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6671 SUNSET BLVD., SUITE 1521
LOS ANGELES, CA 90028

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BOOKS

TOM LUTZ, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
TOM@LAREVIEWOFBOOKS.ORG

STEPHANIE MALAK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SMALAK@LAREVIEWOFBOOKS.ORG

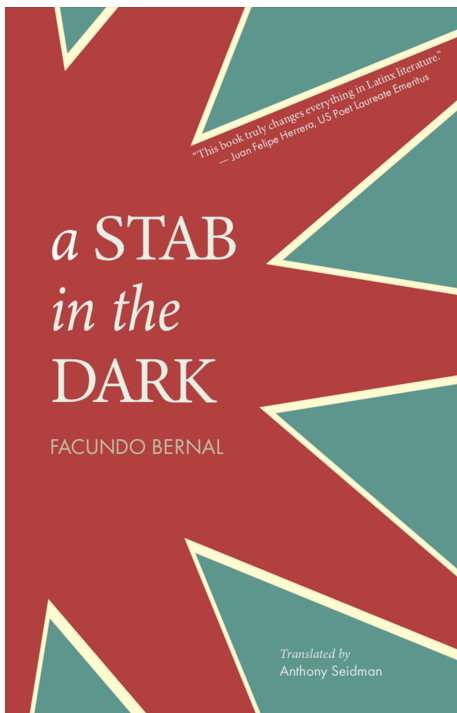
ELLIE DUKE, MANAGING EDITOR
ELEANOR@LAREVIEWOFBOOKS.ORG

“This book truly changes everything in Latinx literature.”
—Juan Felipe Herrera, US Poet Laureate Emeritus

A Stab in the Dark

By Facundo Bernal

Translated by Anthony Seidman



“A wildly energetic journalist-writer with satirical wit, a side-order of machismo, and a lifelong distrust of politicians ... Facundo Bernal’s poems are caricatures, dramatic monologues, provocations. And they are also a glorious record of theater reviews, bank foreclosures, headlines, the advent of radio, immigrant labor, and overheard talk at carnivals and in dance halls. Bernal has a keen ear for the very alive, vernacular voice of that moment, when the City of Angels was begrudgingly adjusting to its immigrant-ushered reinvention.”

—Forrest Gander

“With his grouchy, thrumming poems, Facundo Bernal reminds us that ‘assimilation’ is a myth ... Bernal records the early days of century-long Latinx resistance and adaptation to the exhausting, grotesque, and often boring dynamics of colonialism.”

—Yxta Maya Murray

“Where does the literature of Los Angeles begin? *Palos de Ciego* is one of the first books about the city, and yet it is nowhere to be found in accounts of LA literary history.”

—Josh Kun

The first title from the *Los Angeles Review of Books* is ***A Stab in the Dark***, a bilingual poetry collection by Sonoran poet and journalist Facundo Bernal, translated by Anthony Seidman.

A Stab in the Dark (*Palos de ciego*) is a poetic chronicle of the struggles and joys of the Spanish-speaking community in Los Angeles and in the burgeoning border town of Mexicali during the early 1920s. Sharply satirical yet deeply empathetic, Bernal's poems are both a landmark of Chicano literature and a captivating read. Anthony Seidman's energetic translation — the first into English — preserves the prickliness and vitality of Bernal's classic, down to the last stab. This edition also features the original Spanish text, introductions by critic Josh Kun and prominent Mexicali writer Gabriel Trujillo Muñoz, and a foreword by novelist Yxta Maya Murray. It is edited by Boris Dralyuk.

A STAB IN THE DARK

By Facundo Bernal / Translated by Anthony Seidman

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