





TAOZAO



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THOMAS MANN
Venice and Other Tales
EDITED BY JOACHIM WEIGERSHELL

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The old man was rushing somewhere
to do nothing.
The young man was reading
a book, doing something.



The old man was a flaneur,
wandering with his yesterdays
as companions.



STOP, LOOK, THEN, NOW, SEE, HIM





The old man's left foot stopped midair, a glimpse of the young man disrupted his daydreams.





He recognized the harmony in
the young man's perfection, an
observation worthy of Socrates.

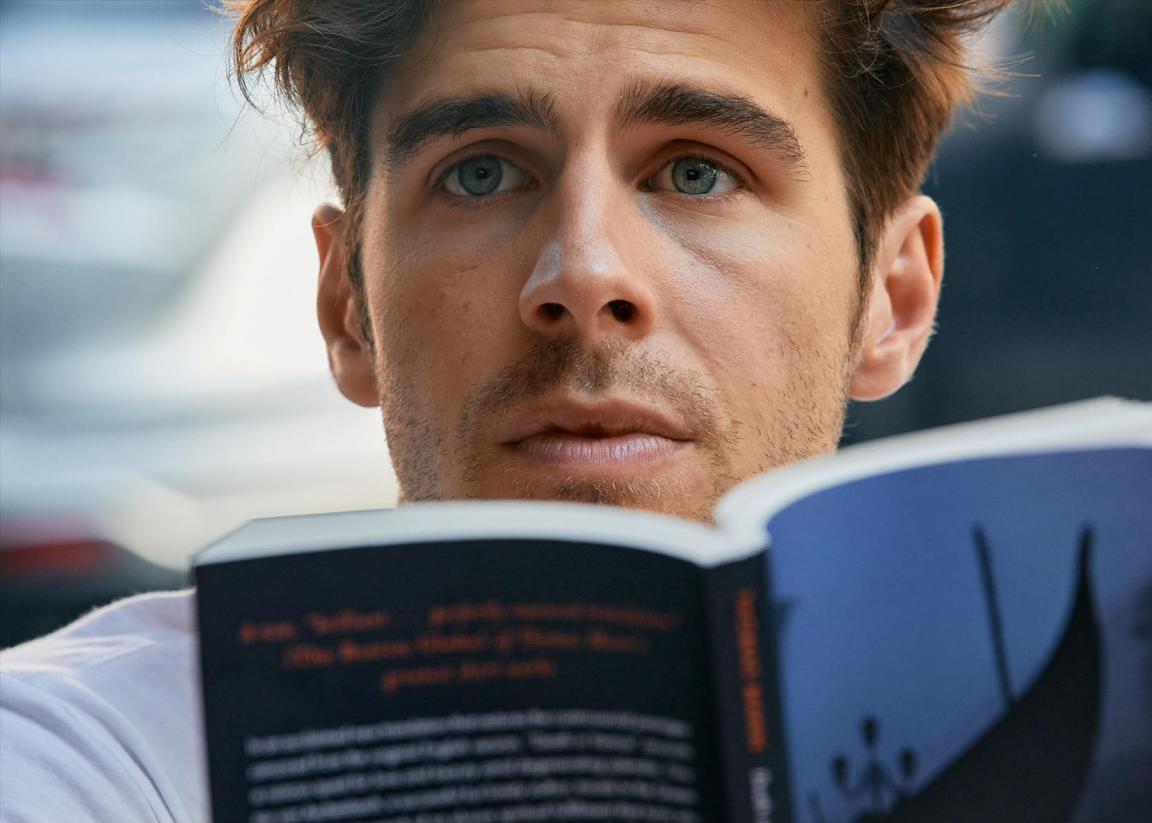


This random event halted his trajectory with a quick flicker of desire, a residue of romance.



The flaneur circled Tazio's table,
a satellite moon drawn to
perfection's orbit,
as in a Greek tableaux.





Their eyes touched
as faint as an echo.







The old man wondered if the young man would forgive him for not being beautiful the way he had forgiven the young man for being too beautiful.





The old man felt he had received
an ancient sacrament.

THOMAS MANN

Death in Venice

AND OTHER TALES

Translated by
JOACHIM NEUGROSCHER