

# Dick Francis Twaynes English Authors Series



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One of the most successful mystery/adventure writers of the twentieth century, Dick Francis produces a best-seller nearly every year. The hallmark of a Dick Francis novel is its setting: the world of horse racing provides the backdrop for his best-loved stories, including *Dead Cert*, *For Kicks*, *Reflex*, and *Bolt*. In his novels, alive with the scents and sounds of the horse stables and the excitement of the big race, Francis, a

former jockey and lifelong lover of horse racing, describes the world he knows best.

The basis for Francis's remarkable popularity has finally been addressed in this entertaining study by J. Madison Davis, himself a writer of fiction. Probing beneath the deceptive simplicity of the Francis style, Davis reveals a master of themes and variations who avoids the pitfalls of the merely formulaic. In an analysis of more than two dozen novels and a considerable number of short stories, Davis explores Francis's brilliant ability to extend the possibilities of the hard-boiled detective story while adhering to the time-honored disciplines established by predecessors like Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler.

Dick Francis is the first full-length study of this master storyteller. Along with perceptive discussions of the novels, it contains extensive biographical information and lengthy and informative interviews with the author and his wife, which serve to highlight the close connection between Francis's life and work. Recurring fa-

作者介绍:

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