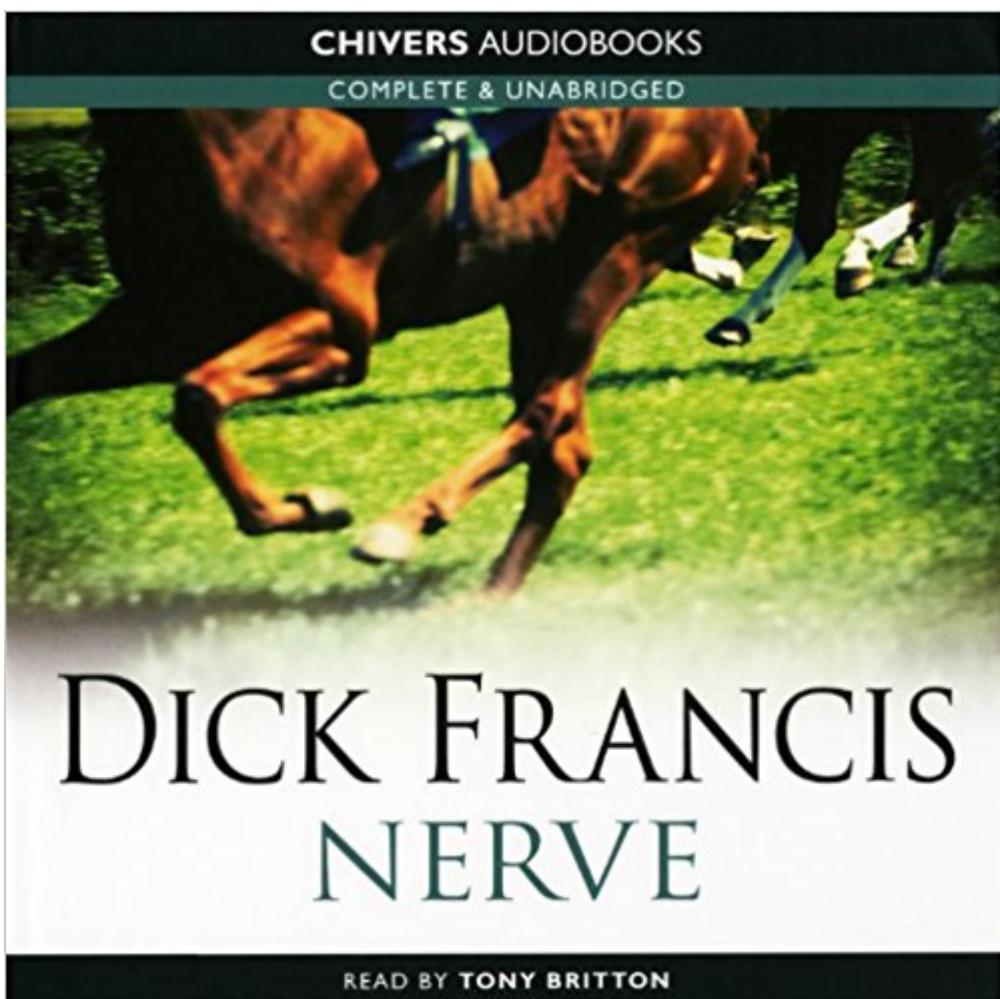


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Nerve: By Dick Francis (Unabridged Audiobook 8cds)



Synopsis

Despair, suicide, and obsessive hatred, mixed well with humor, love, and horses, brew up into the story of a battle between one man's nerve and another man's cunning. Robert Finn, steeplechase jockey, finds himself the focus of a malicious campaign which is also afflicting his friends. He sets out to discover its source, and remove it.

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Customer Reviews

Despair, suicide, and obsessive hatred, mixed well with humor, love, and horses, brew up into the story of a battle between one man's nerve and another man's cunning. Robert Finn, steeplechase jockey, finds himself the focus of a malicious campaign which is also afflicting his friends. He sets out to discover its source, and remove it.

A friend referred me to Dick Francis novels. I have read three novels so far and have really enjoyed them. He is a very good writer and can really tell a story. The stories are set around steeplechase racing in England in the 1960s (so far, I'm reading from earliest to latest), but they are not the same, and not really about horse racing but mysteries in a horse racing setting. So far, they've been very good.

"Nerve" by Dick Francis is one of his earlier novels and so far, from the ones I've read of his forty or so horse-racing mysteries, this one and "Banker" are my two favorites. In this one we meet a young steeplechase jockey named Rob Finn who has been on a winning streak. Rob comes from a family of sophisticated, accomplished and well-known musicians who tend to look down on Rob's chosen profession as a waste of time. Although winning was nice for a while, coming in last on horses that

are expected to do well becomes discouraging to Rob and some others who have lost their jobs as jockeys and their entire livelihoods. It just doesn't make sense. Working as hard as he can to get these horses to win just isn't working. Rob intends to find out why. Written in the first person and narrated by Rob Finn, I love what I always love about Dick Francis's books. His characters are what really make the stories and I never fail to love the main protagonist. They are always likeable and someone I'd love to know and talk with in real life. Dialogues are so natural that one can forget about reading a book and seem like part of the story and conversations. Francis takes a while to get to the heart of the mystery, but in doing so he introduces his characters and makes sure we know them well enough before putting them in the middle of a crisis. When the real elements of the mystery and plot do hit, the reader has no regrets over a few extra pages of getting to know the characters and essential parts of the setup. I'm on my way to reading all of the Dick Francis novels and can't wait to read the next on my list. Highly recommended!

Love his writing. He knows how to build the suspense. His characters are well developed and like people you know. He knows horses and riding so well. Enjoyable reading and you learn some things about racing.

One of Francis most memorable novels. The scene in the tack room is so well-done you can almost feel what's going on.

You just can't go wrong with Dick Francis. Unless you don't care for excellent characterizations, believable villains and wonderful plots. Oh, and meticulous research. Not your run of the mill whodunit. Unfortunately he wrote so well the stories are over before you know it. One of the few authors of my acquaintance whose books I can read and re-read with great pleasure every time. Nerve deftly combines highbrow musicians, skilled athletes and a psychologically twisted villain in a story containing humor, horror and just enough romance for fun. Highly enjoyable.

good book

Rob Finn is a misfit in his family of accomplished professional musicians. Somehow he was born totally unmusical. Pretty much ignored by his parents, he learns to ride knocking around Australia and South America. Back in England he gets hired as a jockey. Trainers give him horses to ride that nobody else wants. Rob is fearless, even with the worst tempered animals. Meanwhile, strange

things are happening in the racing world. One jockey commits suicide. Others are losing their jobs because of rumors of dishonesty, unreliability or poor judgment. Rob himself is suddenly accused of losing his nerve. He can't figure it out. The horses he's riding are unresponsive, and he loses one race after another. Rob thinks there's a sinister influence behind all this. And since he's stopped getting any work, he has plenty of time to investigate. Dick Francis heroes are not usually bent on revenge, but in this case, Rob wants payback for all his jockey friends who have suffered grievous harm. As he battles a truly twisted, nearly impregnable enemy, Rob also finds time to woo his cousin Joanna, who turns out to be quite handy in a crisis. I'd rate NERVE quite highly among Dick Francis novels.

I always love Dick Francis books, they are easy to read but never predictable. It shows that his knowledge of being a famous steeplerchaser and devious mind go together to create many masterpieces. All people interested in crime stories should have a go at reading his books. His career spans many decades and it was a sad day when he passed away. I hope that his son, if he chooses to continue on writing, creates as good as his father. Good luck to him.

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