

# Diogenes

**Hans Werner Kettenbach**  
***The Stronger Sex***

Published by Diogenes as *Das starke Geschlecht*  
Original title: *Das starke Geschlecht*



**Hans Werner  
Kettenbach**  
***Das starke  
Geschlecht***

*Roman · Diogenes*

29-year-old solicitor Alexander Zabel realises too late what he has let himself in for with this client: Herbert Klofft, in his late seventies, founder and owner of »Klofft Valves« is an autocrat, despot and macho. Now bound to a wheelchair, he has fired a young top employee without notice or compensation – an entirely justified move, as he sees it; completely unacceptable in the eyes of his former employee who was also his mistress and who is intent on suing Klofft for damages. An act of personal revenge, agrees Klofft's wife Cilly, an attractive woman in her seventies with a still rather active sex life. Zabel not only sees a lawsuit coming, in which the other party has the better cards in any case, but he is also beginning to understand that he is dealing with a client belligerent enough to manipulate the evidence if necessary. And he is faced with a wife who makes good use of her still considerable erotic charm to beguile the young man.

## Book factsheet

Crime fiction, General Fiction  
448 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 cm  
March 2009

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English/world (Bitter Lemon)

### **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«

### **Praise**

*The Stronger Sex*

»Kettenbach succeeds in finding a tragicomical balance between palliation and distance and therefore turns his book into one with quality and literary style.« – Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

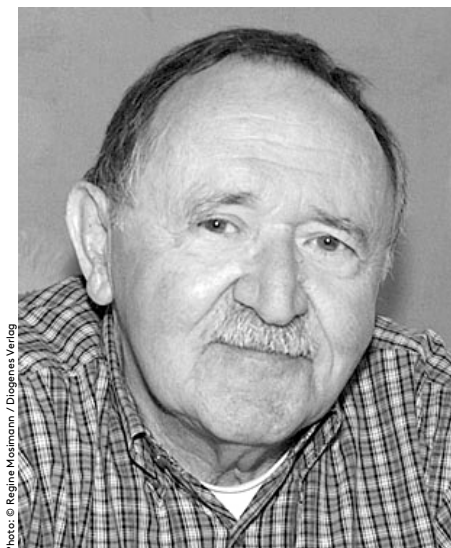


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Hans Werner Kettenbach (1928 - 2018) studied many things over the years in four universities; he has worked as an advertising salesman, a shorthand secretary for the football magazine ›Kicker‹, a radio editor and finally as the editor of a newspaper. 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 ›Ehrengläuser‹ prize for crime writing for his life's work.



Aunt Joice and the Joy of Life  
432 pages  
2010



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



The Treasure-Hunters  
544 pages  
1998



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**

