

**Hans Werner Kettenbach**  
***The Treasure-Hunters***

Published by Diogenes as *Die Schatzgräber*  
Original title: *Die Schatzgräber*



**Hans Werner  
Kettenbach**  
*Die  
Schatzgräber*

*Roman · Diogenes*

Summer 1928, 32 degrees in the shade. Two respectable citizens in a small town on the Rhine perpetrate a bank robbery. They bury their booty, gold ingots to the value of nearly one and a half million marks at today's rate, under a plum-tree and prepare to wait until it is safe to claim their treasure. But it seems this time will never come...

Leo Theisen, a widely travelled retired journalist, is a brilliant storyteller who constantly surprises his niece Maria with new and exciting anecdotes. But Leo appears to be completely infatuated with one of his stories about a »family treasure« – in which he claims to be both the son and the nephew of the alleged bank robbers –, much to the annoyance of Maria, who believes the story to be a product of his imagination. Maria determines to prove to the self-confident Leo that his story cannot be true and, gold or no gold, she sets out to refute the myth of the buried treasure and the old stories of guilt, negligence and missed opportunities – and finds herself entangled in a web of tragi-comic events which turn her life upside-down.

A nicely rounded, deadily comical novel, full of anecdotes and self-ironical ideas which pose the question to end all questions: the question of man's ability to understand the world, of the reliability of memories, and our capacity for acknowledging guilt.

## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
544 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
September 1998

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## Movie adaptations

### **2002: Nancy & Frank - A Manhattan Love Story**

Director: Wolf Gremm  
Screenplay: Jonathan Brett  
Cast: Hardy Krüger Jr., Frances Anderson, Gottfried John

### **1998: Glatteis**

Director: Michael Gutmann  
Cast: Günter Lamprecht, Hilde van Mieghem, Gottfried John, Elfriede Irrall

### **1995: Davids Rache**

Director: Hartmut Griesmayr  
Cast: Habich Matthias, Roth Wolf, Reinhart Christine

### **1989: Tennessee Nights**

Director: Nicolas Gessner  
Cast: Julian Sands, Stacey Dash, Rod Steiger, Ned Beatty

### **1987: Im Jahr der Schildkröte**

Director: Ute Wieland  
Cast: Heinz Bennent, Karina Fallenstein, Anke Tegtmeier, Arpad Kraupa

### **Der Feigenblattpflücker**

Director: L. Niemeier

### **Ein Fall für Onkel**

Director: Ulrich Stark

## Awards

- 2009 ›Friedrich-Glauser-Ehrenpreis‹ für seine Verdienste um die deutschsprachige Kriminalliteratur
- 1988 Deutscher Krimi-Preis für ›Schmatz oder Die Sackgasse‹
- 1977 Jerry-Cotton-Preis für ›Grand mit Vieren‹

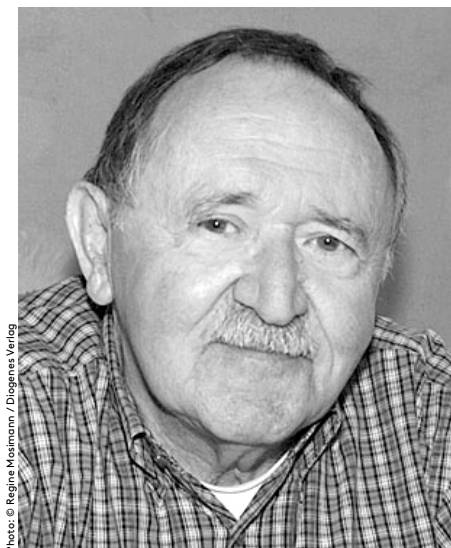


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Hans Werner Kettenbach (1928 - 2018) studied many things over the years in four universities; he has worked as an advertising salesman, a shorthand secretary for the football magazine ›Kicker‹, a radio editor and finally as the editor of a newspaper. He wrote his first novel at the age of fifty. He has written a total of fourteen, five of which have been filmed. Critics have compared them to the works of Sjöwall/Wahlöö (›Plärrer‹), Simenon and Patricia Highsmith (›FAZ‹). In 2009 Kettenbach was awarded the ›Ehregläuser‹ prize for crime writing for his life's work.



**Aunt Joice and the Joy of Life**  
432 pages  
2010



**The Stronger Sex**  
448 pages  
2009



**A Visit to Dr. Buzzard**  
368 pages  
2006



**Small Town Affairs**  
512 pages  
2004



**The Rival**  
528 pages  
2002



**Black Ice**  
272 pages  
2001

 **Movie Adaptation**



**Grand With Four**  
240 pages  
2000



**David's Revenge**  
304 pages  
1994

 **Movie Adaptation**

Der Feigenblattpflücker  
288 pages  
1992  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**

Schatz  
320 pages  
1987  
🏆 **Award winner**

Pascha  
368 pages  
1987

Sterbetage  
248 pages  
1986  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



Behind the Horizon  
304 pages  
1986  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



Minnie  
320 pages  
1984  
📺 **Movie Adaptation**

