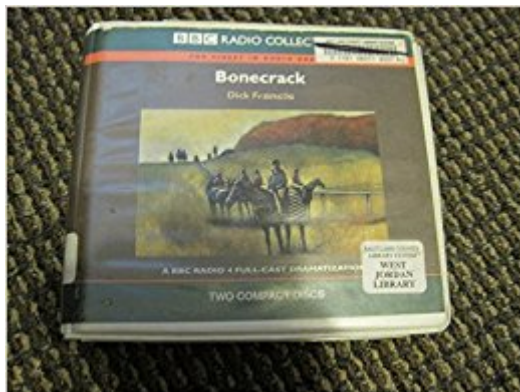


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# Bonecrack



## Synopsis

At twenty to midnight Neil Griffon's home is broken into and he is roughly abducted by masked men. He has no idea who they are, or what they want. But when Neil wakes up, hours later, he quickly discovers that unless he cooperates his kidnappers will destroy his father's precious horses, racing stable and ultimately Neil himself. Returned to take charge of the stables, Neil can tell no-one about his ordeal. Vicious threats and horrible violence against his horses become a day-to-day reality and he is forced to comply with his blackmailer's wishes. Trapped in a war of attrition, Neil realises he must find a way to stop these criminals before his nerve gives out. After all, a choice between his integrity and his life is no choice at all... --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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[Authors, A-Z > \( F \) > Francis, Dick](#) #10259 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #16454

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## Customer Reviews

Unbeatable \* Daily Mirror \* 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 \* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Dick Francis has written more than forty international bestsellers and is widely acclaimed as one of the world's finest thriller writers. His awards include the Crime Writers' Association's Cartier Diamond Dagger for his outstanding contribution to the genre, and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Tufts University of Boston. In 1996 Dick Francis was made a Mystery Writers of America Grand Master for a lifetime's achievement and in 2000 he was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Sadly he died in 2010. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

If you thought I'd be prejudiced in favor of Dick Francis just because I've read 32 of his books, you may just possibly be right. Fortunately, I have 13 more that I haven't read yet, so I still have a tiny bit of room to change my mind. Right now, I hold Dick Francis consistently to be the best mystery writer I have ever read. And I do love writers like John Sandford, Lee Child, Michael Connelly, Jeff Abbott, William Berhardt, Linwood Barclay and others of that caliber. Bonecrack is just another one of his amazing list of exceptional books that stand head and shoulders above many of those other masters of mystery. Writers like Jack Higgins and to a certain extent Lee Child seem to write variations of the same book over and over again. Not so Dick Francis. Even though each of his books has a thread running through it that invariably involves horse racing that commonality is much more like the fact that Alfred Hitchcock always made an appearance in each of his films. Each of Francis' protagonists are unique. His characters are clad in flesh and blood so they come alive on the page and have meaningful relationships. Francis' scenarios seem lifted from real life and involve the reader emotionally. There is little detail that isn't relevant and Francis does not waste time with pages of description of clothing, landscapes, or mechanical intricacies designed to let you know how much Francis knows about nuclear submarines, botany, small arms, fighter jet cockpits, or international investment. You won't miss it, either here in Bonecrack or any of his other books. Read Bonecrack or any other Dick Francis book and I think you could become the same kind of Francis addict I am. Since his death, his son Felix, who co-wrote with his father during his later years, now writes under his own name as part of a "Dick Francis brand franchise." His books are much like his father's, who obviously taught him well, so I'm pleased to recommend him too. Happy reading.

I enjoy all the Dick Francis mysteries so this was no exception. Although all the mysteries have a certain basic formula they are each different in that they explore different aspects of the horse racing world and the different professions and activities involved, all well researched and and fascinating in their own right. Bonecrack was more directly associated with the racing/training world than some of the others. I gave it 4 stars because I found slightly less believable than most of the others, but an enjoyable read all the same.

I always find Dick Francis novels a comfortable read and have just been re-reading some of the many that I own. In the process I came upon the title Bonecrack and realised that it was one that I had not read so naturally I bought it. Every novel by Dick Francis is not equal in its enjoyment but I just loved this one and recommend it to anyone who enjoys these novels.

Neil Griffon is a businessman drafted into running his father's racing stable while the old man recuperates from a nasty accident. A gangster who wants his own son, Alessandro, hired as a jockey abducts Neil and threatens both murder and the destruction of the stables unless the boy is made top jockey immediately. The bulk of the story from that point focuses on Neil's efforts to juggle the conflicting demands of the gangster, Alessandro, his employees, and his father. It's an open question whether he'll stay alive long enough to extricate himself from the situation and return the stables in decent shape to his father's care. Bonecrack starts off fast since Neil's abduction occurs on the very first page. The pace is strong throughout, and especially fevered as it approaches the climax. The characters are all pretty well developed. Neil is a typical Dick Francis protagonist, both likeable and intelligent. His father is a cold, egotistical man. Alessandro is possibly the most interesting character and certainly shows the most growth and development during the course of the story. He starts off arrogant and condescending but slowly responds to Neil's efforts to groom him into a real jockey. If you've read a few Dick Francis novels, you're not likely to find any major surprises here. It's an enjoyable read and the prose is as silky smooth as ever. If you've never read any of his books, then this is as good as any to start with. Long-time fans should also be pleased with yet another strong outing.

A great mystery plus exploration of fathers and sons. Hard to put down.

This story is full of stoic calm in face of evolving and changing relationships and how events can be turned around with a cool and calculating mind. I don't recall enjoying any Dick Francis book as much as this one!

I really enjoy all Dick Francis's books, although they seem to be racing based, the variety of the stories is fantastic. I really enjoy the different stage settings he uses for his books. I have also read his son's books (Felix Francis) and they are equally as good. Unlike other well known authors, they don't have a set formula they use and just change the names.

book was in quite poor condition. Condition was very overrated.

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