

from Juked #5, Spring 2008

FREDERICK LORD

CLASSIC STRIP POKER

She anted Isadora Duncan's scarf;
I, Pablo Neruda's socks.
We were playing five-card-advanced-
degree stud. For keeps.

She opened with Dorothy Gale's ruby slippers.
I saw them with Tom Thumb's Seven League Boots.
"And I'll raise you Gogol's overcoat."

— then watched her shrug off
Jacob's coat of many colors
and toss it onto the pile.

I decided to go all in:
Mark Twain's white suit,
Natty Bumppo's leather stockings,
Tarzan's loin cloth.

Smiling, she stepped out of
Miss Havisham's yellowed wedding dress
and Blanche Dubois' slip,
then called.