



Yaguareté White

Diego Báez

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Moving through the ambiguities of language—English, Spanish, and Paraguay's Indigenous Guaraní—the grin of a big cat shadowing his every unstealthy step through North and South American habitats and fixed ideas of manhood, Diego Baéz shows his discomfort to be a fascinating field of study. A finalist and semifinalist respectively for the Georgia Poetry Prize and Berkshire Prize for Poetry, he teaches at Chicago's City Colleges.

LYNCH CHRISTMAS

*My uncle—my white uncle—
built me an Amnesty House.*

*I lived there, in the gingerbread,
ice white frosting, black licorice*

*barring white windows,
Life Saver over the entrance.*

*Come on, of course
you have to laugh, my uncle—*

*my white uncle—says.
Yuck yuck and hardy har.*

*It's all fun and games, not directed at me,
because Papi came over the right way:*

*plane ticket, scholarship, host family.
Passport stamped Asunción, Miami, Chicago.*

*My father plucked sesame seeds off his hamburger buns.
He thought they were fungus or bugs.*

*He never really got along with my uncle
—my white uncle—the one who built me*

*the Amnesty House, where I lived,
downstairs, for a while.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (March / April 2024)

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