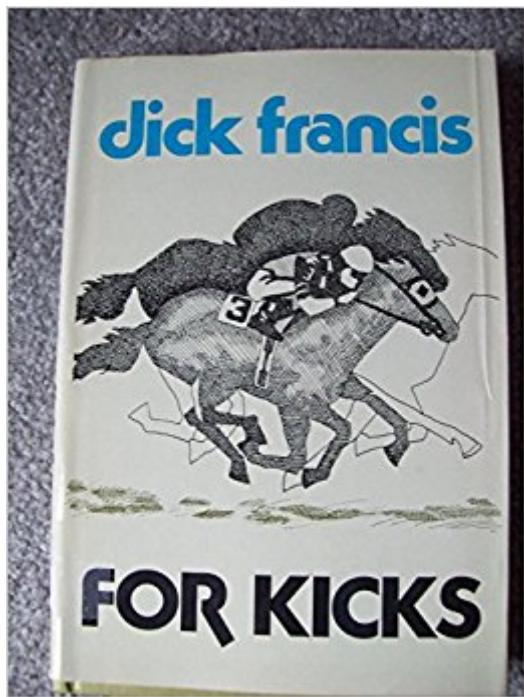


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For Kicks. Heron Edition



Book Information

Hardcover

Publisher: Heron; Reprint edition (1982)

ASIN: B00289L9RE

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

You have to have read a couple of Dick Francis' novels before you understand the author. In a way he stands alone, for as far as I can tell he has not overtly used other writers styles and no contemporary writer has used Francis as a primary influence. All of Francis' books follow a similar arc, from one to the next, you know exactly what you will get. But in a strange way, this is not bothersome, instead it is like revisiting an old familiar and comfortable place. Francis' books are not in a series format. He only uses the same character for a second time once. In his first ten or so books, he uses a particular jockey to set his story around. And later he finds people of different professions that have racing interests to center stories around. This book, "For Kicks" is from the transitional phase, the late 60's, early 70's. It tells the story of Daniel Roke, a trainer from Australia who is hired to uncover a doping ring that is not being detected through traditional methods. Its a pretty simple story, and like all of Francis' work it is refreshingly understated. With James Patterson and Patricia Cornwells mammoth body counts and terrorising serial killers, or end of the world scenarios ala Tom Clancy and too many others influencing todays reading lists, its amazing to see how much quiet tension builds up in Francis' stories. I would highly recommend Francis to anyone. Its a fun world to live in for a while, where all of England revolves around the racing world... every other profession comes second. I remember how much I loathed the idea of Francis before I first read him and I laugh now at my perception of what his books would be about. I mean, how can one author base a huge series of mysteries on racing horses? Dick Francis does so quite well.

For Kicks by Dick Francis. Pocket Books 1965 Good quick read. In this, one of Francis' earlier books, Daniel Roke, and Australian, is hired by the Earl of October to try and discover how someone is fixing races by drugging the winners with an untraceable drug.. To do this he masquerades as a stable boy and shifts from horse yard to horse yard until he discovers who is doing it and finally how

it is being done. In doing so, Daniel places himself and Elinor, the young daughter of the Earl of October, at considerable risk. In a final confrontation with the bad guys Daniel overcomes his adversaries but is thrown in jail accused of murder to await the return of the Earl of October. Like most of Francis' protagonists, Daniel is youngish, handsome, honest beyond measure and quite capable at a number of things useful to someone working with horses. A sub plot to the main story is the wrongful accusation of Daniel by the older Earl's daughter of sexual abuse and his growing involvement with the younger. To the seasoned Francis reader, this book does not have too much depth but like all Francis mysteries, a joy to read.

I agree completely with the other reviewers. This is a terrific suspense novel that happens to give insight into British racing, the class system and each and every character. While I have read all the Dick Francis books, this is the one that I go back to and reread every year or so. Its quiet, understated tone still builds up to suspense and excitement. His earlier books (like this one) are the best, as far as I am concerned, and the most recent one or two are not worth reading. p.s. On a visit to England, I took great joy in going to Newmarket and watching the horses out for practice early in the morning. It felt as if I was in the middle of a Dick Francis book. My husband and daughter, also fans, felt the same.

Intellectuals may scorn him, moderns may call him dated, but they don't know what they're missing. You can always depend on Dick Francis for engrossing adventure with just the right amount of philosophical underpinnings. Enjoy!

I am a complete fan of Dick Francis, and recommend his fast-paced detailed involvement with the Racing Industry, and the psychology of the world of riders, trainers, and owners of those beautiful powerhouses, the race horses. I am trying to build a little library of all his books, to read more than once, or even twice.

Dick Francis is always a good book. I'm reading his books again in order. He has a different story line in each book. I know the ending but still am on "pins and needles" to see who the villain is and why!!

I have read all the Dick Francis books and I have 3 favorites. This one, Enquiry, and Bolt. I have read this book at least 8 times and I think it is awesome! It is so perfectly written. Everyone who

hasn't read this book should read it!

This book was the first Mr.Francis's book I have read in my life. I was completely involved his world, and can not stop read his books. Unfortunately, I caught up with the latest book, and can not stand waiting his next one.

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