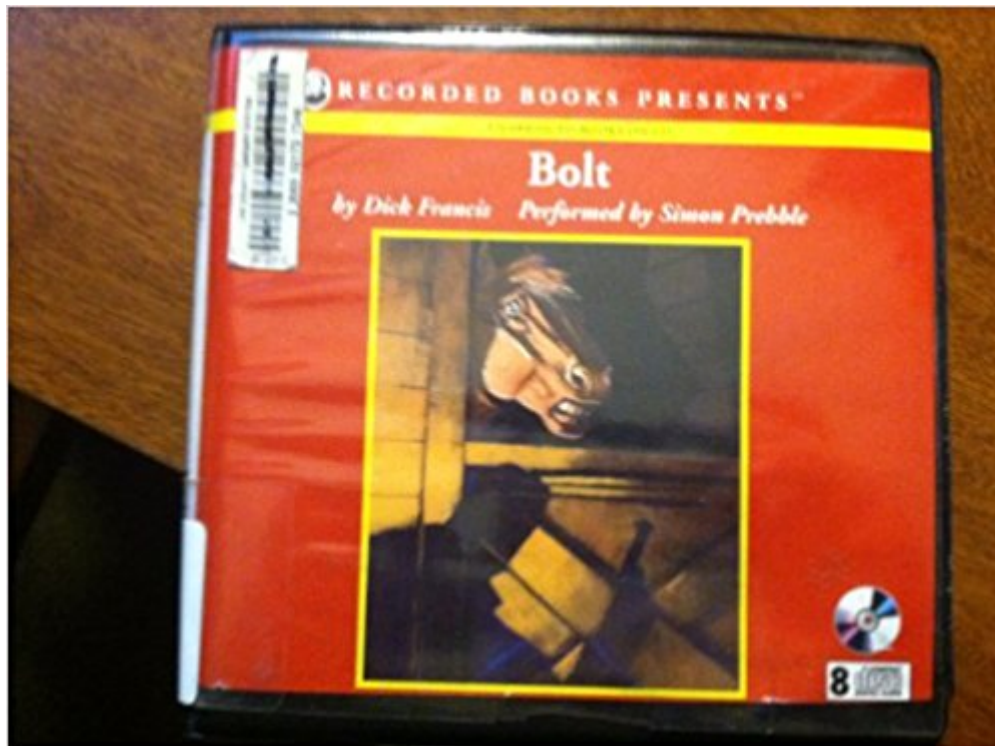


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Bolt



Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

“You must understand,” Greening said, impressing it upon me, “that M. de Brescou is of the ancient regime, from before the revolution. His is a patrician family, even though he himself bears no title. It’s essential to understand that for him personal and family honor is of supreme importance.” (The above is a subtle criticism of modernity. The “revolution” refers to the French Revolution. Implicit praise of “patrician” values of honor and condemnation of a world that has none. This is the contrast that underlies the drama.) This “personal and family honor” is the foundation of the dramatic structure of this work. Great! Both the French ‘patrician’ and the English ‘commoner’ have family honor to either fight or protect. Class distinctions are significant. But what are the classes? Inherited titles? Family tradition of hate? Individual choice of justice? Personal desire of cruelty? Free will or cultural control? All these questions, and their answers, presented here. Wonderfully done!” Much more likely that he thought he could put the frighteners quite easily on a paralyzed old man and an unworldly woman and was currently underestimating both the princess’s courage and her husband’s inflexible honor. To a man with few scruples, the moral opposition he expected might have seemed a temporary dislodgeable obstinacy, not an immovably embedded barrier.” (41) The villain exposed! “although I’d schooled him a few times over practice jumps on Wykeham’s gallops, I hadn’t been able to teach him courage. He went round the whole way letting me know he hated it, and I had difficulty thinking of anything encouraging to say to his owners afterward. A horse that didn’t like racing was a waste of time, a waste of money and a waste of emotion.” (144) This analysis of a

horse lacking courage. Next, his beautiful fiancée . . . “I love you very much,” I said slowly. “Do you want me to give up my job?” “Aunt Casilia said if I asked, and you did, and we married, it would be disastrous. We would be divorced within five years. She was very vehement. She said I must not ask it, it was totally unfair, I would be destroying you because I don’t have your courage.” She swallowed convulsively, tears filling her eyes. Courage that brings honor or fear that creates disgrace? This theme is constant, clear, vivid, and fascinating!

Great plot as usual with horses as the centerpiece. Suspense until right at the end. A good ending which I like. A terrific mystery.

Bolt is the sequel to Break In, and they should be read in order for greatest enjoyment. Both these books contain amazing descriptions of races. Dick Francis portrays so beautifully the ability of Kit Fielding, an inspired jump jockey, to tune into the moods and idiosyncrasies of his mount - and the challenges of the course. Riding to win at breakneck speed, Kit throws caution to the winds, thinking joyfully to himself, "This is living." Kit's patron, the elegant Princess Casilia, stands in need of Kit's drive to win. Her husband Roland de Brescon is in partnership with the Nanterre family, and their venerable old company in France has a high reputation for integrity. When Louis Nanterre dies, their new partner is Henri Nanterre, who turns out to be an unscrupulous money-grubber. He wants to manufacture plastic guns. Roland de Brescon refuses to give his consent to an expansion into gun manufacture. Plastic guns, favored by terrorists, are especially abhorrent. To force his partner's consent, Nanterre begins to wage a terrorist campaign of his own. He will not hesitate to maim or kill to achieve his ends. The princess and her family turn for help to Kit, who has demonstrated his ability to out-manuever thugs. In the course of the story some of the Princess's horses are killed with a bolt gun (thus the title of the book). Kit is kept pretty busy trying to protect both people and horses, while competing in multiple races and struggling to win back his fiancée's wavering affections. I recommend this book for its lively plot, perfect dialog, admirable protagonist, out-of-control villains - and the life lessons just below the surface.

great as all of his books are.

Worth a read. Worth a re-read. Read this before I read earlier book with Kit Fielding. Author didn't do a lot with recurring characters. Definitely worth reading again, in order.

I wish Dick Francis had written more books with these characters. Perhaps his son will? I certainly hope so, although the "flavor" of Felix Francis is somewhat different.

With its companion volume, *Break In*, *Bolt* is one of Dick Francis' best! Kit Fielding, a hero with depth, who has recently become engaged to Danielle, is struggling to understand why her feelings for him seem to have cooled. At the same time, the Princess' horses are being killed, apparently by a bombastic and violent Frenchman who wants to take control of a business still half-owned by the Princess' husband. How Kit thwarts the evildoer, as well as the apricot-haired and very funny Beatrice, while re-winning his love and riding his races, is an involving and well-plotted story. I love Dick Francis' work anyway, but this book starts with a bang and doesn't slow down, unlike some others which are a bit slow to get going. Definitely read *Bolt*, but read *Break In* first. Wonderful!

What I like about Dick Francis novels is that with each one learns much about the topic around which the story line revolves. Even better, the characters feel real, the plots never thin, and the tapestry of the story rich, tightly woven, and often surprises with a depth of feeling that makes one want to read certain passages over again for the pleasure of it - like taking a ride through the English country side.

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