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Public Bathhouse

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Public Bathhouse

Amid bars of roll-on deodorant
pH balanced, of course,
and crimson speckled cotton,
she watches her.

watches her emerge
from sheets of steam,
Aphrodite
enveloped in the
coarse whiteness
of an issued towel,
one foot upon milky bench,
the other on the moist floor.

watches her massage
red calves,
aroused by athleticism,
shaved and sleek
to breasts
ripe with heat
rounded by creation.

watches her back bend
wet, black hair
slipping past her shoulders
as she wipes away
beads of azure
clutching peach fuzz
about the navel

where the scent of
soap and lavender

hangs heavy

she turns from her
quickly to button
her blouse.

—*Paul Genesisus Durica*