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Why My Hair is Greasy and Tussled

Schuyler Swartout

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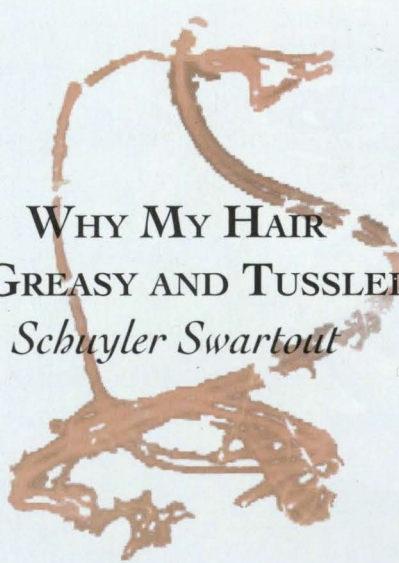


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WHY MY HAIR
IS GREASY AND TUSSELED

Schuyler Swartout

Yes, I showered
this morning, and I ran my fingers
through the back ends of my scalp,
where my ears meet my skull and back
to the fiddlehead of my spine.
Accustomed to closing my eyes,
I thought of hard kisses, the kind
they do in the movies with such gusto
to prove they're really in love.
Each fingertip through my hair, each hand
a mirrored press against myself.
Finally, I shuddered a great shudder,
saw my thousand hair-strands and
remembered how the hero carried his mother
out on his shoulders, the blades drawn out
like two rune stones on his back,
each with three-tiered whorls pointed in
toward his spindly vertebrae.
In fear, I turned off the faucet, dressed,
and left the house, shoving a hat over
my still-damp head.