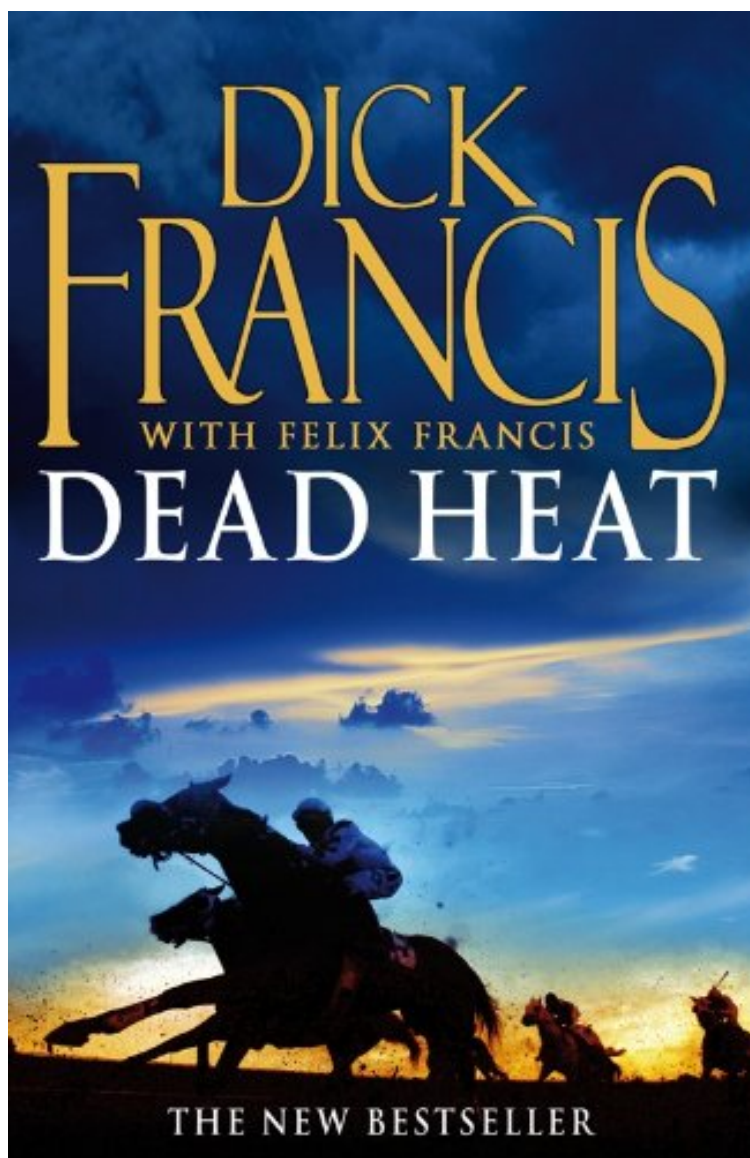


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Dead Heat: Horse Racing Thriller



Par Dick Francis, Felix Francis
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteur'I wondered if I was dying. I wasn't afraid to die but, such was the pain in my gut, I wished it would happen soon.' 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. Max is something of a celebrity in Newmarket circles. He is founder of the racing town's favourite Michelin-starred restaurant, the Hay Net. 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...Dead Heat is the latest searing, intrigue-filled blockbuster from the Grand Master of thriller writing. From Publishers Weekly MWA Grand Master Francis's first collaboration with his son Felix, a former physics teacher who researched many of his father's previous bestsellers, introduces an engaging hero, though longtime fans may find certain plot elements, like an unlikely love interest and sinister figures somehow connected with shady racetrack doings, less than fresh. The reputation of Max Moreton, a young wunderkind chef with a restaurant in Newmarket,

England, suffers after guests at an affair he caters fall ill with food poisoning. This calamity nearly jeopardizes another job feeding several dozen attendees at a major horse race. While that meal goes off without a hitch, a terrorist's bomb decimates the crowd at the track. Despite the official theory that an unpopular Middle Eastern ruler at the event was responsible, the chef wonders whether the bombing is related to the earlier food poisoning and turns amateur sleuth. Crisp writing and well-paced action help offset the routine plotting. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Audiofile Surprisingly, for a Dick Francis novel, horses feature here only peripherally. Max Moreton is a superstar chef whose life gets complicated when more than 200 people get sick after eating a dinner he catered at a racetrack. The next day, while he's serving lunch at another race, the glass-fronted box of the grandstand explodes. Max turns sleuth to save his reputation and his restaurant. Martin Jarvis perfectly depicts Max--young, determined, and newly in love. Jarvis's flexibility is remarkable. He creates different voices and accents for supporting characters ranging from Max's girlfriend, Caroline, to an elderly neighbor, a Wisconsin concierge, and a Russian importer. A.B. AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine-- Copyright

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