

*Dreamland Court* by Dale Herd (City Point Press)

Just finished *Dreamland Court*. I'm in awe of Dale Herd's ability to enter into the minds of all these characters, and to keep us following all the criss-crossing threads of events and desires. He creates a wide thought landscape—monologue, interior monologue, letters—of a community on the edge, struggling with addiction, crime and passion. Reading it, I felt as if I was a best friend, a therapist/social worker, just listening, or an ear in between phone calls. The reader becomes an intimate with the characters and their lives that are oftentimes frightening, caught as they are in a loop; it's like watching 25 versions of Sisyphus working furiously to get to each other, passionately, and then screwing it all up with the same passionate redirected energy toward someone/something else. Woven into and in between is the same desire we all have for love and connection. *Dreamland Court* is a phenomenal writerly achievement.