

# El cielo árido

The Arid Sky



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**Language:** Spanish

**Year of Publication:** 2012

**Pages:** 303

**Number of editions:** 1

**Spanish Retail price:** 18.90€

**ISBN:** 9788439727088

**Genre:** Literature

SPRING

2013

**Season:** Year 2013

The Arid Sky tells the story of Germán Alcántara Carnero: the story of his time, the men and women who lived at his side and the non-existent plateau where Monge distills the essence of a savage Latin America. A dry place, where where the only constants seem to be solitude, the tireless sun, violence, loyalty, and the daily fight to forge something of a scale of values which will give life some sense. Monge's novel, which masterfully brings together epic and lyric, is a challenge to the reader to put aside the parameters by which they judge guilt and innocence, but also a journey to the limits of language. The book's narrator, classical and powerful, his mind made up - in vain - to get inside the story he tells us, dynamites, one by one, all the rules that the novel imposes. Perhaps this is what makes this, already, an essential work.

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