



## 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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## Distant Star By Roberto Bolano Bibliography

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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:**

**Daryl Biddle:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Distant Star. Try to the actual book Distant Star as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you experience alone and beside those of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

**Elvira Eberhardt:**

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