STENBECK 12

VERONA, ITALY.
LATE JANUARY, 1917.

YOU POISON THE RIVER WITH THE PLAGUE-DEAD...

...DO YOU CARE SO LITTLE FOR THOSE DOWN-STREAM?

THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US LEFT ALIVE TO BURY THE DEAD, AND WE'VE BEGUN TO FEAR BREATHING THE SMOKE FROM THE PYRES...

"...THE RIVER WILL CARRY THEM TO SEA, AND TAKE THE PLAGUE WITH IT."

I'M AFRAID IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.
I SEEK THIS MAN, MOST OFTEN CALLED HAIGUS. I BELIEVE HE HAS PASSED THIS WAY. IF YOU WANT AN END TO THIS HORROR, YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW OF HIM.

I'VE SEEN HIM. A WEEK OR SO AGO, JUST AS THE DISEASE BEGAN TO SWEEP THROUGH VERONA, I SAW HIM AT THE TEATRO ALFIERI...

"...BUT THE CREATURE I SAW WAS NOT A MAN."

DEBUTTO STASER

TWO WEEKS PRIOR.
AND NOW I AM ALONE.
THE LAST OF THE FLOWERS HAS DIED, AND THE SUN SETS FOR ALL TIME.
NO, NO, NO! STOP! ALL OF YOU, STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING!
SURELY YOU ALL KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS SUFFERING THIS SICKNESS. I WANT TO FEEL YOUR SORROW.

THE RED DEATH HAS TRIUMPHED AT LAST.

GRIEVE FOR YOUR LOVER, FOR YOUR DAUGHTER, FOR YOUR WORLD.

THE AUDIENCE MUST FEEL YOUR MISERY, MUST SHARE YOUR HOPELESSNESS.

YOU HAVE NO PLACE HERE. THIS AREA MUST BE KEPT CLEAR FOR THE ACTORS.
I HAVE FINANCED NEARLY EVERYTHING YOU SEE, SIR, INCLUDING WHATEVER THAT FOOL GNECCO IS PAYING YOU. BE SILENT, OR--
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO INSIST.

OH, ARE YOU?

HMPHH!

GUT HIM AND THROW HIM IN THE RIVER.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE HIM ONE OF US?

I FOUND HIM ANNOYING ALIVE. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT AS A REVENANT HE'D BE DOUBLY SO.

YES, THANK YOU! THAT IS IT PRECISELY!

ISABELLA, YOU ARE PERFECTION.