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Haunts of the Black Masseur is a meditation on both the act of swimming and on its cultural, literary, and psychological meaning. Sprawson writes about all this uncommonly well, making a strong case for swimming as metaphor, but what he does best of all is write about swimming itself. Informed by the literature of Swinburne, Goethe, Scott Fitzgerald, and Yukio Mishima; the films of Riefenstahl and Vigo; the Hollywood “swimming musicals” of the 1930s; and delving in and out of Olympic history, Haunts of the Black Masseur is an enthralling assessment of man—body submerged, self-absorbed. It is quite simply the best celebration of swimming ever written, even as it explores aspects of culture in a heretofore unimagined way.

Haunts of the Black Masseur is a dazzling introduction to the great swimming heroes, from Byron leaping into the surf at Shelley’s funeral to Hart Crane diving to his death in the Bay of Mexico. Bursting with anecdotes, Charles Sprawson leads us into a watery world populated by lithe demi-gods - a world that has obsessed humans from the ancient Greeks and Romans, to Yeats, Woolf, Fitzgerald and Hockney.

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Haunts of the Black Masseur: The Swimmer As Hero (Hardcover) Published February 16th 1993 by Knopf Publishing Group. Hardcover, 320 pages. Author (s): Charles Sprawson. ISBN: 0679420517 (ISBN13: 9780679420514) Edition language: English.

Haunts of the Black Masseur eBook by Charles Sprawson ...

Haunts of the Black Masseur — University of Minnesota Press

Haunts of the Black Masseur - The Swimmer as Hero ...

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