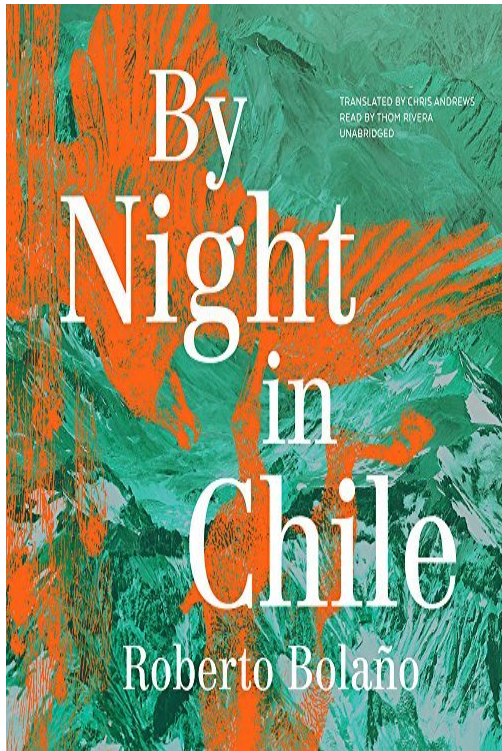


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Book Description

[Translated by Chris Andrews] A deathbed confession revolving around Opus Dei and Pinochet, *By Night in Chile* pours out the self-justifying dark memories of the Jesuit priest Father Urrutia. As through a crack in the wall, *By Night in Chile*'s single night-long rant provides a terrifying, clandestine view of the strange bedfellows of church and state in Chile. This wild, eerily compact novel -- Roberto Bolaño's first work available in English -- recounts the tale of a poor boy who wanted to be a poet, but ends up a half-hearted Jesuit priest and conservative literary critic, a sort of lapdog to the rich and powerful cultural elite, in whose villas he encounters Pablo Neruda and Ernst Junger. Father Urrutia is offered a tour of Europe by agents of Opus Dei to study "the disintegration of the churches" -- a journey into realms of the surreal -- and, ensnared by this plum, he is next assigned, after the destruction of Allende, the secret, never-to-be-disclosed job of teaching Pinochet, at night, all about Marxism, so the junta generals can know their enemy. Soon, searingly, his memories go from bad to worse. Heart-stopping and hypnotic, *By Night in Chile* marked the American debut of an astonishing writer.