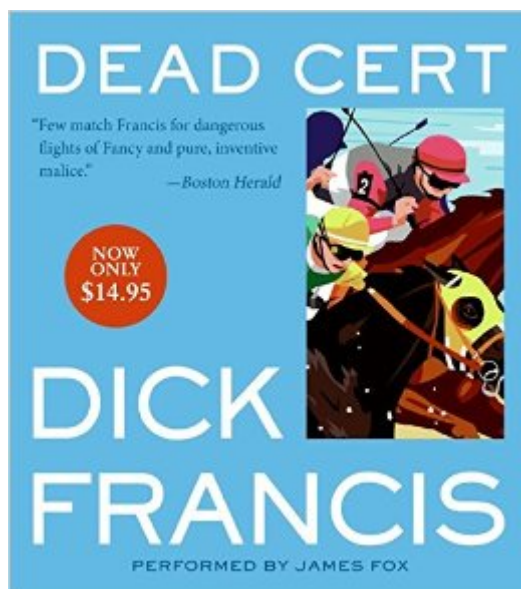


The book was found

Dead Cert CD Low Price



Synopsis

In this masterpiece, Dick Francis, the bestselling master of mystery and suspense, takes you into the shocking world of horse racingâwhere one man must bring his friends' killers into the light, or else risk death himself . . . Steeplechaser Alan York knows well the dangers of the sport. But when his best friend and rival, Bill Davidson, takes a fall in the middle of a race and doesn't get up again, Alan discovers that it was no accident. Someone rigged a trip wire to take down the running horse. The more Alan investigates, the more he suspects that there is more to the plot than just murderous horseplay. But even as he approaches the finish line to this mysterious race, those responsible for his friend's death are already planning for Alan to have a fatal accident of his own . . .

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HarperAudio; Abridged edition (September 9, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061498211

ISBN-13: 978-0061498213

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 5.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Authors, A-Z > (F) > Francis, Dick #1096 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #2292 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General

Customer Reviews

I was amazed to learn after reading this one that it was Dick Francis' first novel. Francis was a very successful jockey--racing for the Queen Mother in the 1950's--and after a career-ending injury, he penned his memoirs. Following that success, he developed an incredibly successful second act as a novelist. I discovered Francis' work last summer--and I have plans to read everything he's done. In the 3 books I've read, his heroes are all gentleman sleuths--full of character, empathy, and wits. In *Dead Cert*, the trend continues with Alan York, a young amateur jockey trying to uncover the mystery of why a copper wire was intentionally hung to trip his fellow jockey. York is on his own resolving this caper, having failed to fully convince the police that this was anything more than an accidental death. The writing is of a high caliber, the characters are wonderfully drawn, and I always learn a thing or two about horses--and England--when I read Dick Francis. There's also something

quaint about reading a book set in an age before computers, cell phones, and DNA evidence.

Grade: A-

In yet another gripping story of mystery, murder and British steeplechasing, Dick Francis continues his amazing streak of hit novels. His real appeal is not racing or mystery however, it is his ability to create characters who are admirable, honorable and self-reliant. If you're looking for troubled, self-loathers who "somehow" overcome their weakness and become unwilling and unwitting heroes, don't look here. Francis' heroes revel in their abilities to withstand evil, overcome it, and end up smiling in spite of it all. Kudos once again for Dick Francis and *Dead Cert*!

Dick Francis didn't save the best for last. I have read all the DF novels except *Blood Sport*, which I have ordered and expect it anyday. I have loved every single one, but *Dead Cert* is my favorite, although *Bonecrack* and *Whip Hand* are close favorites. Dick Francis is an excellent author because he is a master at combining three elements into his novels. Horses:), danger and mystery, and romance. If anybody reading this review has never read a DF novel, please do so, you won't regret it!

Dick Francis is an all time favorite, and while this wasn't my favorite entry, it was still enjoyable. The one thing I found hard to get over was the main character's commission of an unsavory breach of ethics followed by much agonizing over it and justifying of it. But, as always with Francis, it was very well written and entertaining.

Dick Francis is a master. I only wish he were still around to write more. The book keeps you guessing and the characters that he develops are so endearing you wish they were in your own circle of friends. You won't be disappointed.

The first Dick Francis book - and it seems more time was spent on this one than on the yearly subsequent ones. As Francis' first effort - it is a great place to start. For many people, you may never stop. Francis' protagonists are almost always young men who are making their way through the early stages of adult life - that meet a major challenge that could change their life. They encounter an "evil" close to home and need to fend off their fears to do what most people wouldn't have the courage to do. Alan York, younger than most, starts the Francis parade. He turns out to be a hero that is easy to identify with that chases truth at risk to himself. In this case, he ends up with a new

love interest as well. Many chapters end enticing one to read more. Francis was a jockey, knows horse racing, and many of his stories revolve around the sport. His earlier books - his protagonists tend to be jockeys. As he moves later in life, he branches out. For this book, the villain is a bit unexpected, and one you can even start to feel a bit for. There is deep character development, a fast start, and a first person writing style. Start now!

This is the first of Dick Francis' racing novels, although not the first I read. In fact, I was amazed to see it was numero uno. Even Robert Parker, another mystery master, took one novel to get it right. Francis, in racetrack parlance, broke from the gate fast. All the elements are there: A likeable hero who pursues the truth at great personal risk; a sweet but never turn-the-page-torrid romance with a bend in the road; outside knowledge about an interesting field, and an interesting villain one can almost sympathize with on some level. It grabs you right away with the murder of a jockey during a race and never lets go, right to the surprising conclusion -- one, incidentally, which our hero desperately wanted not to be so. Enjoy. It's a great start to a great, long ride. Francis' first and one of his best.

It's plain in the reading that Dick Francis was greatly influenced by an earlier generation of great English mystery writers. His characters are interesting but not quite believable in the same way the Agatha's Christie's characters were set in society beyond the reach of her most ardent followers. In this mystery, Francis shows himself to be competent and clever, but he is a little predictable and so doesn't quite break the ribbon in the end.

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