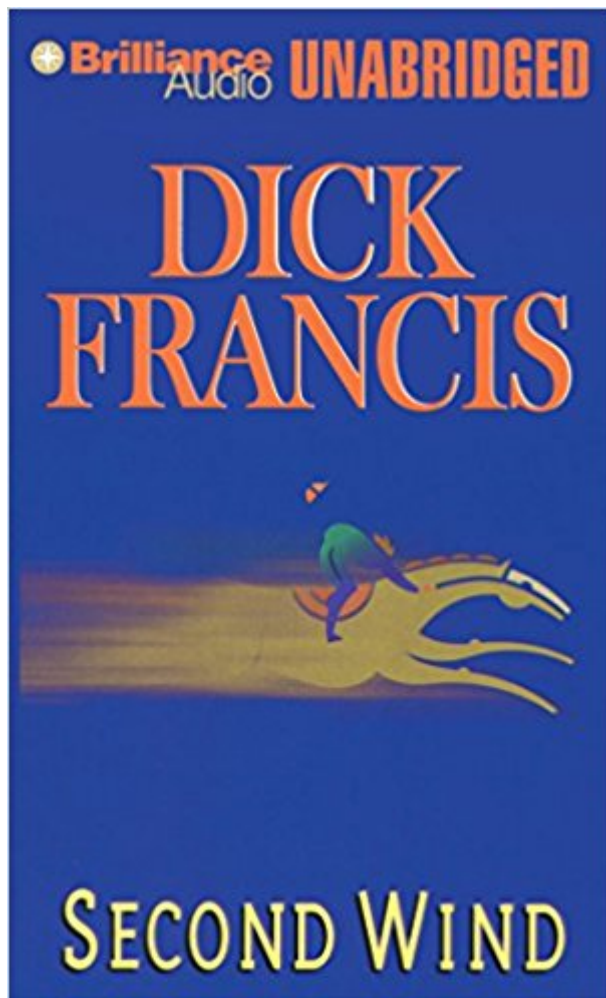




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Second Wind



Synopsis

The catastrophic power of a giant hurricane can raise coastal waves thirty feet high and blow through houses at devastating speeds. For TV meteorologist Perry Stuart, however, such predictions are generally hypothetical, as he chiefly predicts periods of English drizzle, with bursts of heavier rain and sunshine to follow. Stuart's profound weather knowledge and accuracy have given him high status among forecasters, but no physical baptism by storm. Not, that is, until a fellow forecaster offers him a Caribbean hurricane-chasing ride in a small airplane as a holiday diversion. But a frightening accident teaches Stuart more secrets than wind speeds, and back home in England he faces threats and danger as deadly as anything nature can evolve. Dick Francis "has simply never failed. Every one of his opening sentences pulls the reader in, and doesn't let go until the last, perfect word," according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dick Francis's legion of admirers can relax: his year off from writing since the 1998 publication of *Field of Thirteen* is over, and a new vigor has entered his style. Longtime readers will be happy to find the customary racetrack skullduggery, galvanized by some fascinating new elements. The very opening of *Second Wind* signals something new, with Francis's protagonist, meteorologist Perry Stuart, fighting for his life as he flies through the eye of storm on Trox Island, a blighted place steeped in guano and harboring a nasty secret. "But now, as near dead as dammit, I tumbled like a rag-doll piece of flotsam in towering gale-driven seas that sucked unimaginable tons of water from

the deeps" When the reader encountered details of the racing world in Francis's earlier thrillers such as *Whip Hand* and *Reflex*, they had the satisfying ring of authenticity. The same is true in *Second Wind*--Stuart's character was developed with the help of BBC weatherman John Kettley. Although this is a new venue for Francis, he still has a knack for quickening the reader's pulse with a few carefully chosen words: "Despair was too strong a word for it. Perhaps despondency was better. When they came for me, they came with guns." --Barry Forshaw --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With his 40th novel in as many years, grand master Dick Francis isn't up to his usual high standards, but fans know that even a subpar Francis is in the 95th percentile. Here the typical Francis hero is a young Englishman of a vanishing breed: smart, self-effacing although very good at his job, polite and thoroughly decent. Perry Stuart is a well-known TV weatherman for the BBC who was orphaned as a child and raised by his beloved, now crippled grandmother, who remains tartly sensible ("If you can't fix it, think about something else"). Joining fellow BBC weatherman Kris Ironside on a flying jaunt into the eye of a Caribbean hurricane, Perry survives when the plane crashes and washes up on a tiny, apparently abandoned island where the houses were destroyed by the hurricane. In a hut, he stumbles across a safe containing a mysterious file folder whose contents he cannot decipher. After a crew wearing radiation-protection suits arrive by air to rescue him, Perry's troubles are only beginning, as he slowly becomes aware of a sinister scheme in which well-off people are brokering enriched uranium to foreign nogoodniks. Among the cast are mushroom mogul Robin Darcy and his flashy American wife, two old SIS spooks, an aging James Bond and a tottery MA, and a beautiful nurse who is Perry's circumspect love interest. Perry continues to encounter danger: the sabotage of another plane he's on, threats by a muscle-bound thug in Grand Cayman. Francis's writing is smooth and intelligent, moving the reader right along, but the end of the book is more than a tad far-fetched. Still, ex-RAF pilot and champion steeplechaser Francis knows his stuff, and of course race courses figure in the plot. BOMC main selection; Audio Books main selection; 3-city author tour. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Not up to Dick Francis standards. I don't know what happened, but the story line was plodding and dull and I literally did not care about any of the characters at all. This one finished dead last. On top of that, the Kindle edition was rife with errors; misplaced periods and typos made this a difficult and disjointed read. Such a disappointment.

Dick Francis hero-narrators always exhibit an appealing competence at whatever job they do. In this case the hero, Perry Stuart, is a meteorologist and physicist who presents forecasts for the BBC. He doesn't just read a script but analyzes complex weather data himself to make predictions. Of course there has to be a racing connection, and there is. Racehorse trainers often consult Perry on impending weather that might effect underfoot conditions for their hopefuls. A manic-depressive friend invites Perry to fly with him through the eye of a hurricane - irresistible to a weather scholar who has never experienced a catastrophic Caribbean storm. This escapade triggers a series of adventures that only a cool and clever Dick Francis hero could survive. Perry's fascination with the "jacket of air swirling around the planet" makes him an engaging character. Another great character is his wheelchair-bound grandmother who writes travel brochures and has a flair for predicting disasters. The tight plot evolves around an international conspiracy. I generally prefer criminals who are local and personal rather than global and political, so this is not my favorite Dick Francis novel. But I still recommend the book for its delightful characters and stormy content.

I have read the Dick Francis books several times over, since I first found them back in the 1980's. Whenever I hit a slump where I lose interest in reading, re-reading his book jump starts my interest again. I have read one or two a day for the last couple of weeks. I truly don't remember much sexual content, which I don't enjoy in books. But I love re-connecting with his characters and learning all about flying, or the wine business, etc.

Dick Francis is an excellent author! You will enjoy this book!

Bouncing between chilly England and sunny Florida comes another unlikely hero penned by Dick Francis. This novel is a bit of a spy thriller as well, with characters often layered with sinister intrigue. A captivating grandmother with her plucky nature and occasional premonitions provides extra interest and enjoyment.

A tv weatherman goes for a ride through a Florida hurricane, (ggod) and is marooned on a spooky little island, (bad). Bad goes to worse when he is found. People don't want him on the island, but they don't want him back either, Mystery abounds, things are not what they seem, and the happy hosts aren't. Twisty and exciting action.

kept me guessing.

A very minor mention of horse racing, but it's there. This book is mostly about the intrigue of a private island and what mystery surrounds the people who own (or don't own) the place. Second Wind was my first Dick Francis book and I have many more to go before I can judge this against any of his other books, but the story was interesting. There were some times when I found myself frustrated at the writing style or annoyed with the main character's seeming stupidity (he had to have people repeat things to him a lot) but overall I enjoyed figuring out who had what part to play in the events that unfolded.

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