**Long synopsis**

In *The Menten Case*, we see how journalist Hans Knoop – editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine *Accent*, which is affiliated to big Dutch newspaper *de Telegraaf* – becomes personally involved in the hunt for war criminal Pieter Menten, who has escaped justice. For years, Pieter Menten has lived in his villa in the affluent het Gooi area, surrounded by precious works of art. One day, he decides to sell part of his art collection that he keeps in his apartment in Amsterdam. In relation to this sale, he gives an interview about his art collection to *de Telegraaf*. This interview is read with great interest by Chaviv Kanaan, a journalist working for the *Ha’aretz* newspaper in Israel. From personal experience, he knows that Pieter Menten had many of the inhabitants of a Polish/Ukrainian village murdered during World War II. He contacts *Ha’aretz*´s Dutch correspondent Henriette Boas, who approaches Hans Knoop with the story. And so the Menten Case is born.

Initially, Hans hands the story over to his colleagues at *de Telegraaf* – they were the ones who interviewed Pieter Menten, after all. But when he sees that they are not willing to look into it any further, he decides to investigate. He finds out that Menten was sentenced for aiding and abetting the enemy in 1949 – but not for the crimes Kanaan is accusing him of. He interviews Menten, who politely denies the charges, and tries to stop Hans publishing anything. Hans interviews the police officers who investigated the case against Menten in 1949, and discovers that the accusations against him were never fully investigated. The retired policemen give Hans documents and statements pointing to Menten’s guilt. But they also warn Hans: Menten broke their careers by dragging them through the courts, and he’ll do the same to Hans. Hans publishes anyway, bringing Menten’s wrath down upon himself. From this moment on, his colleagues at *de Telegraaf* also try to obstruct his investigation, afraid of being sued by the multi-millionaire.

Following Hans’ publication in *Accent*, the Dutch public prosecutor starts a new investigation into Menten, but the wheels of the justice system turn far too slowly for Hans’ liking. Together with a photographer, he travels to Podhorodze, the village where the mass murder took place. The Russian government is exhuming the bodies of the murdered villagers when Hans arrives. Hans writes a report, interviewing survivors, who all point to Menten as the instigator of the mass murder. Back in the Netherlands, he shares what he has found with the public prosecutor and demands that Menten be arrested. The prosecutor issues a warrant for Menten’s arrest, but it comes too late – Menten has fled. This results in a political scandal that almost costs the Dutch Minister of Justice, Van Agt, his job. The hunt for Menten becomes an obsession in the Netherlands, but it is Hans Knoop who – thanks to a network of journalists at Der Stern – eventually tracks Menten down in Switzerland.

This seems to be the end of the affair, but Menten uses all of his courtroom wiles to try to cheat justice again. It takes three trials to finally convict Pieter Menten. By now, Hans Knoop has resigned from his position with *Accent* magazine because of the resistance he faced from his colleagues at *de Telegraaf*. At the end of the day, prosecuting Menten has indeed cost him his career. But Menten finally got the punishment he deserved.