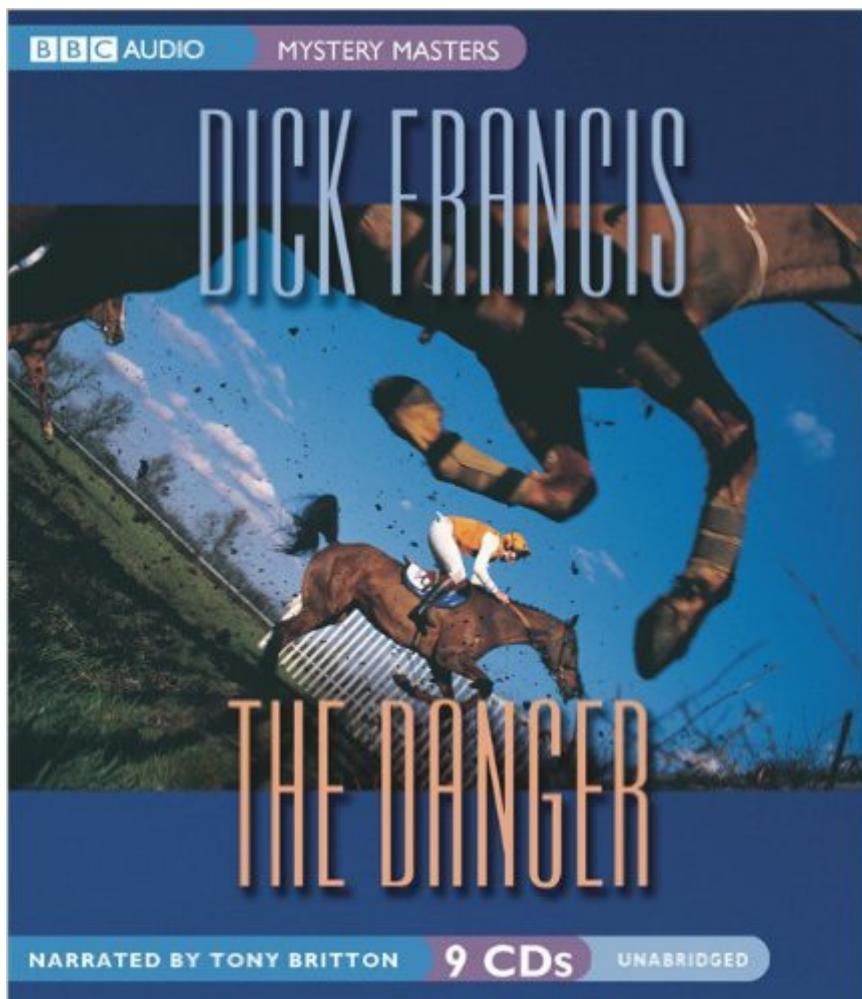


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The Danger



Synopsis

A kidnapping case should be easy to crack. That is, after all, Andrew Douglass business, and he's one of the best. But when beautiful Alessia Canci, one of the top women jockeys in the world, along with the child of a derby winner and the senior steward of the Jockey Club are all nabbed, Andrews professional skills are challenged. Dick Francis knows that horses and money can mean trouble as he masterfully weaves together the complex emotions and motivations of everyone involved in *The Danger*.

Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: BBC Audiobooks America; Unabridged edition (March 20, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1572708565

ISBN-13: 978-1572708563

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 5.3 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (110 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #668,541 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (F) > Francis, Dick #1046 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #1505 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

Andrew Douglas works for a private firm that consults with clients who are victims of kidnapping - or rather the relatives of victims - the ones being asked to pay the ransom. As always with Francis' work, horses are never too far out of the picture. One victim is a jockey, another is the child of a horse owner. Douglas is the usual Francis hero, young, single and decidedly personable. The action is non-stop, and the identity of the villain will keep you guessing until the end! This is another Francis winner. Highly recommended.

This highly enjoyable mystery is unusual in many ways, from the main character who is NOT a detective or police officer to the villains (kidnappers), plus the clever way Dick Francis worked the milieu he knows best (horses and horse racing) into each of the three kidnappings. The main character, Andrew Douglas, is a partner in a firm which negotiates for the release of kidnap victims/hostages by working as an "advisor" to police, governments, and occasionally taking things

into his own hands (unofficially) as demonstrated in the second kidnap in the story. Andrew shares many traits with other Dick Francis heroes--he is honest, likeable, an all-around good guy who trumps the criminals and gets the girl in the end. In this novel, Andrew himself is not connected with horses or horse racing, but rather the connection comes from the fact that all of the kidnapping victims share a connection to the horse racing world, be it as a female jockey, a part-owner of a promising race horse, the owner of a race track, and the head of the Jockey Club. From these tenuous links, Andrew and his partners realize that the perpetrator is probably known to the horse racing world, and begin to try to trap him, but not before one more kidnapping takes place! Like his other novels, this one too is a very easy, fast read, and takes readers from Italy to England to America before winding up most satisfactorily. I also liked the other characters in the novel, particularly some of Andrew's partners (described and fleshed out thoughtfully and with humor) and his love-interest. Readers will also learn something about horse racing, this time mostly from the perspective of a trainer and a jockey, as well as come away from the novel with a good sense of what it is like to go to the races, even if they have never attended. If you have never read anything by Dick Francis, this novel is an excellent place to begin.

One of the things I like about Dick Francis is that even though his stories involve horses and race courses, etc., you don't have to know anything about horses to understand and enjoy his books. I believe 'The Danger' is one of his best. It's amazing how this man captures so well the emotions of all the characters in this book: the kidnapped girl jockey, her grieving father, the insensitive father of the kidnapped child, and the mother who was made to feel guilty, even the sinister and very dangerous kidnapper. Everyone was on the edge of my seat the whole book. I tell you Dick Francis is superb.

Dick Francis' knows the horse racing industry well. Anyone who's read his mysteries knows that horses and money mean trouble and great stories. But for my money, Francis' true talent lies in seamlessly melding unusual mystery elements around horses. Such is the case with "The Danger", a taut, sobering but enthralling look at the risk of being rich and associated with horse racing. The hero works as a "consultant" to families and employers of kidnap victims. And just how kidnapping and horse racing are related exhibits Dick Francis' genius at research. The hero weaves slowly through the chase - advising families on how to get their loved ones back unharmed, tightrope-walking between overly-aggressive police and exceptionally nervous kidnappers and counseling the victims as they adjust to the real world again. When the pieces finally fall together for

our hero and the firm he represents, Francis' opens the starting gate and rushes the reader page after page through a frightening resolution - and a totally unexpected one. I've read a number of Dick Francis' mysteries. Sid Halley stories held the top place on my Dick Francis list - until I read "The Danger". Be sure to read it when you have lots of time - put it down and you might get the creeps until you finish it and the villain(s) (I won't say how many) is/are caught.

Having read this book a number of years ago, I wondered if I would enjoy having it on my Kindle. Buying the book was so easy, so quick, I began reading immediately. I found the book as entertaining, suspenseful, and as informative on the unthinkable challenges faced by a kidnap victim as I had the first time I read it. I hadn't remembered all the details and the action is rapid, so I wasn't at all bored. As Francis takes his hero, Andrew Douglas, into three countries, the characters of the criminal and Douglas slowly unfold along with some techniques used to negotiate a safe release of a kidnap victim. This is a hard book to put down from its beginning in Italy to the ending in Washington, D.C. A young lady has been captive for over 5 weeks, and the attempt to ransom her was bungled by a glory-seeking officer. Douglas is faced with convincing the criminal, the family, and the police to renegotiate, from the beginning. In the process he learns valuable information, that aids him in rescues in England and the United States. One kidnapping master mind, three different cultures, three different attitudes toward the process of liberating a captive, but the endeavor is successful until Douglas himself is kidnapped. He knows he will never be ransomed: His captor wants revenge. This is Dick Francis at his best, holding the reader in suspense from the first paragraph to the last word. Anyone who enjoys a good mystery will enjoy this book!

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