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Erika Mann
Kantonsspital, Zimmer A 75
Zürich

February 6, 1963

Dear Kay, -

thank you very much for your message concerning THE HOLY ONE.

The enclosed refers to sad business. The unbelievable indiscretion of those Italians is hard to bear, particularly as they are given to exaggerating so wildly that the actual truth ceases to figure in their claims.

Besides, Zeffirelli is the second party who - on account of those rumours - feels cheated and refuses to negotiate any further. The first party keenly interested was Ely Landau who also broke off negotiations giving some excuse which he couldn't even expect to be taken at its face value. I am fairly convinced ~~but~~ he, too, had heard about "Death in Venice" being utilized in the film adaptation of "Tonio Kröger". Which is why I should think it reasonable once again to approach Landau. According to what you wrote me he remains interested in the project - for some later time (i.e. if and when the rumours should have proven to be untrue). Well, they are untrue, most definitely so and there is no reason why Landau, though he may be too busy this year to embark upon our venture, should not secure for himself the rights in "Death in Venice".

I am not at this time naming the third interested party because I am a little doubtful about them. Only if Landau should really have lost interest, might I turn those people over to you.

As ever with warmest regards,
yours cordially,

PS. I am about to leave this benighted hospital on the 12th. Not, as if I were "cured". But it'll be safe enough for me to move about the home on crutches.

