

Diogenes

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 tragic-comic events which turn her life upside-down.

A nicely rounded, deady 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

Contemporary Literature
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: *Glattéis*

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

1995: *Dauids 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
Tegtmeyer, Arpad Kraupa

Der Feigenblattpflücker

Director: L. Niemeier

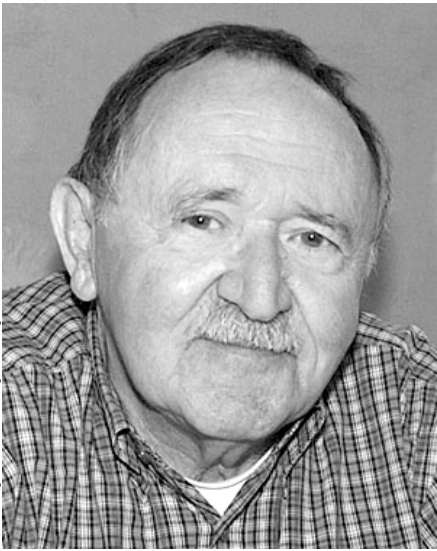
Ein Fall für Onkel

Director: Ulrich Stark

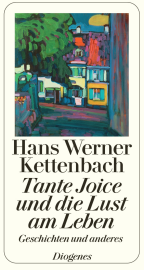
Awards

- 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 ›Ehrengläuser‹ 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 Feigenblattpfücker
288 pages
1992
📺 **Movie Adaptation**

Schmatz
320 pages
1987
🏆 **Award winner**



Hans Werner
Kettenbach
*Sterbe-
tage*

Roman · Diogenes

Sterbetage
248 pages
1986
📺 **Movie Adaptation**



Hans Werner
Kettenbach
*Minnie
oder
Ein Fall von
Geringfügigkeit*

Roman · Diogenes

Minnie
320 pages
1984
📺 **Movie Adaptation**