



Second Wind

By Dick Francis

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Second Wind By Dick Francis Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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*

From Publishers Weekly

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.

From Library Journal

This latest mystery may be somewhat disappointing to Francis's horsey fans as a lone filly appears only briefly here, suffering from a mysterious malady resembling radiation sickness. Perry Stuart, a weather forecaster for the BBC, has been invited by his manic friend, Kris Ironside, to a lunch hosted by the filly's owner. There they meet an American couple willing to supply a plane for them to fly through the eye of a hurricane in the Caribbean, an offer that the meteorologists eagerly accept. They fly safely through the eye but bale out when the right engine stops. After Perry washes ashore on Trox Island, armed individuals

wearing radiation protection suits rescue him, blindfold him, and fly him to Georgetown in the Grand Caymans. This raises many questions, e.g., What connects the rescuers and the sick filly? Stuart, a typical Francis protagonist, brave and with a generous sense of fair play, sets out to find the answers. For all collections. [BOMC main selection.] APatsy E. Gray, Huntsville P.L., AL.

-APatsy E. Gray, *Huntsville P.L., AL*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beatrice Pearson:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The actual Second Wind is kind of guide which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Michael Davis:

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