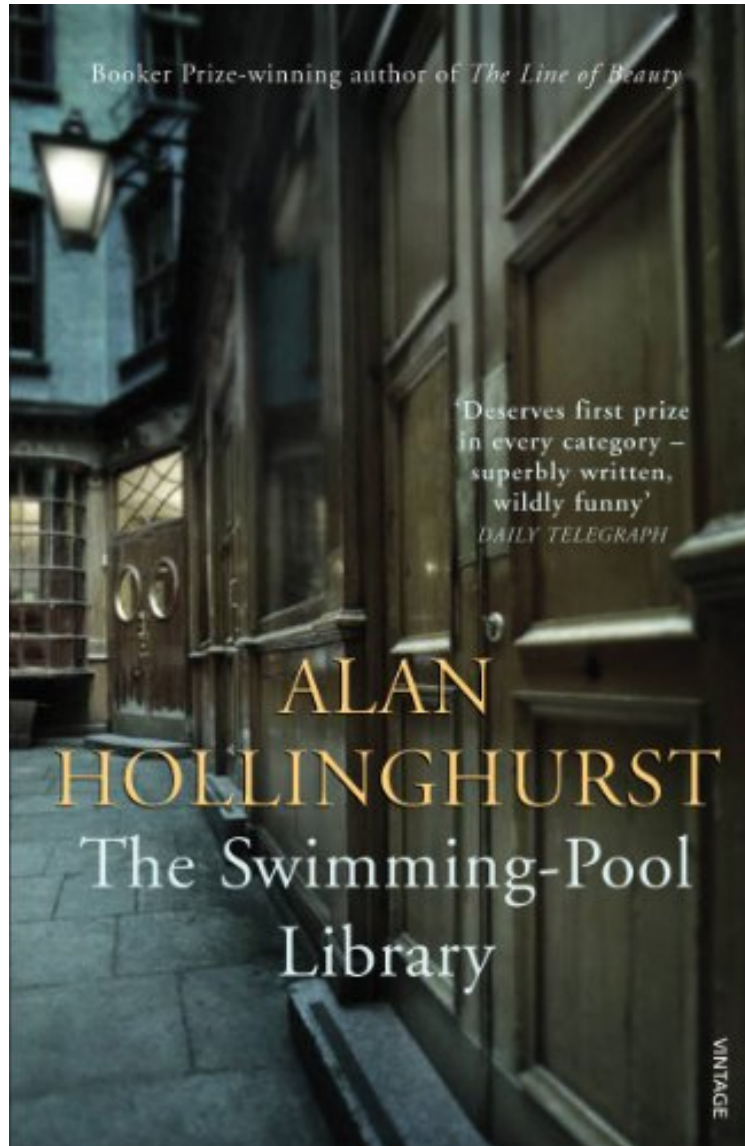


[Read free ebook] The Swimming-Pool Library (Vintage Blue)

The Swimming-Pool Library (Vintage Blue)

Von Alan Hollinghurst
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Von Alan Hollinghurst : The Swimming-Pool Library (Vintage Blue) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Swimming-Pool Library (Vintage Blue):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. On the Gay Fiction shelf...Von S. MarutaEnglis book stores have those small alcoves that read "Gay and lesbian fiction", which I've always found very funny, say how do you classify In search of lost time: "Gay and straight fiction by gay author"?But I'm digressing... I found Holinghurst's novel on one such shelf and I devoured it, because I liked

everything in it: the language, the settings and the characters. I was especially moved by the elderly Lord N. because his story belongs to a time that is lost: Edwardian homosexuality. I am not gay but I am truly fascinated by this era of (relative) sexual freedom that was born in Cambridge and Oxford at the turn of the century, in the shadow of Oscar Wilde's downfall. Nearly all of the Bloomsbury group were gay at one time or another! I cannot say I could relate as easily to contemporary, be it early 80s, gay mores but that hardly matters. On top of it, there are very erotic descriptions of the "love that dared not speak its name" (as Proust would have said) which I found extremely enjoyable.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. High Degrees of Braininess and Trashiness
Von Ein Kunde
A young English gay man from privileged class meets octogenarian privileged English gay man in a cruisy public restroom and later agrees to read older man's diaries and consider writing his biography. The reader sees similarities and differences between the lives of sexually prolific(?) homosexuals whose sexually active years occurred before and after gay sex became legal in England. Lots of titillating descriptions of men's bodies and sassy turns of phrase. The structure of the novel is inspired. Treat yourself!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Masterfull language tells self-effacing tale of man
Von Ein Kunde
Beckwith is a self-serving protagonist. The man is self-absorbed and has no pathos ...until the unforgiving conclusion. Beckwith is an inspired creature I must admit. We find a man who has all the things he thought he wanted. Does that remind you of someone you know? Beckwith's reminiscences and research of Lord Nantwich reveal a trove of desire still left unclaimed and unrealized. The comparison and contrast of Beckwith and Nantwich unmistakably defines Beckwith's situation. He has filled his life with all of the modern creature comforts and has somehow loved himself so much that he now has no one to love him back. The man is utterly alone in his crowded world with no one to understand him. Hollinghurst has made a statement about the value of such living and it is familiar and sad to many of us. The novel is full of dark and isolated sex and conflict. There is little drama but a lot of thinking going on, until the end. I was disturbed by this novel; it evoked feelings of inadequacy and discontent that I had long shrouded with meaningless little trophies and monuments I had erected to myself.

Kurzbeschreibung
Young, gay, William Beckwith spends his time, and his trust fund, idly cruising London for erotic encounters. When he saves the life of an elderly man in a public convenience an unlikely job opportunity presents itself - the man, Lord Nantwich, is seeking a biographer. Will agrees to take a look at Nantwich's diaries. But in the story he unravels, a tragedy of twentieth-century gay repression, lurk bitter truths about Will's own privileged existence.

From Publishers Weekly
On entering a London public lavatory in blithe pursuit of quick, anonymous sex, beautiful and roguish young aristocrat William Beckwith is confronted instead with an ancient, doddering member of the British House of Lords who, after muttering an incoherent string of polite non sequiturs, promptly keels over at his feet in embarrassed but undeniable coronary arrest. After saving the old man's life, Will is invited to tea by the grateful and slightly senile Lord Nantwich, who, surprised by Will's impressive lineage and appalled at his state of idle unemployment, engages the young man to write the Nantwich life story. Thus begins the unusual relationship that forms the core of this funny, sad and beautifully written novel. The Swimming Pool Library weaves a rich and fascinating tapestry of Britain's gay subculture spanning pre-World War I through the sexually abandoned early '80s, stopping short at the doorstep of AIDS. Hollinghurst's prose is fresh, witty and wise, and his ever-surprising, sinuously unfurling story is told with insouciant grace and unabashed sexuality. BOMC and QPBC alternates. (September)

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From Library Journal
This novel created quite a stir in Britain and will probably do so here for it minces no words in providing a realistic glimpse of the gay lifestyle in pre-AIDS London. Yet the approach is much more "literary" than sensational, the author masterfully re-creating a sense of time and place and the social and cultural milieu in which gay men operated. The occasionally graphic descriptions of sex will likely upset some readers, but for most the aura of unselfconscious eroticism will provide a sense of authenticity that only adds to its impact. Still, this is not a nostalgia piece; the author clearly understands that the freedom to satisfy lust often interferes with the ability to find fulfillment and love. Perceptive and well written; belongs in most academic and public libraries. David W. Henderson, Eckered Coll. Lib., St. Petersburg, Fla.
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