

P. Scott Cunningham:

P. Scott Cunningham lives in Miami, FL, where he is the director of the O, Miami Poetry Festival.

Exile

by Alejandra Pizarnik

*To Raúl Gustavo Aguirre*

This craze of knowing I'm an angel,  
ageless,  
without death living in me,  
without pity for my name  
or my weeping, wandering bones.

And who doesn't love?  
And who, among poppies, will not enjoy herself?  
And who doesn't possess some fire, some death

some fear, at least one horrible thing,  
even though it might be wearing feathers,  
even though it might be smiling?

To love your shadow is a sinister hallucination.  
Your shadow won't die.  
And my love  
only embraces what flows  
like lava from hell:  
a silent house,  
ghosts in sweet erection,  
priests made of fumes,  
and above all angels,  
angels beautiful like knives  
that rise at night  
and destroy all hope.

*-Translated by P. Scott Cunningham*