

Distant Star

By Roberto Bolano

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Distant Star By Roberto Bolano

A chilling novel about the nightmare of a corrupt and brutal dictatorship.

The star of Roberto Bolano's hair-raising novel *Distant Star* is Alberto Ruiz-Tagle, an air force pilot who exploits the 1973 coup to launch his own version of the New Chilean Poetry, a multimedia enterprise involving sky-writing, poetry, torture, and photo exhibitions.

For our unnamed narrator, who first encounters this "star" in a college poetry workshop, Ruiz-Tagle becomes the silent hand behind every evil act in the darkness of Pinochet's regime. The narrator, unable to stop himself, tries to track Ruiz-Tagle down, and sees signs of his activity over and over again. A corrosive, mocking humor sparkles within Bolano's darkest visions of Chile under Pinochet. In Bolano's world there's a big graveyard and there's a big graveyard laugh. (He once described his novel *By Night in Chile* as "a tale of terror, a situation comedy, and a combination pastoral-gothic novel.")

Many Chilean authors have written about the "bloody events of the early Pinochet years, the abductions and murders," Richard Eder commented in the *The New York Times*: "None has done it in so dark and glittering a fashion as Roberto Bolano."

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Editorial Review

From The New Yorker
"The melancholy folklore of exile" pervades this novel, which describes the divergent paths of three young Chilean poets around the time of Pinochet's coup. At university, the unnamed narrator and his friend are fascinated by a mysterious new member of their poetry workshop. Alberto Ruiz-Tagle is "serious, well mannered, a clear thinker," but his poems seem false, as if his true work were yet to be revealed. It becomes apparent that this is literally the case when Allende's government falls: as an Air Force officer for the new regime, he becomes famous for writing nationalist slogans in the sky. (The left-wing narrator, now in jail, reads them from his prison yard.) Bolano's spare prose lends his narrator's account a chilly precision—as if the detachment of his former classmate had become his country's, and his own.
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Review
Another gripping novel, concerns a fascist poet-pilot in Pinochet's reign. (*The Nation*, Forrest Gander)

From the Inside Flap

This key novel by the outstanding, Chilean author of **By Night in Chile**, who died tragically young last year, is a chilling investigation of the fascist mentality and its effects on a literary sensibility. It is also a gripping intellectual thriller.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Catrina Hall:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible Distant Star? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have additional opinion?

Melissa Jackson:

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Rocio Linville:

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Heather Wade:

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