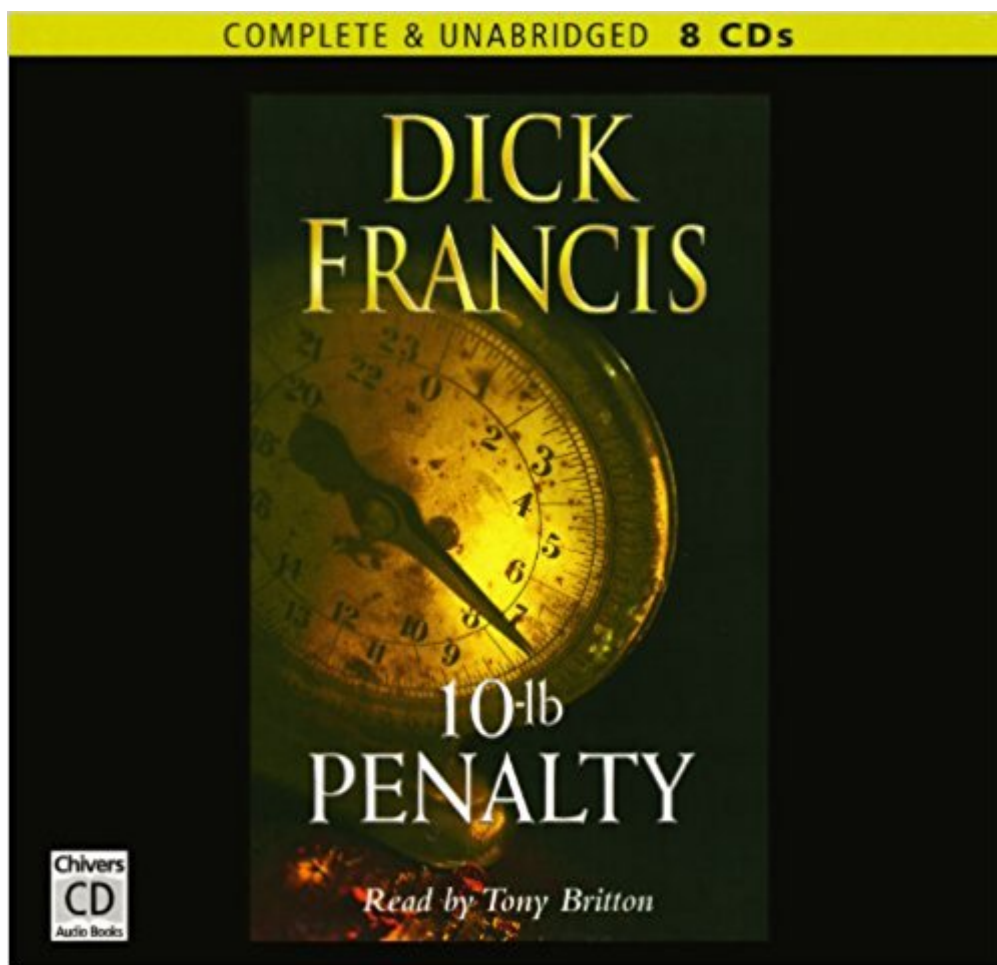


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# 10-lb Penalty: Complete & Unabridged



## Synopsis

A wanna-be jockey accepts a job in his father's campaign for Parliament--and realizes that politics can be the most perilous horse race of all. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One of the most impressive aspects of Dick Francis's long and celebrated career (he's won three Edgar Awards, the Silver Dagger, the Gold Dagger, a Cartier Diamond Dagger, and was named the 1996 Mystery Writers of America Grand Master) is the freshness that he brings to each of his novels. Though every one of his 30-plus works of fiction has drawn from some aspect of the world of horses, Francis turns this constraint into a powerful source of inspiration. In *10 Lb. Penalty* Francis adds several new arrows to his quiver. His protagonist, Ben Juliard, narrates the tale in a vivid first person that begins in his insecure late teens instead of the settled middle age of the usual Francis hero. Also, Ben's relationship with horses is more of a fading dream than an active reality. The book begins with Ben's expulsion from Vivian DurrIDGE's stables; he's removed with a false accusation of glue sniffing. But as Ben soon discovers, it is, in fact, his powerful father's machinations that are behind his ill fortunes. The elder Juliard is "standing for Parliament," and the bachelor candidate needs his son by his side for a year of campaigning if he hopes to win. Ben accedes to his father's wishes. He almost always has, but he soon finds that his "gap year"--his year before entering college--is going to be a nightmare. Orinda Nagle, the widow of the recently deceased Hoopwestern MP, and her companion, Alderney Wyvern, resist George's campaign from the start. Then, Usher Rudd, a muckraking journalist, turns his vitriol to George. When an attempt is made on George's

life, he and his son find themselves inside a vigorous tale of suspense that takes several narrative years to sort out. Francis's lucid prose is the driving force in this political mystery, and the realistic rendering of the complicated father-son relationship between George and Ben adds a sophistication and weight that marks the author's best fiction. --Patrick O'Kelley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Francis is in top form with his latest novel. Seventeen-year-old Benedict Juliard is an amateur jockey whose life is changed abruptly when he is accused of taking drugs. A waiting limousine whisks Ben away to a different life, a life that will prove to be more hazardous than that of a jump jockey. Ben's father, George, is running for Parliament, and he wants his son to spend a month working with him in the preelection campaign. Ben is quickly introduced to the dangers of the political arena. Narrated by Martin Jarvis, who does the different voices and accents with skill, this is a guaranteed winner for mystery fans. Theresa Connors, Arkansas Tech Univ., Russellville Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dick Francis is good at writing about fathers and sons. In this case the father, George Juliard, was too young at the death of his wife to raise his son Benedict. And so Ben grew up not knowing his father, a situation about to change as Ben approaches his eighteenth birthday. George, who has made piles of money in the City, is going to stand for Parliament. Never having remarried, he needs Ben's smiling presence during his campaign to lend him the respectable aura of a family man. To achieve this, George has to lure Ben away from the dream of being a jockey. The fact is, Ben has limited ability and will never be one of the greats. Dick Francis himself won over 350 races and served as jockey to HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, for four years. He did achieve greatness in the racing world - and went on to become a world-class mystery writer as well. So it's interesting to observe Francis' empathetic portrayal of a young person who must accept his limitations and discover his true strengths. The plot revolves around Ben's adventures helping with the campaign and outsmarting his father's enemies. Ben combines a methodical cleverness with a brash willingness to throw himself into danger in defense of others. Both father and son are morally upright, which could be boring, but in fact they somehow make niceness seem multi-faceted and attractive. So yes, I enjoyed the book very much and recommend it. I will soon have read every book available by Dick Francis, and I'll move on to the ones written in collaboration with his son Felix. There's another interesting father-son story!

This is one of Dick Francis' most slow-moving books. It takes place among boring British politics, and Francis is always at his best on the racecourse. If I didn't already like Francis and his style, I probably wouldn't have enjoyed this book. I did like to watch the relationship bloom between father and son, the protagonist. I thought it was nice that Francis didn't make Ben a "champion jockey" in this novel, because, in the reality of the world, not all jockeys can be great. So I thought that was a nice touch of realism. Pick this book up if you're already a fan, but otherwise turn to one of Francis' others.

Loved this story!!!

Survivor - writer goes to live with family of Racehorse trainer , ostensibly to write about him. The "family" is not all pleased, and soon writer becomes the target. He has to use all his survivor skills to track down a serial killer and stay alive. This is an unputdownable book - bad things are always happening. A good read!

Not the typical Francis racecourse mystery, this novel is about a father - son relationship in which the son learns to love and admire an absentee parent, and, for his part, the father learns to trust and admire the son for his courage and intelligence. This relationship is formed against a background of British politics where campaigns are strictly regulated as to both duration and expenses. A good, uplifting story.

This again shows what a great writer Dick Francis was. The story is exciting and has twist and turns that are sometimes quite unexpected. If you want to sit and just immerse yourself for an hour or two, this book will do it.

I have been enjoying Dick Francis books since the late 80's and have recently begun getting them for my Kindle. This was the 3rd time I've read 10lb Penalty and enjoyed it as much this time as the first. I wish all of his books were available in the Kindle format.

Dick Francis delivers a consistent, quality product. They generally start modestly but then pick-up to a sizzling pace that is hard to put down, and sad to finish.

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