

## SYNOPSIS

*Death in Venice* is a story about a German successful writer named Gustav von Aeschenbach who lost his imagination and inspiration to write a story, and decides to take rest in Italy for a while in order to get his imagination back. During the holiday, he is staying in a hotel near a beach in Venice and likes watching the children of some Polish aristocrat families who play in the bank of the beach. One day, he sees an extremely handsome fourteen-year-old boy named Tadzio. Having been amazed by the charm of the boy, von Aeschenbach starts writing many stories about the handsome young boy and all the beauty of nature. Everyday he watches Tadzio playing with some other boys from his balcony and over the time, he realizes that he falls in love with Tadzio. However, he has no bravery to tell what he feels since he himself feels strange with that feeling. As the result, von Aeschenbach keeps his love in silence and he spends most of his time stalking at Tadzio.

Unfortunately, a very dangerous endemic called cholera appears and spreads in almost the entire Europe including Italy. Many people died so that von Aeschenbach's family becomes worried and asks him to leave for Germany. Moreover, von Aeschenbach becomes very ill and he is suspected to suffer from cholera. Sadly, von Aeschenbach leaves Italy. However, when the ship von Aeschenbach boards almost reaches Germany, one of his important suitcases is left in the cottage and he has to take it back. Happily, he returns to

Italy with the positive hope to meet Tadzio again. However, he still has no chance to express his feeling for the boy. Even worse, von Aeschenbach is fully infected by the cholera and his illness is getting more and more severe, while his love to Tadzio is getting stronger and stronger. One day, when he sees Tadzio is bullied by his other friend, von Aeschenbach decides to help him and also tell the boy about his feeling before death comes to him. Unfortunately, he died for cholera just before he can do his effort.

The complicated love that is felt by Gustav von Aschenbach toward Tadzio is caused by heteronormativity, a strong norm which promotes the importance of heterosexuality in the society where both of them live.