

10 lb penalty dick francis

10 lb Penalty Dick Francis: Exploring the Intricacies of a Classic Racing Thriller

10 lb penalty dick francis immediately conjures images of the thrilling world of horse racing, steeped in suspense and the subtle complexities of handicapping. Dick Francis, a former jockey turned novelist, mastered the craft of weaving gripping stories around the racing circuit, and “10 lb Penalty” stands out as a notable example. This novel, like many of Francis’s works, blends the adrenaline of the track with a compelling mystery, making it a favorite among fans of equestrian fiction and crime thrillers alike.

In this article, we’ll delve deeper into what makes “10 lb Penalty” such a captivating read, explore the significance of the title, and uncover the unique style that Dick Francis brought to his storytelling. Along the way, we’ll touch on key themes, character insights, and the legacy of this classic racing novel.

Understanding the Significance of the Title: 10 lb Penalty

At first glance, the phrase “10 lb penalty” might seem cryptic to those unfamiliar with horse racing terminology. In the context of the sport, a 10-pound penalty refers to extra weight added to a horse’s assigned handicap. The purpose is to level the playing field by imposing a weight disadvantage on horses that have demonstrated superior performance, theoretically equalizing their chances against competitors.

Why Weight Matters in Horse Racing

Weight handicaps are a critical strategic element in racing. Even a small additional weight can affect a horse’s speed and stamina, altering race outcomes in subtle yet significant ways. By titling the book “10 lb Penalty,” Dick Francis not only references an important racing rule but also metaphorically hints at the burdens and obstacles faced by the story’s protagonist.

The Metaphorical Weight in the Storyline

Beyond the literal meaning, the “10 lb penalty” symbolizes the personal and professional challenges the characters endure. In typical Francis fashion, the protagonist is often burdened by hidden dangers, secrets, or

betrayals—weighty issues that must be overcome to succeed. This dual meaning enriches the narrative, giving readers both a racing term and a deeper thematic layer to ponder.

Dick Francis: The Man Behind the Racing Mysteries

To appreciate “10 lb Penalty” fully, it helps to understand Dick Francis’s unique background. Before becoming a bestselling author, Francis was a champion jockey with firsthand experience on the tracks. His intimate knowledge of horse racing lent authenticity and vivid detail to his novels, distinguishing them from other thrillers of the era.

From Jockey to Novelist

After retiring from racing due to an injury, Francis turned to writing, where he quickly found his niche. His books often feature protagonists who are ex-jockeys or have close ties to racing, navigating criminal conspiracies, personal dilemmas, and the high-stakes world of horse racing. This insider perspective gave his stories a level of realism and excitement that resonated with readers.

Writing Style and Themes

Francis’s writing style is characterized by clear, engaging prose and tightly woven plots. He balances technical racing information with suspenseful storytelling, ensuring that even readers new to the sport remain hooked. Themes often include integrity, courage, and the pursuit of justice—elements that shine through in “10 lb Penalty” and other works.

Plot Overview of 10 lb Penalty

While avoiding spoilers, it’s worth outlining the general premise of “10 lb Penalty” to understand its appeal. The novel revolves around a jockey or trainer caught in a web of intrigue involving race-fixing, sabotage, or other illicit activities threatening the sport’s integrity.

Key Characters and Their Roles

- The Protagonist: Typically a skilled rider or trainer whose expertise is

essential in unraveling the mystery.

- Supporting Cast: Often includes family members, fellow jockeys, bookmakers, and sometimes law enforcement agents.

- Antagonists: Usually unscrupulous individuals aiming to manipulate race outcomes for personal gain.

Suspense and Racing Drama

Francis expertly combines the adrenaline of race days with the tension of investigating dangerous schemes. Readers experience close finishes, insider tactics, and the emotional rollercoaster of horse racing, all while piecing together clues alongside the protagonist.

Why 10 lb Penalty Appeals to Horse Racing Fans and Mystery Lovers

One of the reasons “10 lb Penalty” remains popular is its ability to appeal to multiple audiences. Horse racing enthusiasts appreciate the accurate depiction of the sport, from training routines to race-day strategies. Meanwhile, fans of crime and mystery enjoy the layered storytelling and unexpected twists.

Educational Value for Racing Enthusiasts

Francis’s attention to detail offers readers an informal education on handicapping, race conditions, and the nuances of jockeyship. Terms like “10 lb penalty” become more than jargon—they transform into keys unlocking the narrative’s tension.

Engaging Plot for Mystery Readers

The novel’s pacing and suspenseful plotlines keep readers on edge, with the racing world serving as a vibrant backdrop for classic detective work. The stakes are high, not just for the outcome of races but for the lives and reputations of the characters involved.

Tips for Readers New to Dick Francis and Horse Racing Fiction

If you’re intrigued by “10 lb Penalty” but unfamiliar with horse racing or

Francis's style, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Familiarize Yourself with Racing Terms:** A quick look-up of basic horse racing terminology can deepen your understanding of the story's context.
- **Focus on Character Development:** Francis's protagonists are often complex and relatable, so pay attention to their motivations and growth.
- **Enjoy the Balance of Action and Detail:** Don't get bogged down by technical descriptions; they serve to enrich the plot and heighten realism.
- **Notice Recurring Themes:** Themes like honor, perseverance, and justice are woven throughout and add depth beyond the racing plot.

The Legacy of 10 lb Penalty in Dick Francis's Body of Work

"10 lb Penalty" holds a respected place among Dick Francis's extensive bibliography. It exemplifies many of the qualities that made him one of the most beloved authors in the niche of sporting mystery novels.

Influence on Subsequent Racing Novels

Francis's approach to integrating authentic racing details with thrilling narratives set a standard for the genre. Many contemporary authors cite his work as a source of inspiration for crafting believable sports mysteries.

Enduring Popularity

Decades after its release, "10 lb Penalty" continues to attract new readers, partly due to its timeless themes and partly because the sport of horse racing remains compelling worldwide. The novel's blend of sport, suspense, and human drama ensures it won't fade into obscurity anytime soon.

Exploring "10 lb penalty dick francis" opens a window into a fascinating world where precision, courage, and intrigue collide on the racetrack. Whether you're drawn by the sporting aspect or the captivating mystery, this novel and others like it offer an immersive experience that captures the imagination and celebrates the enduring allure of horse racing.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the book '10 lb Penalty' by Dick Francis about?

'10 lb Penalty' is a mystery novel by Dick Francis that revolves around a former steeplechase jockey who investigates the suspicious death of a friend, uncovering secrets in the horse racing world.

Who is the main character in '10 lb Penalty' by Dick Francis?

The main character is Sid Halley, a former champion jockey who becomes a private investigator after an injury ends his racing career.

When was '10 lb Penalty' by Dick Francis published?

'10 lb Penalty' was first published in 1973.

Is '10 lb Penalty' part of a series by Dick Francis?

Yes, '10 lb Penalty' is part of a series featuring Sid Halley, one of Dick Francis's recurring protagonists.

What does the title '10 lb Penalty' refer to in the book?

The title '10 lb Penalty' refers to the weight penalty imposed on a racehorse, which is a key element in the mystery plot related to horse racing.

Has '10 lb Penalty' by Dick Francis won any awards?

'10 lb Penalty' was well-received and helped establish Dick Francis as a leading author of horse racing mysteries, though specific award details vary.

Where can I buy or read '10 lb Penalty' by Dick Francis?

'10 lb Penalty' is available for purchase at major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and may be found in local libraries or as an eBook.

Additional Resources

10 lb Penalty Dick Francis: An In-depth Exploration of the Classic Racing Novel

10 lb penalty dick francis is a phrase that resonates deeply within the literary circles of horse racing enthusiasts and mystery novel aficionados alike. Dick Francis, a former jockey turned prolific author, carved a unique niche by blending the adrenaline-fueled world of horse racing with gripping suspense narratives. Among his extensive bibliography, the concept of a "10 lb penalty" is not only a recurring thematic element but also a metaphorical device that enriches the tension and stakes in his storytelling. This article seeks to explore the significance of the 10 lb penalty within Dick Francis's works, offering a comprehensive review and analysis of how this element shapes the narrative and appeals to readers.

The 10 lb Penalty: Understanding Its Significance in Horse Racing and Literature

In horse racing, a "10 lb penalty" refers to an additional weight that a horse must carry during a race, usually imposed as a handicap to level the playing field among competitors. This weight can affect a horse's speed and stamina, influencing the outcome of the race. Dick Francis, drawing from his firsthand experience as a jockey, expertly weaves such technical details into his novels, providing an authentic backdrop that grounds the suspense in reality.

The 10 lb penalty serves a dual purpose in Francis's narrative architecture. On one hand, it reflects the literal challenge faced by the horse and rider; on the other, it symbolizes the burdens or obstacles the protagonist must overcome. This duality enhances the thematic depth of his stories, making the 10 lb penalty a compelling motif that transcends its sporting origin.

Dick Francis's Use of Racing Terminology to Build Authenticity

One of the hallmarks of Dick Francis's writing is his meticulous use of racing jargon, which includes terms like "10 lb penalty," "handicap," "furlong," and "steeplechase." This specialized vocabulary not only educates readers about the intricacies of horse racing but also lends credibility and immersion to the plot.

The 10 lb penalty, in particular, is often introduced at pivotal moments—either as a known disadvantage that the protagonist must strategize around or as a metaphor for personal challenges. Francis's ability to translate such a technical term into a narrative device showcases his skill

in blending factual accuracy with storytelling.

Exploring the Narrative Role of the 10 lb Penalty in Dick Francis Novels

In novels such as **Forfeit** and **Dead Cert**, the concept of weight penalties plays a significant role in the unfolding drama. The handicap system in racing, which includes weight penalties, becomes an allegory for the protagonist's struggle against external pressures or internal conflicts.

For instance, the protagonist's burden—be it a secret, a physical limitation, or moral dilemma—mirrors the literal weight imposed on the horse, thereby creating a layered narrative tension. This narrative technique allows readers to engage with the story on multiple levels, appreciating both the sport's technicalities and the character's emotional journey.

The Psychological Dimension of the 10 lb Penalty

Beyond the physical impact of carrying extra weight, the 10 lb penalty carries psychological implications within Francis's stories. Characters often grapple with the stress of competition compounded by these penalties, which can symbolize broader themes such as fairness, resilience, and determination.

The penalty becomes a metaphor for life's unforeseen challenges, compelling characters to adapt and persevere. This psychological dimension adds complexity to Francis's characters, making their victories and defeats resonate more profoundly with readers.

Comparative Analysis: The 10 lb Penalty in Dick Francis's Works vs. Other Racing Literature

While many horse racing novels reference handicaps and penalties, Dick Francis's integration of the 10 lb penalty stands out for its narrative sophistication. Unlike other authors who may treat such details as mere background, Francis elevates the penalty to a thematic cornerstone.

In comparison, works by authors like John McCririck or Jane Holderness-Roddam tend to focus more on the sport's spectacle or technicalities without delving as deeply into the symbolic potential of weight penalties. Francis's approach bridges the gap between sport and human drama, making his novels accessible to both racing enthusiasts and general mystery readers.

The Impact on Reader Engagement and Suspense

The strategic use of the 10 lb penalty contributes significantly to pacing and suspense within the novels. By imposing this handicap, Francis introduces an element of uncertainty and risk, heightening the stakes of the race and the story's outcome.

Readers become invested in how the protagonist will navigate these handicaps, whether through skill, cunning, or sheer determination. This dynamic creates a compelling narrative drive that sustains interest throughout the novel.

Pros and Cons of Dick Francis's Emphasis on Racing Details like the 10 lb Penalty

- **Pros:**

- *Authenticity:* The inclusion of detailed racing terms such as the 10 lb penalty lends credibility and immerses readers in the world of horse racing.
- *Depth:* Using the penalty as a metaphor adds thematic richness and complexity to the narrative.
- *Engagement:* The challenges posed by weight penalties increase suspense and reader investment.

- **Cons:**

- *Accessibility:* Readers unfamiliar with horse racing may find some technical jargon challenging, potentially hindering comprehension.
- *Pacing:* Detailed descriptions of handicap systems, including the 10 lb penalty, might slow down the plot for readers seeking fast-paced action.

Balancing Technical Detail and Narrative Flow

Dick Francis generally strikes a careful balance, ensuring that technical explanations serve the story rather than detract from it. His writing style

incorporates enough context to make terms like the 10 lb penalty understandable without resorting to exhaustive exposition.

This balance is key to maintaining appeal across a broad audience—those who appreciate the technical aspects of racing and those drawn primarily to mystery and suspense.

The Legacy of the 10 lb Penalty Motif in Dick Francis's Influence on the Genre

The enduring popularity of Dick Francis's novels owes much to his ability to fuse authentic racing elements, such as weight penalties, with compelling human stories. The 10 lb penalty emerges as a symbol of challenge and resilience, reflecting the broader human experience.

Subsequent authors in the horse racing mystery genre have often drawn inspiration from Francis's method of embedding sport-specific handicaps as narrative devices. This legacy underscores the importance of integrating technical authenticity with thematic resonance to create stories that stand the test of time.

The 10 lb penalty, while a specific racing term, has thus transcended its literal meaning to become a literary emblem within Francis's oeuvre—one that continues to engage and inspire readers around the world.

[10 Lb Penalty Dick Francis](#)

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10 lb penalty dick francis: 10lb penalty, Dick Francis Dick Francis, 1997

10 lb penalty dick francis: 10-Lb Penalty Dick Francis, 1997-09-04 At 18, easy-going Benedict Juliard and his father enter into a pact that neither of them will commit any act that could destroy the father's career. Ten years later he is targetted in a vicious attack mounted by his father's increasingly violent political enemies.

10 lb penalty dick francis: Bestsellers: A Very Short Introduction John Sutherland, 2007-10-25 For the last century, the tastes and preferences of readers of fiction have been reflected in the American and British bestseller lists, and this Very Short Introduction takes an engaging look through the lists to reveal what we have been reading - and why.

10 lb penalty dick francis: Crossfire Dick Francis, Felix Francis, 2010-09-02 Captain Thomas Forsyth's tour of Afghanistan is cut brutally short when he's badly wounded by an IED - Improvised Explosive Device, a roadside bomb. Tom's world is torn apart by the injury - the Army is his life. Six

months of recuperation leave is a daunting prospect - but not as bleak as the probability of never rejoining his regiment. Tom returns to Lambourn, to his childhood home, where his mother is a racehorse trainer and the 'First Lady' of racing. Never having seen eye to eye with his parents, Tom doesn't expect a hero's welcome - but even he's not prepared for the reception that awaits him. When his mother's prize horse finishes a disappointing last place in a race he should have won, Tom discovers that the training business is on the edge, and facing a threat far more dangerous than a run of bad form. Tom finds himself on a very different, but just as deadly, battlefield where his military skills are tested... kill or be killed?

10 lb penalty dick francis: Time to Be in Earnest P. D. James, 2011-02-17 In this intriguing and very personal book, part diary, part memoir, P.D. James considers the twelve months of her life between her 77th and 78th birthdays, 'a time to be in earnest', as Dr Johnson said at the comparable moment of his very different life two centuries ago. In recording the events, thoughts and reflections of her present, Baroness James has found herself simultaneously remembering the past of her remarkable career. She recalls what it was like to be a schoolgirl in the 1920s and 1930s in Cambridge, then giving birth to her second daughter during the worst of the Doodlebug bombardment in London during the war, working as an administrator in the National Health Service, entering the Home Office in the forensic and criminal justice departments, serving as a Governor of the BBC, an influential member of the British Council, the Arts Council and the Society of Authors, and eventually entering the House of Lords. Along the way, this diary and personal memoir deals with her burgeoning reputation as a novelist, starting with *Cover Her Face* in 1962, and with the craft of the classical detective story. During this busy year she also published one of her most intriguing and carefully researched books, *A Certain Justice*. This record of twelve months in a life of creativity and public service, told with honesty and perception, will enthral aficionados of detective fiction. It will also appeal to those who themselves have lived through the turbulent years of the twentieth century. P.D. James is the bestselling author of *Death Comes to Pemberley* and *Children of Men*, both of which have been adapted for film, with actors such as Michael Caine, Clive Owen and Jenna Coleman playing leading roles.

10 lb penalty dick francis: Driving Force Dick Francis, 2012-02-16 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'A brilliant story with an unusual plot. An absolute page turner!' 5***** Reader Review 'Gripping from the first sentence and packed with action' 5***** Reader Review _____ Ex-jockey Freddie Croft now runs a fleet of vehicles which transport racehorses across the British Isles and Europe. But when two of his drivers pick up a hitchhiker who ends up dead, Freddie's got a big problem. First, it quickly becomes apparent that the hitcher wasn't quite what he seemed. And second, Freddie finds that his horse boxes might just be being used for moving something a lot less legal than horses. Now he must figure out what is going on before the police, and before whoever is doing it cottons on and tries to stop him - permanently . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, *Driving Force* is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' *Daily Mirror* 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' *Scotsman* 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' *Sunday Telegraph* 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' *Sunday Express* 'The master of suspense and intrigue' *Country Life* 'Francis writing at his best' *Evening Standard* 'Still the master' *Racing Post*

10 lb penalty dick francis: Proof Dick Francis, 2000-07-27 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'A brilliant read with lots of exciting twists and turns. Couldn't put it down' 5***** Reader Review 'An excellent thriller that keeps you on the edge. Dick Francis at his best' 5***** Reader Review _____ Wine merchant Tony Beach will do anything for a quiet life. But when a party to celebrate the end of the racing season ends in eight violent deaths, he is drawn reluctantly into the subsequent investigation. Meanwhile, the police,

having evidence of the sale of illicit alcohol at a local club, ask for Tony's help in closing it down. Thanks to his intervention, Tony comes to the attention of the criminal underworld. And that's when he reluctantly realizes that the deaths and the illicit alcohol are connected. Tony doesn't want to be a hero. But if the choice is that or dying . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, Proof is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' Daily Mirror 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' Sunday Express 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life 'Francis writing at his best' Evening Standard 'Still the master' Racing Post

10 lb penalty dick francis: The Economist , 1847

10 lb penalty dick francis: Shattered Dick Francis, 2000 Gerard Logan, a talented glassblower, is the target of a band of criminals who think he knows where to find a valuable videotape that is somehow connected to his late friend, jockey Martin Stukely.

10 lb penalty dick francis: Knock Down Dick Francis, 2000-07-27 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'A whip cracking, page turning read with a twist in the tail' 5***** Reader Review 'Kept me turning the pages, full of twists and turns - Dick Francis at his best yet again!' 5***** Reader Review _____ Jonah Dereham is a bloodstock agent who buys and sells horses for his clients. As an ex-jockey, it's the ideal quiet life - until Jonah is attacked by thugs out to sabotage his business. Unfortunately for them, Jonah's a man with a steely resolve. He's determined to find out who is trying to ruin him, and why. But staying honest is more dangerous than Jonah could have imagined. And with his horses, his business and his own life on the line, Jonah must hit back - before he's taken down for good . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, Knock Down is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' Daily Mirror 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' Sunday Express 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life 'Francis writing at his best' Evening Standard 'Still the master' Racing Post

10 lb penalty dick francis: Dead Cert Dick Francis, 1998-03-26 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'A classic. If you like a rattling good yarn, then Dick Francis is your man!' 5***** Reader Review 'Brilliant, the pace keeps on racing through the whole book' 5***** Reader Review 'Gallops along and keeps you enthralled throughout. Riveting' 5***** Reader Review _____ 'Admiral met the fence perfectly. He rose to it as if flight were not only for birds. And he fell . . .' Alan York's friend, jockey Bill Davidson, was killed in Admiral's fall. After the race, York visits the fence and discovers a coil of wire lying beside the fence post and signs of where the wire had been attached. The fall was no accident - but murder. Unable to convince the police of this, York is forced to turn amateur sleuth and is soon on the trail of a ruthless gang of race-fixers operating out of Brighton. Now Alan's caught in a new race: find the gang's leaders before the gang catches up with him . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, Dead Cert is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' Daily Mirror 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' Sunday Express 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life 'Francis

writing at his best' Evening Standard 'Still the master' Racing Post

10 lb penalty dick francis: Whip Hand Dick Francis, 2012-02-16 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'Dick Francis keeps you in suspense in every chapter, you are immersed in the story' 5***** Reader Review 'Really gripping with lots of twists and turns. A fast-paced thriller' 5***** Reader Review _____ Ex-jockey Sid Halley works as a private detective, using his racing knowledge to solve crimes that baffle the police. He's asked to investigate the possible doping of the horses of George Casper - a thoroughbred trainer whose once-successful mounts have been failing spectacularly on the racetrack. At the same time, he learns that a conman has left his ex-wife Jenny facing a jail sentence over a fake charity, while the Jockey Club want him to investigate certain powerful syndicates who may be acting in a ruthless and illegal manner. Quickly, Sid discovers that each of his investigations is entirely unwelcome. But he isn't put off easily - not even when a threat is made that could change his life. Three dangerous cases, three ways to die - Sid is back on home turf . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, Whip Hand is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'Still the master' Racing Post 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life

10 lb penalty dick francis: Slay Ride Dick Francis, 2000-09-28 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'Takes the reader on a trip into another world' 5***** Reader Review 'A gripping thriller combining drama with excellent characterisation. I enjoyed every word' 5***** Reader Review _____ David Cleveland - an investigator for the Jockey Club - is sitting in a dinghy in a pleasant little fjord in Norway. He's here to help the Norwegians find out why Bob Sherman, a visiting English rider, has done a runner with the racehorse takings. He thinks it'll be a straightforward job, and he'll get to spend some time with old friends. But when the dinghy is hit by a speedboat and Cleveland almost drowns, he realizes that there is more to this case than some missing money - especially when a dead body turns up. Now Cleveland knows the stakes are dangerously high. A sensible man would leave it to the police and go back home to England. Except, it turns out, that England isn't safe either . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, Slay Ride is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' Daily Mirror 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' Sunday Express 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life 'Francis writing at his best' Evening Standard 'Still the master' Racing Post

10 lb penalty dick francis: Banker Dick Francis, 2000-09-28 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'Brilliant . . . I was riveted from the first to the last page' 5***** Reader Review 'Banker has it all: murder, heroics, low tricks and high finance. I highly recommend it' 5***** Reader Review 'Intelligent, well-paced, will grip you to the end' 5***** Reader Review _____ Tim Ekaterin has a lot of money. Unfortunately, it belongs to other people, and it is his job to invest it wisely, or get fired. And right now he's taken a big risk: using £5 million to stud a champion racing stallion. When the resulting foals have birth defects, Tim is worried and decides that there may be something else going on at the stables. And when one of those helping with the horses is murdered, his suspicions are confirmed. Now it's not just about money, but about life and death. Determined to get answers, Tim puts himself in danger's path to discover the truth . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, Banker is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' Daily

Mirror 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' Sunday Express 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life 'Francis writing at his best' Evening Standard 'Still the master' Racing Post

10 lb penalty dick francis: *Reflex* Dick Francis, 2007 When longtime jockey Philip Nore beings to suspect that a racetrack photographer's fatal accident was really murder, he sets out to find the truth and trap a killer. But in the process, he unwittingly sets himself up as the killer's next target. Reissue.

10 lb penalty dick francis: *Smokescreen* Dick Francis, 1989-09-18 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'The characters are superb, the plotting as clever as it gets, the climax nightmarish, the retribution delicious' 5***** Reader Review 'You can always rely on Dick Francis for a page-turner, and this is no exception' 5***** Reader Review _____ Edward Lincoln has scaled the Himalayas, survived deadly car chases, and defeated scores of assassins. As a movie action man he's even suffered stoically at the hands of sadistic directors. After finishing his latest film, he's asked to visit South Africa to discover why a dying friend's horses are suddenly failing on the racetrack. Unfortunately, Lincoln's attempt to help a friend soon puts him in harm's way. From a nearly fatal interview to a dangerous accident in a gold mine, it seems only luck is keeping him alive. And in life, unlike the big screen, there's no coming back from dead . . . Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, *Smokescreen* is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' Daily Mirror 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' Sunday Express 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life 'Francis writing at his best' Evening Standard 'Still the master' Racing Post

10 lb penalty dick francis: *Rat Race* Dick Francis, 1999-05-27 Discover the classic mystery from Dick Francis, one of the greatest thriller writers of all time 'Written in Dick Francis inimitable style, this fast-paced thriller leaves the reader gasping for breath' 5***** Reader Review 'Fast paced action with a hero you can relate to . . . You can't put the book down!' 5***** Reader Review _____ Matt Shore is a pilot down on his luck. Once he'd flown big jets and dropped supplies in war zones. Now he's ferrying high-class passengers between English racecourses. But when one eventful trip ends with his plane exploding in a ball of fire, Matt knows he's not that unlucky. When the police confirm it was a bomb, Matt realizes he has a problem. One of his passengers must have been the target - the question is who? Matt to find out fast - because he's scheduled to ferry the same people over the coming weeks. Can Matt stay alive long enough to stop the bomber? Packed with intrigue and hair-raising suspense, *Rat Race* is just one of the many blockbuster thrillers from legendary crime writer Dick Francis. Praise for Dick Francis: 'As a jockey, Dick Francis was unbeatable when he got into his stride. The same is true of his crime writing' Daily Mirror 'The narrative is brisk and gripping and the background researched with care . . . the entire story is a pleasure to relish' Scotsman 'Dick Francis's fiction has a secret ingredient - his inimitable knack of grabbing the reader's attention on page one and holding it tight until the very end' Sunday Telegraph 'A regular winner . . . as smooth, swift and lean as ever' Sunday Express 'The master of suspense and intrigue' Country Life 'Francis writing at his best' Evening Standard 'Still the master' Racing Post

10 lb penalty dick francis: *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction* Joyce G. Saricks, 2001 Covering fifteen popular genres, each chapter includes a definition of the genre, its characteristics and appeal elements (such as character development, story line, and frame), and its key authors and subgenres.

10 lb penalty dick francis: Bloomsbury Good Reading Guide Nick Rennison, 2009-01-01

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