

from Juked #6, Spring 2009

RICHARD DOWNING

CROSSING CHACHAGUA BRIDGE

– on the road to Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica

Tom agrees that the bridge is a bitch
with its crooked – even missing – planks,
making crossing the valley,
 no, the canyon,
 no, the abyss
beside Chachagua

the nightmare you replayed as a child
sweating
into white sheets,
falling into the terror of falling

into the unknown,
into the mouth of the monster
only you could know.

Tom is from New Jersey.
He likes Spanish women, he says.
He says he will marry a Nicaraguan
who speaks no English,
of whom his father disapproves.

Bueno.