

Book Club *Inferno*

by [Steven Peterson](#) in the [October 2024](#) issue

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We're reading the *Inferno* once again
For book club. We have read it twice before.
Though two more books had come from Dante's pen,

We stick with Hell, the subject we adore.
That book on Purgatory many doubt
And Paradise, let's face it, is a bore.

Yet Hell feels so delightful, all about
The kinds of people we have known in life,
Landing poetic pokes on several snouts.

Divisive politics and civil strife
Remind us of today, and we discuss
If those adulterers deserved the knife.

And best of all, for all their cries and fuss,
We're merely on a tour, just passing through.
Hell is for other people—but not us.

We'll never get to Paradise. Will you?