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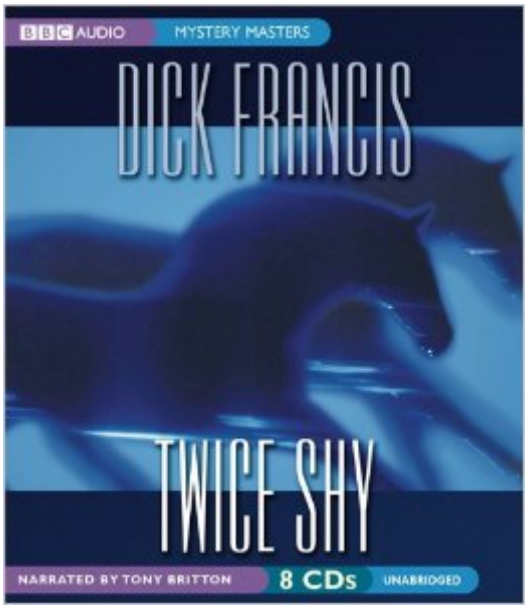
Twice Shy



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Synopsis

Physicist Jonathan Derry is given some musical tapes by a friend. But the tapes are really an elaborate computerized horse-betting system that can make the owner a rich manor a dead oneif the wrong people know he has possession of these tapes. Unfortunately, they find out. Thriller master Dick Francis weaves together a wicked villain, nonstop action, and an explosive showdown in a superb audiobook that races to the finish line.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a really big Dick Francis fan, I would be really sad if someone heard all these great things about this author, picked up this book, and then never tried another book again. It’s not a very good one. The premise is good, the characterizations as usual are very nice, but the plot goes nowhere and stays there from about halfway in until the last, disappointing page. Changing narrators in the book was a nice risk, but it ruins everything. Having the book be about computers and then putting in a 14-year gap was also not the wisest thing. If you want to start off on the right Francis Foot, try PROOF or WILD HORSES or ENQUIRY, and there you’re neck-deep in characterization, plot and thrills. Francis is a master, but even masters have an off day.

It’s always satisfying when the good guys are more cunning and effective than the bad guys, and Dick Francis delivers that satisfaction twice over in Twice Shy.This is the story of two brothers and a terrifying killing machine named Angelo. The book divides into two parts as the narration switches from Jonathan Kerry to William Kerry.Jonathan is a 33-year-old physics teacher. A friend of his has

programmed a computerized betting system based on statistical probabilities that, if properly followed, can generate considerable wealth. Not surprisingly, the system is of great interest to crooks.Jonathan's friend, who's been threatened by a couple of thugs (Angelo and cousin) passes on tapes of the program to Jonathan, who thereby becomes the target for Angelo's murderous attentions.Jonathan manages to escape England and Angelo, in rather heroic style, but fourteen years later his younger brother William inherits the problem. William is an ex-jockey with a high-level job in the racing world.This is only the barest hint at the plot, which is quite complex, despite the unifying factor of the obsessive and insanely violent Angelo.Love, friendship, marital troubles and wry humor mix quite successfully with criminal depredations in a book that is curiously lighthearted, despite some serious bloodshed.No doubt the computer content of the story is hopelessly out of date. Dick Francis could not have foreseen the incredibly fast pace of change in systems technology in 1982, when this book was published. So I looked the other way and just enjoyed the story. I found the ending quite a delight.

For fans of Dick Francis, ignore his books and just take the videos for what they are. McShane is simply gorgeous, and he does well in this horsie romp and David Cleveland, an investigator/security expert with Patrick McNee as his boss. They are in Canada, and McNee introduces Cleveland to a man and his daughter. He is the owner of a priced racing stud that mysteriously disappeared. No attempt at ransom, the horse never found alive or dead. After an attempt is made on the man's life, Cleveland steps in to track down what happened to the horse. There is the femme fatal, new wife that resented the time and money spent on the horses, a competitor stud that was failing and might possibly benefited in some manner by the horses disappearance.It is a good mystery, well acted. Film quality suffers since this is a Irish-Canadian made for telly effort, but they are still very enjoyable....and McShane is so easy on the eyes!! A definite for his fans (however you might check out the DVD choice you can get this movie and 2 other David Clevelands in the same package.

Twice Shy is an interesting departure from the norm for Dick Francis, in that the narrative switches from an older brother to a younger dealing with the same villain. Computers have changed since this book was written, but that does not alter the interest of the mystery. A good novel with the same kind of engaging characters that mark the best of Francis' books.

Twice Shy (Dick Francis) - Great story spread over several years between two brothers. Sounds complicated, but it's not. Along with his other books, it's a great read. Good story, good bad guys

and good guys who are just your average person. Definitely worth the read.

These were show on PBS in US, are Canada-Ireland joint effort and are filmed in both countries. My sister thinks McShane is the cat’s meow...just does not give the same thrill for this long legged New Orleans lad!! Still the mysteries are nifty, well acted and lots of lovely ladies for the males! McShane is his usual strong self!Nice package of all three David Cleveland films. Dick Francis buffs forget it - just watch for McShane and forget they are based on Francis’ character.

I’m usually a Dick Francis fan. I don’t know much about horse racing, but I always assume that Dick Francis does, given his background.However, my background is computers, and I found the computer-related plot elements so unrealistic they took me outside the story. Maybe horse racing hasn’t changed much from one generation to the next, but computers sure have.It was an interesting idea to have the story in two parts. The first was from the point of view of the older generation, and then the 2nd part sees the consequences visited on the next generation. Dare I compare it to The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings? Bilbo finds the powerful ring, and then later his nephew Frodo must deal with it. Here the computer program is the "magic" that the older brother acquires accidentally. Much later the younger brother has to cope with the dark forces that pursue him for it.For this computer professional, using the same computer software AND hardware in both generations was too "fantastical". A BASIC computer program that implements a rule-based race prediction system, and it works and continues to work for 2 decades? No way. I can accept a magical entity that predicts the future in a fantasy novel, but it doesn’t work for me in a Dick Francis.

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