

# chedi gong

ANDREW LEGGETT

I

on a marble board  
at the platform's edge  
chess men stand sentinel

watching the jungle  
tumble into the gorge

a blonde woman  
in a dark sarong  
reads jeffrey archer

steps lead down  
to an empty throne  
on a sandstone shrine

II

poolside  
japanese women  
fan up a storm

my wooden banana lounge  
kindles like timber

a dive in the pool  
puts out the flame  
but not the burning

water spills over  
hot slate coping

the mind slips away  
the body grips the sign:

DEAR GUEST  
FOR SERVICE KINDLY  
HIT THE GONG

ONCE

the fist is a hammer  
sounding your absence  
shock waves reverberate

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