

Southern Stories

POEMS AND PAINTINGS

with an introduction by
BRIAN FITZPATRICK

ALAN MARSHALL
FRANK SARGESON
P. GOLDHAR
HERTZ BERGNER
CORDON WATSON
GARRY LYLE
MATT TURNER

GAVIN CASEY
J. L. WATEN
R. A. K. MASON
NOEL COUNIHAN
J. BERGNER
V. O'CONNOR
J. BIRSTEIN

DOLPHIN
PUBLICATIONS

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Poem.

Poem

JOSEPH BIRSTEIN.

(Freely Translated from the Yiddish.)

I see it written in their hands and eyes,
Their humiliation.
My people are oppressed with toil and desolation
And I am of them.
Like them I am outcast and alone:
In my eyes are reflected their regrets,
For I am a partner to their griefs
And one with them in all their tears.

I have willing shoulders. The yoke
They carry on their shoulders
Joins me in their harness.
If I am sad, then it is well,
For in the abyss of their sorrow
I have my small place.