

**Simone Manuel,
tell us about
your relationship
to water?**

Let's not talk about **w******/ how it stings the nose with history/ and keeps swimming toward the scalp/ don't you know that two swim caps can't keep chlorine out/ here you have it **w****** scientists and **w****** signs/ and everyone using **w****** to get out feelings/ don't you know your teachers were wrong/ working harder is not working smarter/ bc a vessel that is not built well won't run even with the biggest engine/ you see, floating is simple/ it's the science of letting go/ and saying yes, I can deal in density and still be held/ so no, it's not a miracle that I can float bc just like you I too contain a **w****** body/ in fact, I have crossed entire bodies of **w****** not knowing if I would make it/ and I am still here/ and every morning I wake up and I'm thankful for **w******/ the miracle to cleanse my body/ Listen, I've shared a lane all my life and I am tired/ so let's not talk about **w******/ puddles or sneezes and definitely not **w****** melons/ those little mothers red with insides that crack/ open and stain lessons of how hydrants hydra/ cut one open and see for yourself/ I mean who hasn't swallowed **w******/ and wanted to quit treading history's arena/ instead let's talk about hands/ how they clapped and did not kill/ the fairy or the fish/ or whatever myth you need to believe that yes/ I can breathe and carry gold under all this **w******.