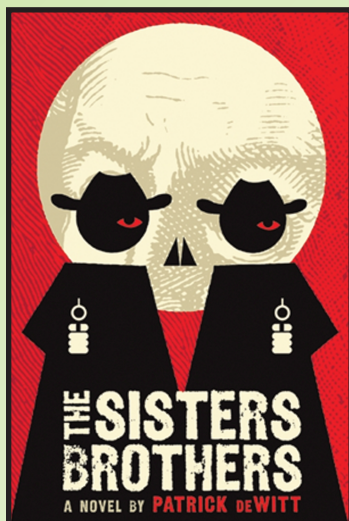
Cindy G's choice, it's been a long time since I was this enthralled with a book. Readers will be immediately drawn in as Davidson opens with a detailed, darkly detached description of a horrific car accident and the subsequent burning of the victim--the novel's unnamed protagonist. Writers will be in awe of his lovely, lyrical work.

Each sentence is carefully constructed, yet the rhythm is so fluid, the story so engaging, reading it is like rocking in a river of macabre prose. Davidson's descriptions of the physical pain and the disgusting smell of being burned alive are so vivid, they may make stomachs churn, and yet--the victim tells the tale of his torture as though he were relaying some kind of beastly bedtime story. It will simultaneously horrify and intrigue you, like coming upon an accident you can't help craning your neck from the passenger seat to see.

When Marianne Engel, "a wild-haired, schizophrenic sculptress on the lam from the psych ward upstairs" walks into the victim's hospital room, claiming she's not only known him, but loved him--for 700 years--the novel becomes a journey of healing. Marianne Engel keeps the burned man alive and ultimately wins his love through the retelling of their own story, along with tales of other lovers' immortal intimacy, in Sheherazade style.

"The Gargoyle is an extraordinary novel of love that transcends the boundaries of time. It will have you believing in miracles, in love, and in the immortal power of storytelling."

No surprise, this one scored our first 5/5 Cheers!



The Sisters Brothers  
by Patrick DeWitt

Okay, I'll admit it. When Laurie selected the Sisters Brothers, I was intrigued by the title but unsure of the genre. This is not your typical Western, however. In fact, it's not your typical novel.

The story follows two brothers, Eli and Charlie Sisters, infamous assassins traveling across California and Oregon in search of their victim, Hermann Kermit Warm; a man they ultimately find endearing.

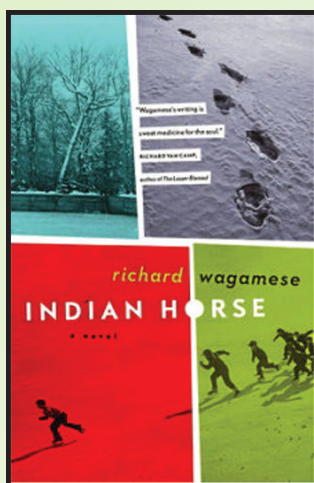
Script-like, according to some, the book does not follow a traditional, character arc but is rather a journey of one man's search for himself and struggle for place and identity, separate from the brother he loves. Eli meets various characters and ultimately puts his own, twisted (but true) sense of morality to the test. A chivalrous poet who offers ladies his coat and loves his horse on the one hand, but can turn around and kill a man in cold blood with the other, Eli is the perfect anti-hero.

I loved DeWitt's, well--wit! Everyone agreed his writing is deftly dry and darkly funny, though some members struggled half way through the book and there were mixed feelings about the senseless violence.

It's quirky, maybe even Canadian, in its unsentimental, straight up, suck-it-up portrayal of the violent wild west as seen through the eyes of a henchman by day, closet romantic by night.

Despite being highly decorated (winner of the 2011 GG Award as well as the Rogers Writers' Trust Prize & finalist for the Giller) I don't know that I'd have picked this book up, but I loved it--and isn't that what book club is all about?

4/5 Cheers!



Indian Horse  
by Richard Wagamese

When Karen & Bonnie chose Indian Horse, I was thrilled. Written by a friend and colleague, I first met Richard when he took to the stage at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. A true story teller (with a panache for acting), he speaks as beautifully as he writes.

Indian Horse tells the story of Saul, an Ojibway gifted with the sight, who endures a life marked by sorrow but graced with spirit.

Taken forcibly from his family when he's sent to residential school, salvation comes for a while through his incredible gifts as a hockey player. But in the harsh realities of 1960's Canada, he battles obdurate racism and the spirit-destroying effects of cultural alienation and displacement.

Wagamese pays particular tribute to the women of his culture, the words of Saul's grandmother weaving their way across the page. Resonating with the voice of an Ojibway elder, simply lyrical and imminently wise; warm and comforting, set against the bitter, harsh reality of the cold, Canadian winter... she infuses spirit into a culture devastated by the capture of their children and the subsequent loss of their rich, native ways.

At times gut-wrenching, always engaging, ultimately hopeful, Indian Horse is a book every Canadian should read.

4/5 Cheers!

**Hours**  
 6:00 - 6:00 Mon. to Fri.  
 8:00 - 1:00 Saturdays

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