



Second Wind

Dick Francis

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When a hurricane-chasing plane is downed on a Caribbean island, TV meteorologist Perry Stuart barely escapes with his life. But he can't escape what he saw on the island--and if the people who've tracked him back to England have their way, Stuart will have a zero percent chance of survival.

Second Wind Details

Date : Published (first published 1999)

ISBN :

Author : Dick Francis

Format : Kindle Edition 324 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Crime

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From Reader Review Second Wind for online ebook

E.P. says

"Second Wind" is an interesting read for us die-hard Francis fans. I keep thinking it's not as good as his absolute best works, and it's not, but I've still managed to read it several times, and there's lots that's good about it. So why isn't it as quite as good as some of the books that came a few years before?

There are lots of things that Francis fans will recognize and enjoy. There's lots about flying, and lots about meteorology, and a super-exciting action sequence in which the main characters fly into the teeth of a hurricane, and all kinds of shady doings, this time in Florida and the nearby islands. Basically it has all the action and adventure, and all the meticulously researched background that somehow manages to turn info dumps into fascinating lectures on obscure topics. There's also a suitably tortured hero, although he isn't the actual hero, he's the hero's best friend, which is an interesting twist, although that may be one of the reasons why "Second Wind" more of a pleasant read than a gut-wrenching nail-biter in the vein of "Longshot" or "Straight" (more about those later, I promise).

In fact, the real problem--if you want to call it that, since "Second Wind" is still a perfectly respectable thriller--is the way the book skips lightly over the emotional stuff, blithely allowing Perry to have casual relationships of all sorts and moving briskly through some pro forma romance and so on without really digging into them. This is something that Francis's books have a tendency to do at times, especially during his lighter periods; e.g., the mid-1970s, the late 1990s, and it's something he himself seems to have been aware of, since his artist characters all struggle with the tension between light entertainment and wrenching revelations of the terror of the human condition. Even the hero of "Longshot" (more about that later, no, seriously, I cannot leave it unreviewed, I just have to work up the strength) aims to write light reading, only to find himself plunged into life-and-death conflict. Perry of "Second Wind" does too, it just doesn't seem to affect him in quite the same way.

So if you're looking for a fun, light adventure story, "Second Wind" is probably for you. Just don't take it as the acme and omega of what Francis could produce.

Phillip Noble says

It is unimaginable to me that a writer can pen this many books and come up with fresh and intriguing plots that are seemingly never-ending. This is another fantastic Dick Francis work, and I'll keep reading them until I'm finished with the last one.

Anne says

Spring Read finally posting all my read books.

Tim says

I have read a lot of Dick Francis novels, although before I started putting reviews on here. Most were

entertaining, well crafted and at least moderately believable. In general they follow the same pattern, boy meets girl, gets beaten up, falls of a horse, has broken ribs and is nursed back to health by his latest paramour whilst uncovering some dastardly plot. All well and fine, the Holiday Inn or Mc Donald's of reading, easy going, light and comfortable.

This one I picked up from a box of junk in a friends garage and fear that it had been placed there with good reason.

This wasn't up to the normal standard, easy reading, entertaining yes but the plot was weak and confused, weapons grade uranium, mysterious tubercular diseases and an (admittedly interesting) splash of meteorology thrown in for good measure. There was never any real sense as to why or how our villains were able to operate their "business", or how indeed they were going to make a fortune from revising the means of pasteurization for that matter. A good book to read whilst in traction, entertaining enough to avoid the boredom but not sufficiently rewarding that you wouldn't be keen to leap from your bed as soon as recovery neared.

Ivana says

Hrdina je typickým francisovským hrdinom, ale samotné prostredie je predsa len trošku vzdialené od bežného dostihového, hoci s ním súvisí. Začiatok bol pomalší, dlhšie som sa do knižky dostávala, ale napokon ma Perry Stuart strhol a posledná tretina už bola typickým dielom Dicka Francisa. Príjemná oddychovka.

Sandy says

This was a good story, but I would have enjoyed it much much more had at least one character been more likeable. I just could not get involved in the people even though the situations were frequently compelling. When I relate to the characters I engage emotionally in the story. That was missing here.

Kaethe says

September 22, 2016
Jan 1, 2000

R J Mirabal says

Has elements of international intrigue along with the usual Francis elements of horse racing. Not a nail biter, but a good read. It was interesting to see how the main character would deduce what was really going on as the story progressed. I learned a lot about hurricanes by reading this book!

Mark says

This has been one of my least favorite books from Dick Francis. I'm not big into horse racing, but I have come to enjoy this part of his books. However, this book had very little racing, and the mystery aspect of it seemed a bit disjointed and was often confusing.

Lili says

After my November shoulder surgery, I re-read about 20 Dick Francis mystery novels. This was maybe my least favorite, but still made for a pleasant diversion during recovery. Some of the Francis novels I like much better and they are all good vacation (or recovery) reading, in my opinion. Francis is a former champion steeplechase jockey, turned sports columnist, turned mystery writer. Every book a bestseller, Francis uses the racing world as a context for his inductive heroes (mild-mannered, non-aggressive, but like tempered steel) to solve the mystery, deal with villains, and get justice (not always the same thing as legal resolution). My favorites are NERVE, BREAK IN, ENQUIRY, REFLEX, BOLT, BANKER, PROOF, and there are many more that I really like. To call them "horse stories" is absurd, but I must say Francis' books hit the spot in this reader that caused me to read every horse story I could find as a young girl :).

Harry says

What is there to say about Dick Francis? As I think about all of his books (yes, this review covers all of his books, and yes I've read them all) I think about a moral ethical hero, steeped in intelligence and goodness embroiled in evil machinations within British horse racing society - either directly or indirectly. The heroes aren't always horse jockies, they can be film producers, or involve heroes engaged in peripheral professions that somehow always touch the horse racing world.

But more than that, Francis's heroes are rational human beings. The choices made are rational choices directed by a firm objective philosophy that belies all of Francis's novels. The dialogue is clear and touched with humor no matter the intensity of evil that the hero faces. The hero's thoughts reveal a vulnerability that is touching, while his actions are always based on doing the right thing to achieve justice.

Causing the reader to deeply care about the characters in a novel is a difficult thing to do. No such worries in a Francis novel. The point of view is first person, you are the main character as you read the story (usually the character of Mr. Douglas). The hero is personable, like able, non-violent but delivering swift justice with his mind rather than through physical means. This is not to say that violence is a stranger to our hero. Some of it staggering and often delivered by what we would think of normal persons living in British society.

You will come to love the world of Steeple Chase racing, you will grow a fondness for horses, stables, trainers and the people who live in that world. You will read the books, devouring one after the other and trust me Dick Francis has a lot of novels (over 40 by my last count).

There are several series woven into the fabric of Francis's work: notably the Sid Halley and Kit Fielding series.

Assessment: Dick Francis is one of my favorite writers. I read his books with a fierce hunger that remains insatiable and I mourn his death.

Betsy the Quilter says

Usual stylish, fast moving Dick Frances mystery

This time, Dick Francis's hero is a meteorologist caught up in situations beyond his control. Francis is a master of the Everyman hero and this is no exception. Not one of his very best, but good enough indeed.

Fat Al says

One of Francis' weakest novels since slayride.

If you've got a friend wanting to try Dick Francis books, don't recommend this one.

Weak writing, weak plot, and characters you couldn't care less about.

One for the completists only, I'm afraid.

Balaji Dutt says

I have been a huge fan of Dick Francis for a long time; and have read most of his work; always enjoying the consistent quality of his work. Second Wind unfortunately, breaks the trend. The main characters are well fleshed-out as always - the mild Englishman central character; the love interest; the eccentrics etc are all there. The central plot with its horse racing link is tenuous at best. Surprisingly for a Dick Francis novel; most of the villains are revealed early on - leaving only one mystery to be solved - who is the boss behind the good guys? All in all, a disappointing outing. If you had to pick just one Dick Francis book to read this is not that book.

Kellie says

It's been a while since I read a book by Francis. This was not your typical Dick Francis book. Perry Stuart is a TV weather man. His passion for the weather takes him into the middle of hurricane Orin. Literally. It also throws him into the middle of a secretive plot within a group of traitors. This book peaked my interest and the pace moved along nicely. However, I felt a little bit disconnected from it. It was choppy in parts. The usual race horse theme did make an appearance but it seemed to be thrown in just to make an appearance however so slight. This was a decent Francis book but it wasn't his best
