

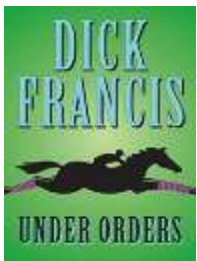
The Horse Racing Novels of Felix Francis

From the Wikipedia entry on Felix Francis: "**Felix Francis** (born 1953) is a British crime writer who is **Dick Francis**'s younger son. Felix studied Physics and Electronics at London University and then embarked upon a 17-year career teaching Advanced Level physics at three schools, the last seven as head of the science department at Bloxham School in Oxfordshire, before quitting to look after his father's affairs. He currently lives in Oxfordshire. From 1993 to 2005 he was a director and deputy chairman of World Challenge Expeditions Ltd. He is a former governor of Winchester House Prep School and is a governor of Malvern College.

Felix remembers conversations around the Francis breakfast table being somewhat unconventional: "*The production of a Dick Francis novel has always been a mixture of inspiration, perspiration and teamwork. The first one was published when I was nine, and I grew up in a house where breakfast talk would be about the damage a bullet might do to a man's guts rather than the more mundane topics of everyday life*", he says.

Dick's wife, Mary Francis, assisted with both the research and the writing of many of Dick's novels until her death in 2000, often with the help of Felix. Felix subsequently took over her work. Felix and his father shared a love of racing and often worked together on plot and character details at Dick's home in the Cayman Islands. This partnership allowed Dick to draw upon Felix's knowledge and experience as a physics teacher in *Twice Shy* (1981) and his past as an international marksman in *Shattered* (2000) and *Under Orders* (2006). With the publication of *Dead Heat* in 2007, Felix took on a more significant role in writing. *Silks* (2008) was the second novel in this father-and-son collaboration and *Even Money* (2009) was the third. *Crossfire* (2010) was the novel Dick and Felix Francis were working on when Dick died in February 2010.

His first novel written without his father was *Gamble*, published in September 2011, although it is labeled as "a Dick Francis novel written by Felix Francis" – in fact, the first four novels published by Felix Francis alone included the possessive "Dick Francis' ____" at the start of their titles. Starting with *Front Runner*, in 2015, Felix's name has stood on its own.



Under Orders [2006]

co-written with Dick Francis

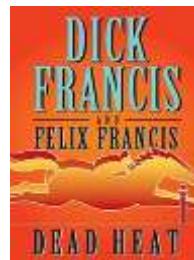
[Last of the four-volume Sid Halley series]

"Sadly, death at the races is not uncommon. However, three in a single afternoon was sufficiently unusual to raise more than an eyebrow."

It's the third death on Cheltenham Gold Cup Day that really troubles super-sleuth Sid Halley. Former champion jockey Halley knows the perils of racing all too well – but in his day, jockeys didn't usually reach the finishing line with three .38 rounds in the chest. But this is precisely how he finds jockey Huw Walker – who, only a few hours earlier, had won the coveted Triumph Hurdle.

Just moments before the gruesome discovery, Halley had been called upon by Lord Enstone to make discreet enquiries into why his horses appeared to be on a permanent losing streak. Are races being fixed? Are bookies taking a cut? And if so, are trainers and jockeys playing a dangerous game with stakes far higher than they realize?

Halley's quest for answers draws him ever deeper into the darker side of the race game, in a life-or-death power play that will push him to his very limits – both professionally and personally.



Dead Heat [2007]

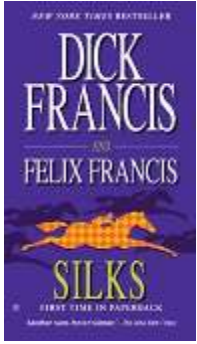
co-written with Dick Francis

The night before the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket sees the great and the good of the horse-racing community gathered for a prestigious black-tie Gala dinner. It is a fitting testament to the glamour of the occasion that top chef Max Moreton is cooking the evening's meal.

Founder of the racing town's favorite Michelin-starred restaurant, the Hay Net, Max is something of a celebrity in Newmarket circles. However, spending the night retching in the throes of agony is the last thing Max expects. But much worse is to come . . . his food is suspected of putting twenty-four of the dinner guests in hospital. Max's pride and professionalism tells him all is not as it seems.

Within hours, Max's restaurant is forcibly closed, his reputation teeters on the brink of ruin, and a court case looms. But the day

is far from over, and soon Max Moreton finds himself desperately fighting for more than just his livelihood....



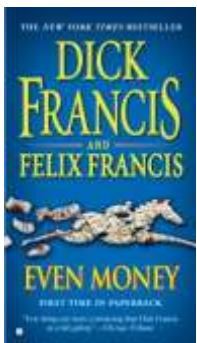
Silks [2008] co-written with Dick Francis

"Julian Trent, you have been found guilty by this court of perpetrating a violent and unprovoked attack on an innocent family including a charge of attempted murder. You have shown little or no remorse for your actions and I consider you a danger to society."

When defense barrister Geoffrey Mason hears the judge's verdict, he quietly hopes that a long and arduous custodial sentence will be handed down to his arrogant young client. That Julian Trent only receives eight years seems all too lenient. Little does Mason expect that he'll be looking Trent in the eyes again much sooner than he'd ever imagined.

Setting aside his barrister's wig, Mason heads to Sandown to don his racing silks. An amateur jockey, his true passion is to be found in the saddle on a Thoroughbred, pounding the turf in the heat of a steeplechase. But when a fellow rider is brutally murdered – a pitchfork driven through his chest – Mason's racing life soon becomes all too close to his working life. The prime suspect is one of their brethren, champion jockey Steve Mitchell; the evidence is overwhelming.

Mason is reluctant to heed Mitchell's pleas for legal advice – but soon he finds himself at the center of a sinister web of threat and intimidation. Mason is left fighting a battle of right and wrong, and more immediately, a battle of life and death... his own.



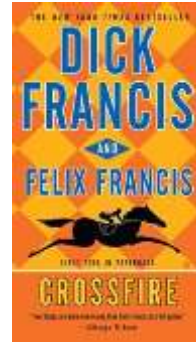
Even Money [2009] co-written with Dick Francis

On the first day of Royal Ascot, the crowd rejoices in a string of winning favorites. Ned Talbot has worked all his life as a bookmaker — taking over the family business from his grandfather — so he knows not to expect any sympathy from the punters as they count their winnings, and him his losses. He's seen the ups and downs before — but, as the big gambling conglomerates muscle in on small concerns like his, Ned wonders if it's worth it any more.

When a grey-haired man steps forward from the crowd, claiming to be his father, Ned's life is thrown into further

turmoil. He'd been told since he was a baby that his parents had died in a car crash.

Barely an hour later, his newly-found father is stabbed by an unknown assailant in the Ascot car park. Blood oozing from his abdomen, his father warns Ned to "be very careful." But of whom? Of what? Ned finds himself in a race to solve his father's riddle, a race where coming in second could cost him more than even money, it could cost him his life...



Crossfire [2010] co-written with Dick Francis

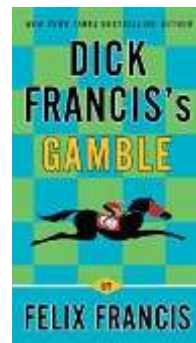
Captain Thomas Forsyth's second tour of Afghanistan is cut brutally short when he's badly wounded by a roadside bomb. Tom's world is torn apart by the injury – the Army is his life. The thought of never rejoining his regiment is a terrifying prospect and one that he is not willing to entertain.

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?

"This is a very special book to me and I hope you will enjoy it as much as my father and I enjoyed writing it together." - Felix Francis

[Dick Francis dies – February 2010]

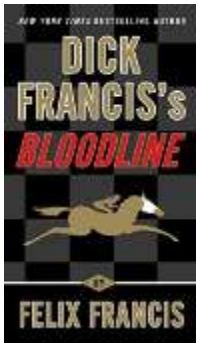


Dick Francis' Gamble [2011]

As one of the youngest ever winners of the Grand National, Nick 'Foxy' Foxton's career as a world-class jockey is on perfect track until a near-fatal accident cuts his dream brutally short. But when he returns to Aintree as a spectator years later, nothing can prepare him for what unfolds.

Minutes before the biggest event on the racing calendar, Nick's affable American colleague Herb Kovak is shot at point-blank range, the gunman disappearing amongst the stunned crowd. Along with the police, Nick is left baffled as to why anyone would want to kill such an apparently gentle soul.

With the press speculating links to gangland crime and a crumpled note containing a threatening message found in the dead man's coat, Nick begins to doubt how well he really knew Herb. And on discovering Herb had named him as the benefactor of his will, Nick questions why he has been entrusted with the legacy. Is this a generous gift from a friend or is it, in fact, a poisoned chalice?



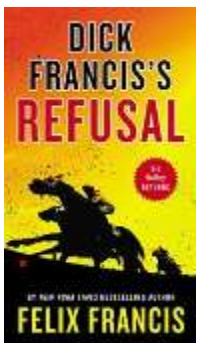
Dick Francis' Bloodline [2012]

When Mark Shillingford commentates on a race in which his twin sister Clare, an accomplished and successful jockey, comes in third, he can't help but be suspicious. As a professional race-caller, he knows she should have won. Did she lose on purpose? Was the race fixed? Why on earth would she do something so out of character?

That night, Mark confronts Clare with his suspicions, but she storms off after an explosive argument. It's the last time Mark sees her alive. Hours later, Clare jumps to her death from the balcony of a London hotel...or so it seems.

Devastated by her death, and almost overcome with guilt, Mark goes in search of answers. What led Clare to take her own life?

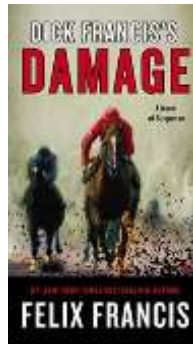
Or was it not suicide at all...?



Dick Francis' Refusal [2013]

When Sir Richard Stewart, chair of the horse racing authority, demands ex-investigator Sid Halley examine some suspicious races, he is given a firm no. Sid retired six years ago - and nothing will make him go back. But he's wrong. Next day, Sir Richard is found dead. Then Sid's six-year-old daughter

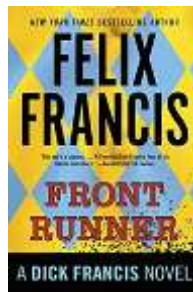
goes missing and he receives an anonymous call: declare the alleged race-fixing clean, or else. With his family in danger, how can Sid refuse? but this anonymous foe has underestimated the guile and determination of Sid Halley. Extreme situations demand extreme solutions and Sid will do anything to get his life back, or die trying.



Dick Francis' Damage [2014]

Undercover investigator Jeff Hinkley is assigned by the British Horseracing Authority to look into the activities of a suspicious racehorse trainer, but as he's tailing his quarry through the Cheltenham Racing Festival, the last thing he expects to witness is a gruesome murder. Could it have something to do with the reason the trainer was banned in the first place — the administration of illegal drugs to his horses?

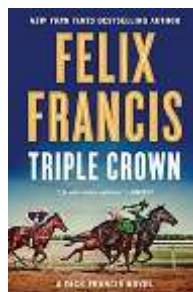
Then many more horses test positive for prohibited stimulants, and someone starts making demands, threatening to completely destroy the integrity of the racing industry. In order to limit the damage to the sport, it's critical that Jeff find the perpetrator...but he'll soon learn he's up against someone who will stop at nothing to prevail.



Front Runner [2015]

Jefferson Hinkley is back. Operating as an undercover investigator for the British Horseracing Authority, Jeff is approached by the multiple-champion jockey, Dave Swinton, to discuss the delicate matter of his losing races on purpose. Little does Jeff realize that his visit to Swinton's house will result in a brutal attempt on his life.

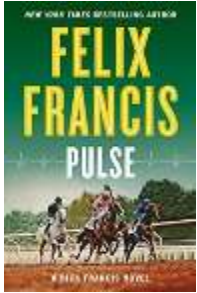
Shortly after Jeff narrowly escapes a certain and grisly death, the charred body of Dave Swinton is found in his burnt out car at a deserted beauty spot in Oxfordshire. The police seem think it's a suicide but Jeff is not so sure. He starts to investigate those races that Swinton could have intentionally lost, but soon discovers instead that there are those who would prevent him from doing so, at any cost.



Triple Crown [2016]

The richest prize in racing. The perfect motive to commit a crime... Jeff Hinkley, a British Horseracing Authority investigator, has been seconded to the US Federal Anti-Corruption in Sports Agency (FACSA) where he has been asked to find a mole in their organization, an informant who is passing on confidential information to fix races.

Jeff goes in search of answers, taking on an undercover role as a groom on the backstretch at Belmont Park racetrack in New York. But he discovers far more than he was bargaining for, finding himself as the meat in the sandwich between FACSAs and corrupt individuals who will stop at nothing, including murder, to capture the most elusive and lucrative prize in the world – the Triple Crown.

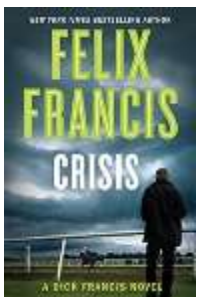


Pulse [2017]

A smartly dressed man has been found unconscious at the local racecourse and is rushed to the hospital, where he subsequently dies. But who is he? Where does he come from? He had no form of identification on him, and no one claims the

body.

Doctor Chris Rankin, a specialist in Emergency Medicine at Cheltenham Hospital, who treated the deceased — and who struggles with mental health issues — is intrigued by the nameless dead man, obsessed even, and starts asking questions. However, someone doesn't want the questions answered and will go to any lengths to prevent it, including an attempted murder. But when no one will believe that someone tried to kill Chris, the doctor is left with no option but to discover who the nameless man was and why he died...preferably before following him into an early grave.



Crisis [coming in October 2018]

Harrison Foster, a crisis manager for a London firm, is summoned to Newmarket after a fire in the Chadwick Stables kills six very valuable horses, including the short-priced favorite for the Derby. There is far more to the 'simple' fire than initially meets

the eye...for a start, human remains are found among the equestrian ones in the burnt-out shell. All the stable staff are accounted for, so who is the mystery victim?

Harry knows very little about horses, indeed he positively dislikes them, but he is thrust unwillingly into the world of thoroughbred racing where the standard of care of the equine stars is far higher than that of the humans who attend to them.

The Chadwick family is a dysfunctional racing dynasty. Resentment between the generations is rife and sibling rivalry bubbles away like volcanic magma beneath a thin crust of respectability.

Harry represents the Middle-Eastern owner of the Derby favorite and, as he delves deeper into the unanswered questions surrounding the horse's demise, he ignites a fuse that blows the volcano sky-high. Can Harry solve the riddle before he is bumped off by the fallout?

The Felix Francis Website:

<http://www.felixfrancis.com/>

(also the *Dick Francis* website as well)

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