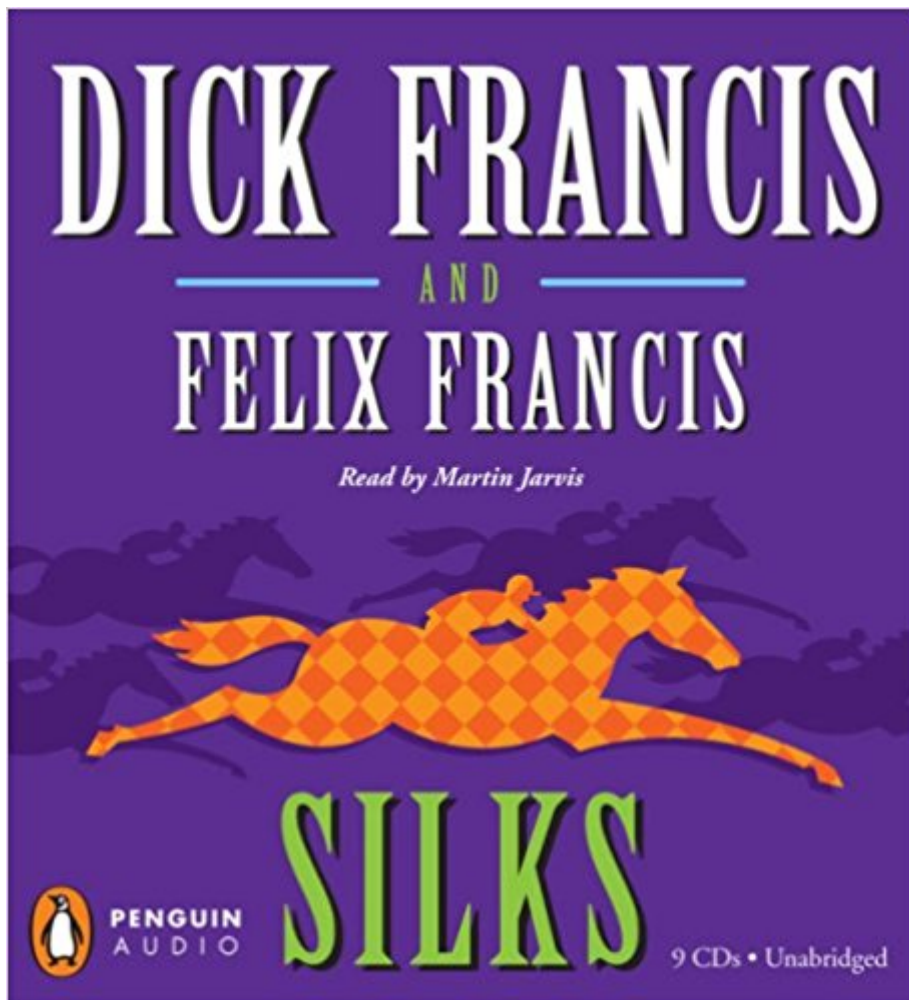




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Synopsis

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Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Penguin Audio (August 26, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143143859

ISBN-13: 978-0143143857

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.6 x 5.7 inches

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Customer Reviews

After collaborating on *Dead Heat* (2007), bestseller Francis and his son, Felix, deliver another gripping thriller with a thoroughbred racing backdrop. Soon after London barrister Geoffrey Mason, an amateur jockey by avocation, starts receiving a series of threatening messages from a former client, Julian Trent, whose conviction for assault was overturned on appeal, Mason reluctantly accepts the defense of a jockey, Steve Mitchell, accused of the pitch-fork murder of fellow rider Scot Barlow at a steeplechase event. Mitchell and Barlow had fallen out over Barlow's sister, a vet and Mitchell's former girlfriend, who took her own life just a short while before. When unknown parties order Mason to lose the case, he must balance his professional ethics and his sense of self-preservation. The solid writing and engaging lead will carry readers along at a brisk pace, though some may find the dramatic courtroom revelation of the murderer overly theatrical. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Geoffrey Mason, barrister and amateur steeplechase jockey, is called on to defend an arrogant and difficult fellow rider accused of brutally murdering another jockey. Despite overwhelming evidence, Mason believes his client is innocent—and in fact is being framed. Threats and a vicious beating make Mason more determined to persevere in the defense. British trial-procedure arcana

and steeplechase-racing information enrich this engaging story. Jarvis's reading is impeccable. Not a syllable is lost in his British-accented rendition, and his recitation of events leading up to and during the trial is a model of controlled tension. Fans will be delighted to know that coauthor Felix (Dick Francis's son) is clearly capable of carrying on the family tradition of top-notch horse-racing mysteries. --Karen Harris

I have loved Dick Francis' novels all my life, and I had high hopes for the novels co-written by his son. Unfortunately, I was just not as in love with them. The spark that infused the books written by Dick Francis with the help of his wife Mary (or vice-versa, depending on who you ask) is missing in this novel. It's not a BAD book, but the characters are not as charming, and the subtle humor that so enlivened the novels produced during Mary's lifetime is sadly lacking. Still better than the majority of the novels being churned out, which is why I gave it 4 stars. If I hadn't been comparing it to the earlier Dick Francis novels, I probably wouldn't have been so disappointed. But then again, I might not have bought it in the first place if I hadn't been expecting more of the same.

I was very excited when I found that this book was coming out. Since Dick Francis seemed to have stopped writing for a time, before the release of his last book written with his son, *Dead Heat*, I made sure that this was not a reprint. I also made sure that I had plenty of free time, because once I pick up one of his books, I can't put it down! This one did not disappoint me. As with his other books, the setting takes place in London and little towns nearby that feature racetracks. This story centers around the English legal system, which is fascinating to me. It has the usual main character who is a nice bloke (Geoffrey Mason) but has had some bad things happen to him. He also finds a new love interest, and fights the good fight against the evil bad guy, and good wins out in the end. When I read this book, I felt like I was there, in the little town that was described, and that I could feel the feelings that the characters were feeling. Even though this book stuck to Dick Francis' typical plot, it felt fresh and entertaining to me. I was actually smiling at the end, and it takes a good book to do that for me. If you are a Dick Francis fan, I would definitely purchase this book. And, I am very happy to report that Mr. Francis' son, Felix, seems to be fully capable of having the reigns turned over to him when it becomes necessary.

I thought that the book was pedantic and went into too much detail of the workings of the British judicial system. There was too much minutiae of the day to day workings of the court. Dick Francis always wrote an informative story which had an "in-put down" quality but I felt that the touch of

Francis magic was missing in this book. I also have a complaint about the bad editing - words were joined together with no punctuation on several pages which interrupted the flow of the story. Silks this was a Kindle e-book, not hard cover as described in the link. Is it possible to lend or borrow books from other Kindle users? After all, if one buys a book from the book shop there is no limit to the number of people who can borrow it, if one is prepared to lend it to friends.

Doesn't matter what aspect of crime or the horsey world the Francis's write about its always flowing and easy to understand, creative and well designed, informative and great fun. And one thing that I really appreciate,, spelling and grammar mistakes are very rare. The Francis system of writing makes certain that geographical and cultural mistakes don't happen - whereas some authors can really spoil a a complete book with one little geographical or cultural error, at least for me, they think they are being clever researching on the net and putting facts in front of you (but if they are wrong they can't write sorry), instead of writing about things they have personally experienced. The Kindle version has a few missing blanks between words at the start of sentences, especially as you get on in the book - shame as Kindle proof reading isn't difficult.

The title of this book is truly apt. The protagonist, Geoffrey Mason, is a junior barrister with aspirations of becoming a silk, or Queens Counsel. He's also an amateur jockey who wears silks. His two worlds come together in SILKS - and give him a world of trouble. Geoffrey Mason finds himself defending a jockey accused of killing another jockey. He doesn't want the case, but he's been ordered to take it and lose it. There's an ex-client after him who will punish Geoffrey if he doesn't do what he's told. This terrifying young man makes a habit of attacking people with a baseball bat. Still, Geoffrey makes the decision we expect of a Dick Francis hero. He will not be intimidated. But he has to do some very fancy detective work to protect himself and his loved ones - and make sure the right people go to jail. In the midst of all this, he rides two significant races - and also falls in love. Every Dick Francis novel teaches me something. In this case I learned a lot about the British legal system, as well as a bit about the Rules of Racing. Frankly, I wondered how I'd feel about a Dick Francis novel written in collaboration with his son Felix. I do detect a slightly different flavor. But I enjoyed SILKS very much. According to a BBC radio interview I heard, it was Felix's fingers on the keyboard. Dick Francis marked up the copy and deleted anything too sexy! But don't worry - the love scenes are still quite good. I'll definitely read the other collaborations. And I'm hoping that Felix Francis will keep writing mysteries on his own. I didn't want Dick Francis to die. Maybe he won't have to.

Felix Francis does not seem to have the right touch, but an OK listen

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