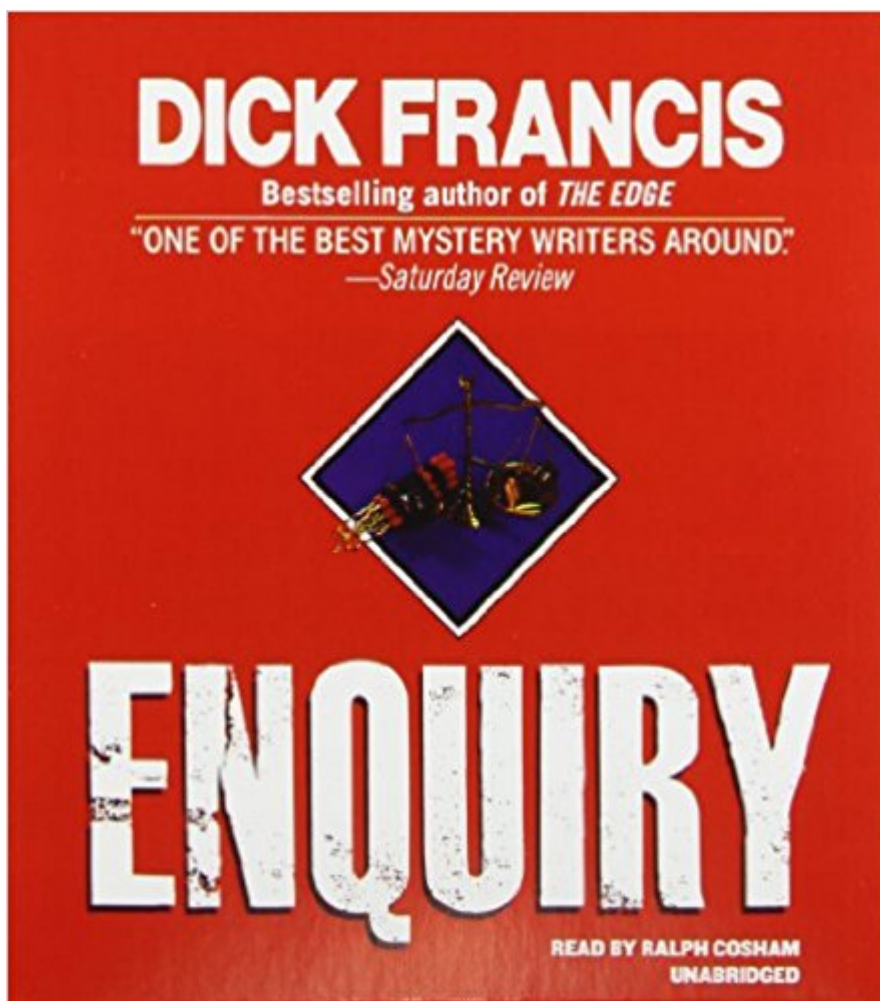




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Enquiry



Synopsis

[Read by Ralph Cosham]After being charged at a secret enquiry with throwing a race for profit, jockey Kelly Hughes and trainer Dexter Cranfield have been barred from racing -- a devastating event for both of them. It was a vicious frame-up, and worse, they have nowhere to turn to clear their names. Still, Hughes refuses to take the phony verdict lying down -- even though his personal enquiry might have him lying down permanently.

Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: Blackstone Audio; Unabridged edition (July 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1470824507

ISBN-13: 978-1470824501

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,779,350 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

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Customer Reviews

"One of the greatest living suspense writers". -- CBS Radio --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"One of the greatest living suspense writers."CBS RADIOJockey Kelly Hughes and trainer Dexter Cranfield had been barred from racing--for throwing a race for personal profit. It was a vicious frame-up and, worse, they had nowhere to turn to clear their names. Still, Hughes refused to take the phony verdict lying down--even though his personal enquiry might have him lying down permanently.... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I should have read this book when it first came out in 1971. The cover price on a new paperback then was only 95 cents. It was only later that I discovered Dick Francis, whom I now consider to be one of the best mystery/thriller authors ever. To my mind Enquiry captures all the qualities that have since made him one of my favorite of all novelists. His writing is uncluttered and doesn't lose you in

a huge cast of characters you can't keep track of. His plots are fresh, excitingly paced and filled with characters who seem remarkably human and three-dimensional with their passions, plotting, and motivations. So far I've read 27 of the 48 novels I believe he wrote solely or in his later decade with his son Felix. I still have 21 to go and I can't wait to read each of them. His protagonists vary. While several of them recur in several different novels, most of them are discrete different individuals with different backgrounds, occupations, histories and personalities. Francis who was at various times the steeplechase jockey of the Queen of England, a successful journalist, an RAF pilot, and an amazingly compelling and productive author, reflects some of his own past in creating the individual dramas of each book, almost always setting them in some relationship to British or international steeplechase or flat racing that somehow involves each of his sets of characters. His villains are genuinely dangerous and menacing. Each book draws clear distinctions between right and wrong, but don't make it a simple matter for his characters to make choices. None of them is perfectly good or perfectly evil, they are drawn from the issues of life and human relationships familiar to all of us. While Francis pere is no longer with us, his books still are. I enjoy them immensely and am happy to suggest you try them too if you haven't yet.

The story of Enquiry begins after a jockey, Kelly Hughes, and a trainer, Dexter Cranfield, have been stripped of their licenses and banned from any association with racing. Thanks to a flashback, we learn the hearing was pretty much a kangaroo court and the pair was framed for intentionally throwing a race. Hughes decides to find out what really happened and starts digging into things. Along the way, he starts to get chummy with Cranfield's daughter, making for some interesting cross-class romance. From there, things proceed to resolution in a pretty straightforward fashion for a mystery. Enquiry moves along at a quick pace, and is not a long book at 264 pages. Kelly Hughes is the main character and he's honest, fairly courageous, and reasonably intelligent. He's no detective but he is determined to keep digging until he can find out who set him up. It doesn't take long for you to get firmly in his corner and stay there. The supporting cast is also interesting. It was definitely a nice touch to show the class snobbery between aristocracy and laborers. This book is a good read and I'd recommend it to anyone looking for a mystery. Either first time readers or established fans of Francis should be pleased with what they find here. I can't point out any real flaws in the book because it didn't suffer from any. Buy it, read it, and enjoy it.

In this Dick Francis mystery, jockey Kelly Hughes and trainer Dexter Cranfield are undergoing a closed-door enquiry by the Stewards of racing. The outcome is that both men lose their licenses and

are barred from horseracing and also are barred from being around the tracks and the entire racing scene for throwing a race for money, which means that Kelly slowed his horse in order to keep from winning. If a jockey does that, it's for money, but someone has set up Cranfield and Hughes. This also means unemployment for the two men. This is on par with Dick Francis's other mysteries in that the mystery is slowly developed but never boring. Kelly finds romance and this story makes for an overall excellent reading experience. I haven't read a Dick Francis novel that I haven't liked yet. The character development is excellent and the dialogue is outstanding. Highly recommended.

When it comes to equestrian stories it is very hard to beat the Francis family, their knowledge of racing, and on and off the course matters can only come from his experiences as a jockey. On and off the race course his characters are believable, ordinary people with many problems. His villains are by and large ordinary people who have become greedy or gone astray.

Dick Francis is my favorite author....this is one of my collection to enjoy. The narrator is excellent.

Second time I have read this! Always a good read by the talented Mr Francis. Recommend it to anyone especially with even a small interest in the sport of Kings!

Dick Francis is always a good read. This presentation lost a little in the transfer to radio drama, but still very enjoyable.

This is another classic Dick Francis. He is one of the authors I can reliably turn to when I'm in the mood for a pacey, light yet well-written read. I love his strength in creating female characters, which can be such a rare gift amongst male thriller/crime writers. Francis's women are strong, individual and real, and even better, his heroes appreciate those women as their equals.

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