

R.W. 11/12/73  
**COMPULSIVE SPY: The Strange  
Career of E. Howard Hunt. Tad Szulc.**  
Viking, \$5.95

This is a slick quickie about one of the Nixon administration's most elusive "plumbers." *New York Times* correspondent Tad Szulc, who has written numerous books more solidly compelling than this, met Hunt only once, in 1961. In trying to understand Hunt he analyzed nine of this "compulsive spy's" 45 novels, which may be adequate for the kind of "incomplete . . . sketch" he has attempted. In any case, there isn't much

here that most readers who've kept abreast of the Watergate hearings and the revelations of the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* will not already know. The book is too superficial and "iffy" for more sophisticated readers.

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