

Hans Werner Kettenbach
Small Town Affairs

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Original title: *Kleinstadtaffäre*



**Hans Werner
Kettenbach**
*Kleinstadt-
affäre*

Roman · Diogenes

When the renowned author Carl Wallot travels to Merzthal for a book reading, the local inhabitants do not exactly afford him a hospitable welcome. But wooed by the lovely Susanne, Wallot ends up staying longer than he had originally planned. The events he witnesses in the provincial town seem increasingly odd to him. For example, Susanne's marriage to the much older Keppler, the owner of a large factory and patron of Merzthal, a benefactor whose record is not entirely clean. The cosmopolitan Wallot, who ridicules the parochial patriotism of the Merzthalers, their pride in their native town, and feels himself far superior to them, begins to snoop around and soon sniffs out provocative material for a provincial roman à clef. At least that is the suspicion of the narrator, Jörg Froberger, a young and talented local journalist who knows his way around Merzthal and, moreover, observes everything that happens to Susanne with a loving, jealous eye.

But the writer has not reckoned on the reaction of the inhabitants of Merzthal.

A psychologically intense novel about the sinister entanglement of money, power and emotion.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
512 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
March 2004

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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
Tegtmeyer, Arpad Kraupa

Der Feigenblattplücker

Director: L. Niemeier

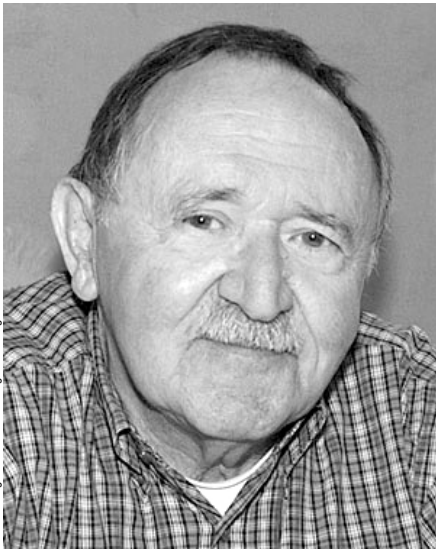
Ein Fall für Onkel

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



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**

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**