Johannes Bobrowski
I Taste Bitterness

SEVEN SEAS BOOKS
Briefly, ABOUT THE BOOK

*I Taste Bitterness* is a collection of short stories by Johannes Bobrowski, some of which were first published after his death in 1965. His prose is an extension of his poetry. Unorthodox in style, it reads best aloud for he writes as though talking to a friend sitting opposite him. Much is conjured up in a few lines: peasant life in Lithuania and its daily tragedies and intrigues, its superstitions and rough humor; the contradictions of Nazi Germany, its opponents, its adherents, its history of madness. There are glimpses into the lives of Immanuel Kant and Arthur Schopenhauer. The reader follows the path of Boehlendorff, trying in vain to spread the revolutionary ideas of eighteenth-century Europe. And linking the past with the present a picture, a reminder of the past, a warning for the future. The reader will also find in this collection, whose title has been taken from his poem, “Ungesagt,” Bobrowski’s personal sense of accountability and his hope for a time without fear...
Johannes Bobrowski
I Taste Bitterness
BY THE AUTHOR

Poetry
Sarmatian Times
Shadow Land
Weather-vane

Novels
Levin’s Mill
Lithuanian Claviers

Short Stories
Boehlendorff and The Feast of Mice
The Admonisher
I Taste Bitterness
by
Johannes Bobrowski

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Ungesagt

Schwer,
ich wachse hinab,
Wurzeln
breite ich in den Grund,
die Wasser der Erde
finden mich, steigen,
Bitternis schmeck ich — du
bist ohne Erde,
ein Vogel den Lüften, leichter
immer im Licht,
nur meine Angst noch
hält dich
im irdischen Wind.