



High Heat

Lee Child

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Thriller master Lee Child returns with an exclusive ebook novella. In the midst of a savage heatwave and an infamous murder spree, a blackout awakens the dark side of the city that never sleeps-and a young Jack Reacher takes action as only he can.

High Heat Details

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From Reader Review High Heat for online ebook

Ahmad Sharabiani says

High Heat (Jack Reacher, #17.5), Lee Child

?Susan? says

This was a good short about Jack when he was 16. It's hard to picture JR ever being young so this was just a little insight into how worldly and mature he was very early on in his life.

It's the 70's and Jack is on his way to visit his brother at West Point when he stops off in NY for a very full night of fun, that includes: a female FBI agent, the mob, a blackout, an unexpexted death, scorching heat, Son of Sam, a trist with a college girl and lots of action packed fighting. Just a night in the life of Jack Reacher.

The Behrg says

I've only delved into a few of the Jack Reacher books and, while I find their plots a little ridiculous, they certainly are fun. This novella takes us back to "pre"-Reacher days, when Jack was still in his teens and visiting New York City. Unfortunately, what could have provided Child a great opportunity to showcase the difference between the seasoned Reacher and his younger self instead reads as more of the same.

Only even less believable.

You have a 16 year old military brat telling an FBI agent how to operate her plan. You have Reacher running into the same FBI agent not twice in the same night, under random occurrences, but THREE times... In New York City?!? Seriously? You have a teenager showing up (and beating up) Mafioso, identifying a killer just by the way the man moves, and risking his life to help this same FBI agent with no real motive other than that he's Jack Reacher.

With writing sprinkled with lazy metaphors and the amount of sheer coincidences populating the plot, this really felt more like someone's bad version of fan-fiction than something a NYT best-selling author would release into the world. When a hero is so infallible that you can't find awkwardness and mistakes even in his youth, it's time to add a layer of believability to your characters before your audience just starts losing interest.

Seeley James says

I'm a huge fan of Lee Child, but his short stories are not his best work.

This story ties too many historical events together with a too-strong-and-too-smart teenager. Mr. Child wrote

a short story about Jack Reacher's childhood, which was credible, but this one takes Jack Reacher into the mid-teens and yet the character acts exactly like the fully grown Jack. Didn't work for me.

I'm not sure what's driving Mr. Child to write these short stories (novella in this case) but I don't see it as worthwhile.

Nonetheless, the writing is among his best works and he includes a sex scene that would make a romance author blush.

Peace, **Seeley**

John says

Totally ridiculous, but fun nonetheless. Jack Reacher makes for the most unrealistic sixteen-year-old boy ever put to paper. In HIGH HEAT, not only does Reacher take down a drug kingpin and help catch the Son of Sam, he also navigates New York City during a blackout, saves the career of an FBI agent, and gets all hot and sweaty with a nubile college girl he picks up at a coffee shop. Even James Bond would find it a bit over-the-top.

Tucker Elliot says

“They could have kept on walking”

HIGH HEAT is a very satisfying short story for Reacher fans. It's far better than the earlier Reacher eBooks SECOND SON and DEEP DOWN. The writing is typical Lee Child (superb) and the plot is typical Reacher – he wanders into town, finds a lady or two, and a lot of trouble. And it's pretty awesome.

Reacher is on his way to visit his brother at West Point when he stops off in NYC to check out the music scene and the college girls at NYU, but what he finds is a city gripped in fear of the Son of Sam and suffering from a relentless heat wave.

Immediately Reacher witnesses what appears to be a female in distress. And Reacher being who he is – “I'm not a Marine. I'm the son of a Marine.” – he's compelled to intervene. He's only sixteen, but he's already a fully developed machine that's been fine tuned by street brawls on and off-post at military installations the world over.

But it turns out he's really stepped into it, because he's crossed paths with the Croselli crime family and the boss isn't about to be shown up by some punk kid who's just rolled into town. Warned off by an out-of-favor female FBI agent, Reacher hooks up with a college girl just as the city is plunged into darkness from a power outage.

As Reacher and his companion explore the surreal scene that is NYC without power, they cross paths with someone who Reacher believes is the Son of Sam. Using his unusually keen ability to observe and record information that's such a prominent part of this series, Reacher believes he's deducted a useful piece of information that might help the police catch a killer.

With that in mind, Reacher doesn't even flinch to head back into the crime family's controlled area, looking for a disgraced FBI agent, trying to find a way to give her information that can get her career back on track and end the Son of Sam's killing spree.

If you're a fan of the series, then you're going to love Reacher in this eBook – from “the clock in Reacher's head” ticking to midnight to his pretty simple logic in dealing with bad guys: “They could have kept on walking.”

This is a teenage Reacher at his absolute best, on the verge of becoming the soldier cop and with all the wit and skills and attitude that readers have come to love about him.

Highly recommend, especially if you're already a fan – but it's also a great place to start if you're new to the series.

Kevintipple says

It is July 13, 1977 in New York City as the High Heat: A Jack Reacher Novella opens and Jack Reacher is three months shy of his 17th birthday. It is 8:30 in the evening on a day that has been a scorcher. He has just witnessed some sort of altercation between a man and woman that has resulted in the woman being slapped in the face.

A son of a Marine does not allow that to go unchallenged.

Being the son of a Marine that was stationed all over the world means that Reacher knows how to fight. In the aftermath of the inevitable, Reacher learns that the woman is an FBI agent named Jill Hemmingway and the vanquished guy was an organized crime figure named Croselli. Croselli made threats and will be one of several reasons why Reacher will be late visiting his brother, Joe.

While the story is decent enough as it goes, this novella that includes a preview excerpt of the upcoming novel Never Go Back does have issues. The Reacher of High Heat does not come off as a 16 year old kid. Not only is he fully formed physically and has many excellent fighting skills because of having to deal with fellow kids all over the world at various bases, the 16 year old Reacher sounds exactly as he would now in his use of language. The same adult sarcasm streak is not only present; he uses the same type of phrases, verbal tactics, logic progression comments, etc. It is very hard to believe in reading Reacher's dialogue that this is a sixteen year old kid. If one accepts that then one has to deal with other issues in the novella.

Several believability issues can't be addressed simply because to do so here would reveal key plot points later in the short book. However, it is worth noting that for rather unbelievable reasons, the female FBI agent eventually accepts Reacher's help in her case.

While some have questioned whether or not Lee Child actually wrote this book, I don't have that issue with High Heat: A Jack Reacher Novella. To this reader the book definitely reads as if Lee Child wrote it. My issue with the book is that it has weaknesses and primarily comes across as a marketing tool that is being used to fill time between novels as a way to advertise the upcoming book. Since I am not one of those readers that read preview excerpts at the back of books that aspect is meaningless to me.

If one can get by the idea that a 16 year old Reacher would sound the same as a middle aged Reacher as well

as some of the other coincidences and plot points in High Heat: A Jack Reacher Novella delivers a read that has all the Reacher hallmarks. A little fighting, a little loving (even at 16 Reacher has his way with the ladies) and a lot of Reacher observing and assessing his environment and tactical situations. It is enjoyable if you can steadfastly maintain your willingness to suspend your disbelief.

High Heat: A Jack Reacher Novella

Lee Child

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Freda Malone says

Jack Reacher as a young man, just shy of his 17th birthday, brings a mobster to his knees and a serial killer to justice. I liked this short story, but not nearly as much as I like the full on books that give us that urge to whoop for joy when he goes after the bad guys. There wasn't enough time to develop a relationship with the characters and somehow I found it almost unbelievable for the most part. Sixteen and already packed with that underdog awesomeness he shows later? Nahhh, he may have grown up in the military but his reputation for street fighting would still be something new, inexperienced, and somewhat innocent. It felt like Jack Reacher just stepped out of this book and immediately became....well.....Reacher, overnight. Come on, really?!?

I only read this book because my challenge for reading 70 books this year is way behind. On to another short story. LOL

Phrynne says

A very enjoyable novella about a teenage Jack Reacher beating up the bad guys in New York in 1977. It's a little bit silly and the reader has to suspend belief for a while because Jack is an unbelievably mature sixteen year old. Nevertheless it is written in Lee Child's inimitable way and is enormously readable and fun! I rarely read novellas but may make an exception for these ones.

Brenda says

It was 1977 and sixteen year old Jack Reacher was on his way to visit his brother, Joe. He found himself travelling through New York city in the dark of the evening, with the unbearable heat like a blanket over the city. When he came across a situation which seemed threatening, he quietly observed, ready to step in if necessary. Suddenly the man slapped the woman, hard. After Reacher had taught the man a lesson (*as only he could*) they watched him stumble away into the darkness. "You don't know what you've done" she said.....

Later on that evening, Reacher was in the company of a young lady by the name of Chrissie when the power went off – the whole city went off the grid. The danger was immediate; with a mad gunman on the loose, plus the person Reacher had upset earlier after him and looting bound to occur, where could they go in the city to be safe? But Reacher wasn't a guy to head for safety when things needed doing....

What a great thriller – short but oh, so sweet! Full-on Reacher, even though he is a teenager in this novella. Highly recommended.

Ashish Iyer says

I never enjoy novella.

Kenneth P. says

This is silly beyond belief, a cartoon. Here is a protagonist, who at 16 years old must be a high school junior-baby Jack Reacher. Yet he has all the moves of James Bond and speaks like a 40 year old well-educated man of the world. But every time he opens his mouth you will cringe. His voice doesn't work the way it should. He talks tougher than Clint Eastwood and Bruce Willis even as the peach fuzz on his upper lip refuses to grow. He lives in Korea with his Marine Corps Daddy but knows the streets of Manhattan like the back of his hand ("I studied it from afar"). This is well before the internet mind you.

He slaps around made mafiosos with impunity. During the epic 1977 Northeast blackout he sees, for 20 seconds, in total darkness, a man that might and might not be the Son of Sam. He proceeds to articulate a spot-on profile of the killer's entire life, criminal and otherwise. The dark, ghostly figure that he glimpsed briefly carried himself like a guy who would have enlisted in the Army and served in Korea. Eleventh-grader, 16 year old Jack Reacher could just tell.

The ending, the fate of Reacher's new friend and FBI agent Jill Hemingway, makes no sense whatsoever. Much more than just crap, this is gag-worthy dumpster fodder. The author should not do hard time for writing this. But a bit of community service might be in order.

Curious about the Jack Reacher novels, I thought it a good idea to begin with the prequel. It was a mistake. And for all you Reacher fans, I understand the notion of a super-hero, of a brilliant kick-ass crime-solving savant. I get it. But that doesn't make this any good.

Keri says

I love when Lee Child writes stories of a young Jack Reacher, (Tom Cruise still would be too short to play this part as well. ;-)) because we meet a 16 year old JR and he is as tall and built as he is ever going to be. But at this point in time, he has the young body and sheer bravado that he will carry for the rest of his life. He is traveling through NYC on his way to meet his older brother at West Point, when he comes upon a man assaulting a woman. So he does what any 16 year old would do, he jumps in and beats the man up. Right???? :-) We already knew that Jack wasn't your typical 16 year old, we have known since he was 7 that he was a force of nature. So when the guy lets Jack know that he has two hours to get out of town or he is going to kill him, of course Jack decides that the Big Apple is his home for the night. Of course he didn't count on a black out in NYC nor the Son of Sam stalking couples in cars to come into play. Oh did I mention that the woman that was being hit was a deposed FBI agent. Once Jack gets her story, he is determined to help her, no matter what she says. He may only be 16, but the inhabitants of the Big Apple better get prepared because they don't know JACK!

Mark says

Enter Reacher at the youthful age of 17 years old visiting the big Apple on his own and when he steps in a situation where a man slaps a woman he finds himself in a situation where he is opposed by a made man. Then throw in a blackout of a major city and even the son of Sam and you've got the ingredients of a nice short stay in the Reacherverse.

While generally the novels by Lee Child do enjoy a certain level of suspended level of disbelieve this hort tale takes that a few steps further. Too far for my personal taste. The feats this 17 year old fellow is able to perform is stretching it a wee bit far.

But is is still a fun and fast read, not sure if you miss anything if you never read this novella.

It passes the time when using public transport, and that says it all.

Nancy Ellis says

A short ebook taking us back in time to when Reacher was 17, trying to decide what to do with his life, and visiting NYC on his way to see his brother at West Point. While there, he intervenes to protect an FBI agent and becomes involved in her case trying to capture a drug dealer. Meanwhile, there is a major power outage, so most of the action takes place in the dark. A pretty good story, if you like Reacher stories, which I do.
