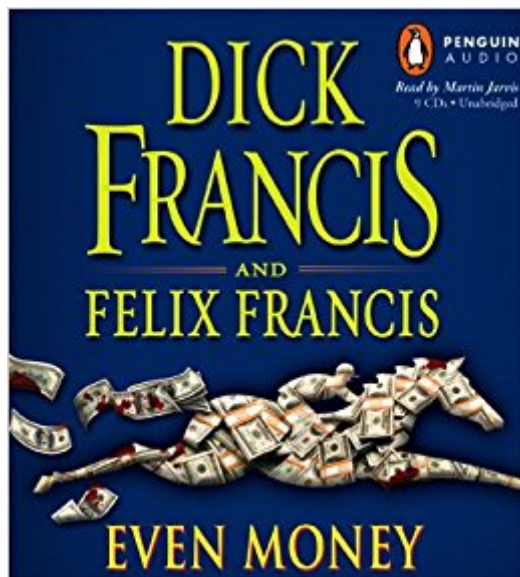


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# Even Money



## Synopsis

Unabridged CDs ? 9 CDs, 10 hours  
The New York Times? bestselling authors return with their heartstopping new novel.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Penguin Audio; Unabridged edition (August 25, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143144839

ISBN-13: 978-0143144830

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.6 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 114 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,971,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( F \) > Francis, Dick](#) #3302 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#) #4286 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

## Customer Reviews

The third collaboration between bestseller Francis and son Felix (after *Silks*), a taut crime thriller, features an especially sympathetic hero. Bookmaker Ed Talbot is struggling with his wife's mental illness, even as technology threatens to give the big bookmaking outfits an insurmountable advantage over his small family business. Soon after a man shows up at Ascot and identifies himself as Ed's father, Peter, whom Ed believed long dead, a thug demanding money stabs Peter to death. Ed is in for even more shocks when he learns his father was the prime suspect in his mother's murder—and that Peter's killing, rather than a random act of violence, may be linked to a mysterious electronic device used in some horse-racing fraud. Ed must juggle his amateur investigations into past and present crimes with his demanding family responsibilities. Though some readers may find the ending overly pat, the authors make bookmaking intelligible while easily integrating it into the plot. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Dick Francis (pictured with his son Felix Francis) was born in South Wales in 1920. He was a young rider of distinction winning awards and trophies at horse shows throughout the United Kingdom. At the outbreak of World War II he joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot, flying fighter and bomber

aircraft including the Spitfire and Lancaster. He became one of the most successful postwar steeplechase jockeys, winning more than 350 races and riding for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. After his retirement from the saddle in 1957, he published an autobiography, *The Sport of Queens*, before going on to write more than forty acclaimed books, including the New York Times bestsellers *Even Money* and *Silks*. A three-time Edgar Award winner, he also received the prestigious Crime Writers' Association's Cartier Diamond Dagger, was named Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America, and was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2000. He died in February 2010, at age eighty-nine, and remains among the greatest thriller writers of all time. Felix Francis (pictured with his father, Dick Francis), a graduate of London University, spent seventeen years teaching A-level physics before taking on an active role in his father's career. He has assisted with the research of many of the Dick Francis novels, including *Shattered*, *Under Orders*, and *Twice Shy*, which drew on Felix's experiences as a physics teacher and as an international marksman. He is coauthor with his father of the New York Times bestsellers *Dead Heat*, *Silks*, and *Even Money*. He lives in England.

Just when I thought Dick Francis couldn't find another tale to tell about Britain's many faceted horse business, he comes up with a great story about race track bookies. Race track betting in Great Britain is very different from that in the US. Track bets are placed with independent, legally licensed bookies who individually set the odds and maintain a complex system of accepting bets and protecting their bottom line. Ned Talbot owns the bookie business started by his grandfather, but he's lost his love of the business and the sport. The big bookie parlors in the cities are hurting his bottom line; computers have changed the way he does business. Now his wife is in a mental hospital for another round of treatments, his computer-savvy assistant wants a piece of the business and his father, whom he thought was dead, has just showed up at the track. Within hours, his father is murdered in front of Ned, and Ned is plunged into a nerve-wracking series of events as he tries to understand his past, protect his business and his family, and find out about the items his father left behind. This is a story of stolen identities (both humans and horses), real and imagined truths and the complex relationships in the horse racing world. It is fast paced and riveting (I lost a night's sleep). You may find the intricacies of Britain's book making business somewhat tiring, but the complexity makes for an intriguing plot. Enjoy!

The latest Francis (family) outing goes to the races with a bookmaker this time. The odds are high reader interest will be lost long before the story is over. As the Francis hero often is, he is saddled

with a disabled (in this case bi-polar) wife (with victim written all over her plot-wise), unhelpful inspector plod type coppers, and a range of villains who simply show up and beat the c\*\*p out of him. Over and over. Unfortunately, the story founders on the day to day work of the bookie (going here, going there, next Tuesday at someplace else) which takes up all the air in the room. The "mystery" (there are supposed to be two) takes forever to get going. His long lost, and quickly dead father's mysterious...whatever, is played off against a bigger bookie's attempt to squeeze him out of the business. Unfortunately, while the "procedural" form lets us in on all sorts of insider stuff, it plays almost no role in addressing the "mystery" element of things which is supposed to be the reason for all the goings on. Francis hero guys are like Timex watches, they take a beating (or several) and keep on going, never getting mad, depressed or...anything, except rarely, even. As a pay off, its pretty bland when it finally comes.

I enjoyed listening to this Audio CD on a trip from NC to FL. Good story in the Dick Francis style. I like the fact that the focus of this story is on the book making trade and not on the violent aspects.

This is the worst Dick Francis/Felix Francis book I have read. I have read every Dick Francis book written and have read all of the Dick/Felix ones as well.(None are as good as the old books although I liked Silks.) This book was disjointed, and really was bad. Usually I admire the heroes in Francis books. I like them. This guy was not a hero in any sense. The main character lied - a lot. What did the girl in the black and white outfit have to do with anything? Someone wrote this one fast - too fast - and the plot was incoherent. I threw it across the room when I was done. A total waste of my time! The last time I will try to read Francis. But I did love the old books very much.

Felix has had a generous hand in the crafting of this story, and some of the action is obviously from his generations point of view, but the collaboration with his father Dick has resulted in the creation of a new author whose work I will actively seek out. Dick Francis has been my favorite author for years because of his creation of believable, likeable Heroes who act in a manner most thoroughly British and correct in the most unlikely combinations of external scenarios. I know picking up a new Francis novel will leave me warmed by the hope that humanity can and does have real-life Heroes, and their stories are played out on the pages of these great stories by Francis, pere et fil.

On the whole a fairly good book, but not like the Dick Francis I know , I devoured every one of his books when he wrote by himself, but he & his son together, lack his fire, not enough horses

involved, not the characters he alone created hardly a jockey in sight, or a stable or trainer. Racing is now on the fringes not the main event like it used to be. Oh well, guess nothing stays the same does it

I have been a Dick Francis fan for over 25 years. I have read (and reread) every book of his, and I even have one that he signed. As a die-hard fan, I did enjoy this effort. Please, if this is your first Francis novel, don't judge his work by this book alone. It is not up to his usual standard. An enjoyable read, yes - but this one drags in a few places. Most of his' works are short, tight prose with few or no wasted words. They get right to the point and make the reader feel that he knows the main character. The reader cares what happens to the character, and becomes involved with his life. I enjoyed this mystery, but it's not the usual 300 page Francis thrill ride.

I have been a Dick Francis fan since I was a teenager. I enjoyed this, but it was a little more cynical and tired than other Francis novels. No spark. Compared to Decider and To the Hilt, this is a mediocre effort.

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