

This novel is set within a 'sanatorium for the weary of image'. The idea of a rest home or sanatorium is very close to the idea of the artist's retreat or residency, in that it allows the residents 'time and space' away from the travails of contemporary existence. It is of course a fictional trope beloved of modernist writers and of film-makers. It can provide gratuitous echoes of the asylum (see *[A Cure For Wellness](#)*) and serves well as a metaphor for a moribund or doomed society (*[The Magic Mountain](#)*) or the inevitability of mortality (*[The Wind Has Risen](#)*). It is also a useful container for circularity, for endlessness (*[Last Year At Marienbad](#)*) and for worlds within worlds (*[Sanatorium Under The Sign of the Hourglass](#)*) Readers should note that though the novel will make reference to characters suffering from mental exhaustion it is not in any way attempting to make light of mental illness or to stigmatise further those who suffer from any such condition.