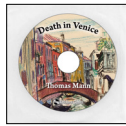


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Death in Venice

Thomas Mann (June 6, 1875 - August 12, 1955)

Read by: Scotty Smith Translator: Kenneth Burke
 Length: 3 hours and 12 minutes Genre: Fiction
 Language: English Style: Solo

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1342	0674012595511	\$9.99
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1342	0674012595528	\$9.99
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“*Death in Venice*”, first published in 1912, centers around Gustav von Aschenbach, a successful German writer who travels to Venice in search of inspiration for his next work. Aschenbach is a highly disciplined, self-controlled man, but while in Venice, he becomes infatuated with a Polish boy named Tadzio whom he observes on the beach. As the story unfolds, Aschenbach becomes increasingly obsessed with Tadzio, and his infatuation starts to consume his life. He begins to neglect his work and his personal appearance, and his health starts to deteriorate as he becomes increasingly fixated on the boy. At the same time, Venice is experiencing a cholera outbreak. Aschenbach is warned to leave the city, but he is unable to tear himself away from Tadzio. In the end, his obsession leads to

his downfall, both physically and spiritually. He dies alone on the beach, watching Tadzio from a distance, as the boy and his family leave Venice. Through Aschenbach’s story, Mann explores themes of beauty, desire, and the dangerous power of art, as well as the ways in which we try to deny and repress our deepest desires.

Thomas Mann (June 6, 1875 - August 12, 1955) was a German novelist, short story writer, social critic, and essayist, active during the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich. Born in 1875 in Lübeck, Mann was the second oldest of five siblings. His father was a senator and merchant. Mann’s family was well-educated and had a strong interest in literature, which influenced Mann’s early love of literature. He began writing at a young age and published his first story at the age of 18. Mann studied at the Technical University of Munich but dropped out to focus on writing. In 1901 he published his first novel, “*Buddenbrooks*,” which was based on the history of his own family. The novel was a great success and established him as one of the leading German writers of his time. Mann’s literary career spanned several decades, during which he wrote numerous novels and stories, including the famous novel “*Death in Venice*” in 1912, which explored the themes of beauty and decay, and the novel “*The Magic Mountain*,” in 1924, a rich exploration of the human condition. Mann’s political views were liberal, and during the rise of Nazism in Germany, he was an outspoken critic of the regime. He was forced to flee to Switzerland in 1933 and later moved to the United States, becoming an American citizen in 1944. He died in 1955 in Zurich, Switzerland.