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# Dick Francis

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Dick Francis** (born **October 31, 1920**) is a British jockey and author.

He was born Richard Stanley Francis in **Lawrenny**, south **Wales**. The son of a jockey, he had a successful career himself as a jockey, winning over 350 races.

During **World War II**, he served in the **Royal Air Force** piloting fighter and bomber aircraft including the **Spitfire**. He left the RAF in 1946 to become a celebrity in the world of **British National Hunt racing**.

From 1953 to 1957 he was jockey to **Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother**. He was forced to retire from racing as the result of a serious fall in 1957. His most famous moment as a jockey came while riding the Queen Mother's horse, **Devon Loch**, in the **1956 Grand National**: the horse inexplicably fell when close to winning the race.

His first book was his autobiography, *The Sport of Queens* (1957), which led to him becoming the **racing** correspondent for the *London Sunday Express*, a position he held for 16 years. In 1962, he published his first thriller, *Dead Cert*, which was set in the world of racing. Subsequently, he regularly produced a novel a year for the next 38 years, missing only 1998 (during which year he published a short-story collection). His books were set against a background of horseracing, his heroes held a variety of jobs, from artist (*To the Hilt*) to private investigator.

Francis is the only three-time recipient of the **Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award** for Best Novel, winning for *Forfeit* in 1981, and *Come to Grief* in 1996. Also in 1996, he was given the **Grand Master Award**, the highest honor bestowed by the Mystery Writers of America.

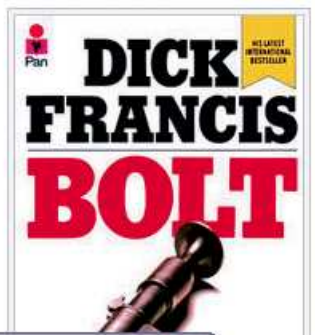
He was made an Officer of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1984.

The 1999 unauthorised biography, *Dick Francis: A Racing Life*, suggested that his books had in fact been written by Mary Francis. Whether this is true or not, by all accounts Mary did much of the research and editing of Francis' later novels and stories, collaboratively with her husband on each book's actual composition. Dick Francis himself has written no new works after 2000. However, Francis has announced that a new book, titled *Under Orders* (a racing term for when the horses are at the start) is due in September 2006.<sup>[2]</sup>

Dick Francis' manager (and research assistant on the new book) is his son Felix Francis. Felix left his well-paid post as a jockey in order to work for his father. Felix was the inspiration behind a leading character in the novel *Twice Shy*. Dick's other son, **Timerrick**, used to be a racenorse trainer, and later ran his own horse transport business; thus inspiring the novel *Driving Force*.

## Books

- The Sport of Queens* (1957)
- Dead Cert* (1962)
- Nerve* (1964)
- For Kicks* (1965)
- Odds Against* (1965)
- Flying Finish* (1966)
- Blood Sport* (1967)
- Forfeit* (1968) ISBN 0-425-20191-0
- Enquiry* (1969)



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Schovávat

Studijní slovník anglicko-český

**racing** [ˈreɪsɪŋ] podst. (activity)  
**závodění, závody**; (= horse racing)  
**koňské dostihy**

[edit]