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Jack Reacher, ex-military policeman relaxed in Key West until Costello turned up dead. The amiable PI was hired in New York by the daughter of Reacher's mentor and former commanding officer, General Garber. Garber's investigation into a Vietnam MIA sets Reacher on collision with hand-less "Hook" Hobie, hours away from his biggest score.

Tripwire Details

Date : Published July 1st 2000 by Jove (first published June 28th 1999)

ISBN : 9780515128635

Author : Lee Child

Format : Paperback 432 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery, Crime, Action

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Adrian says

Ok, so despite all the advice and my own thoughts , I went ahead and read another Jack Reacher, so that's 3 in just over 2 weeks. Did I find it boring and/or formulaic as I worried I might ? No, in fact I actually enjoyed this one the most of the 3 so far. A good story well written. Bring on the next, but maybe in a few weeks eh ???

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

A more realistic book, in comparison to all the very unrealistic things he does in this series. It's probably because this plot follows more of a crime show storyline of detective work by Reacher and lady vs the previous books he was in situations without all the info or a way to investigate through normal channels.

The story starts off with some guys finding Jack in the Florida Keys where he's been living and digging swimming pools. One guy is killed by two other guys and Jack investigates it because he feels guilty. It leads him to the home of his former mentor, Garber, and it's his funeral. He reconnects with Garber's daughter, who's the female lead for this book. The mystery is left to Reacher and Jodie by Garber, about a missing Vietnam soldier. The MIA soldier's parents were friends of Garber's and sought his help to finally find out what happened to their son.

Reacher knows there's more going on than meets the eye due to the multiple attacks of violence upon his person and Jodie's. Kind of a giveaway. They set out to finish what Garber started concerning the missing soldier and hopefully figure out who's out for them as well.

I think what I liked best about this book was the more usual format of doing detective work and plotting ahead what you're going to look up next vs reacting to a situation (how the other books were). Maybe it's because I'm a fan of crime shows and like that procedural element or maybe it's due to it being a change of pace.

The second thing that seemed to define this book was Reacher not having full confidence about everything. He seems more human in this and at the same time even more awesome than regular humans. It looks like he's wrong about a lot of things and he still keeps at it, like a sledgehammer.

Very good ending and leaves a lot open for the next book.

James says

The best Reacher in the series so far, by a fairly long shot. Reacher is drifting (poorly as he's actually holding down two jobs) in the Florida Keys when he's tracked down by a Private Investigator. Denying that he's the main the man is searching for, he turns up dead pretty quickly. Suddenly Reacher (it's always Reacher, apparently, never Jack) decides he needs to track the killers down and get to the bottom of the whole affair - he feels a level of responsibility for the man's death. Before we know it we're jetting all over the country,

hunting down bad guys, hooking up with good girls and generally saving the day...

Obviously, it's a Jack Reacher novel, so some suspension of disbelief is a must. But, it is a relief to see the mystical coincidences that plagued the first two books noted by their absence. The back story is much more believable, the reasons for Jack being just in the right place and time as well (beyond the initial 360 degree turn from not being interested to needing to avenge the death of the investigator) and the carry-over character of General Garber from the previous novel provides a nice piece of continuity. The secondary characters all seem a little more rounded this time as well - Marilyn Stone being a classic example (although do we need to be continually reminded of the fact that she's not wearing any underwear?). Hopefully these improvements bode well for the rest of the series.

Flies in the ointment however (and some spoilers), the 360 degree start and Marilyn's dress/underwear situation aside – how do Jack and Jodie go from fifteen years of unrequited love to an obviously doomed relationship (she's a lawyer and he's a drifter - is that even a real job?) without Jodie asking herself any half-way serious questions about her own state of mind? No loose ends are really tied up at all - what was Tony's relationship with Hobie (he's surprisingly loyal if there isn't one)? And what happens to Marilyn and Chester Stone? Does she ever wear underwear again?

Linda Alexander says

Child's book 'Tripwire' is an absolutely amazing read!! It seems each of his Jack Reacher novels is so unique all by itself; every time I read one, I think it can't get any better, and yet it does. Contrary to opinions by others about some of his books, I've loved every single one of them. I have nearly completed reading all that he's written, and that makes me sad because 'Reacher' is my hero.

My husband and I also saw the movie 'Jack Reacher' in December and we both enjoyed it.

Jeff says

My reading record for Lee Child's Reacher series hasn't been stellar – The first book in the series, and the second of the two I had read, was a dreadful regurgitation of genre clichés and one of the worst books I've ever read. The other book (#7), which comes later in the series was better – entertaining enough, and if the reader gets past the asshat-clever, narrative tomfoolery, not a bad read.

So why continue with the series?

The trailer for the second Reacher movie starring Tom Cruise looked promising, so...

This book, number three in the collection and the third one I've read will be closing the chapter on Child's Reacher books.

Much was made of the size differential between Tiny Tom Cruise and the Reacher character – Reacher is

6'5" or something and Cruise comes in at 3'11" soaking wet, yet with CGI tricks, smoke and mirrors, a well-placed soap box, the casting of midgets, and some acting chops, Cruise does manage to give the character some gravitas, a certain real human being-like quality that Child can't seem to carry off in the books. The only book that worked for me (#7) was told via first person and Reacher didn't come across as a walking cardboard sieve. Maybe that narrative device is something Child should employ more.

The story:

Greedy, evil, loan shark villain has a detective killed who had come in search of Reacher, who happened to be keeping a low profile as a shirtless bouncer in a strip club. This evil deed messes with Reacher's world order and he goes to track down greedy, evil, loan shark dude and runs into a woman he lusted after when he was twenty-four and she was fifteen. Insert sexual tension that drags on for hundreds of pages.

Reacher, as written here, is a character that I simply can't invest my time in. In another life, he was an army cop, yet his deductive skills seem to come out of nowhere, without reason, logic or a clue as to how a conclusion was drawn. He's a mannequin that I just hoped would do something – beat on thugs or get in a shootout, instead, I get bogged down in Child's lifeless prose.

Say what you will about Robert B. Parker's terse writing style (he could write the Spenser books on the head of a pin), you never failed to get a sense of what the main character was about in fifty words or less. This is the third Reacher book and I still don't have a clear picture as to what makes the guy tick. He's handy with his fists, weapons and the ladies, but beyond that....

Bad guy math-Reacher version:

+ more scars

- right hand

+ hook

+/- sinisterish bad guy patter

- Nehru jacket

- pussycat = Child's cheesy villain

If you're a Reacher fan and believe that there's a four star book (or another three star book) out there, I don't want to know about it and maybe we shouldn't have lunch. ;)

Samir says

I'll be honest with you..I enjoy reading thriller books but I don't know how to write reviews for them so if you're looking for an extensive analysis of this book I'm sorry to disappoint you.

I've read second half of the book in one sitting so it is suffice to say that it was very interesting. Not much action scenes in this one but it was filled with suspense and intriguing investigations with a very well executed plot twist.

Richard says

5.5/10

This was a disappointment after the solid 2nd novel "Die Trying". The plot was flat and offered no twists or turns for quite a lengthy book. The characters were standard for this type of genre also; the good guys were properly good at avoiding death at every turn and the bad guys were paint by numbers villains failing to get their man. The main bad guy has a hook, that's about as scary as it gets here.

Reacher is dragged across the country trying to help a long lost friend/daughter of his favourite boss from his army days. There was no chemistry between these two and you knew they would hook up before the end as soon as they met. Women seem to swoon at Reacher and it all seems to be following a pattern. One description that made me laugh though was "like a condom stuffed with walnuts" to describe Reacher's physique.

I will read the next in the series hoping for a bit more of a story but I can guess there will be a bad guy who Reacher doesn't know at first then gets entangled with and defeats whilst bedding a gorgeous female (but not defeating the bad guy whilst bedding the female – just to clear that up). The next book could decide if I continue with the series or not. I will definitely be having a break whatever happens.

If you enjoy this try: "A Prisoner of Birth" by Jeffery Archer

Krbo says

Meni samom je prilično zanimljivo kako mi je lijepo sjela ova knjiga.

Znamo o kakvoj se literaturi radi, skoro pa svemogućiji junak upada u razne probleme iz kojih se uvijek izvuče manje ili više izbubetan.

Genijalan žanr za potpuni odmor na vreloj plaži ili u toploj sobi.

Ako je inteligentno napisan, a Childu je već u trećoj knjizi sa Reacherom uspjelo znatno podići nivo pisanja od teme do izvedbe tako da mi je planula u samo tri dana aktivnog čitanja.

Ima samo jedan sitan nedostatak, stalno mi pred očima iskače Tomojle Kruzer koji je fizički oko polovice volumena opisanog Jacka Reachera, he

Prvo pročitate sve knjige pa onda idite u kino (filmovi su gledljivi tu nema problema)

Adam says

This isn't a review, because I just started reading this book, but I couldn't help sharing my irritation.

I like Lee Child's storytelling skills, and Jack Reacher is a fun character to read about.

Unfortunately, his prose is like fingernails on a chalkboard. Most irritating of all, it's not irredeemably bad, it just needs a good editor. Who is Lee Child's editor? Does he even have one?

For instance:

"Are you Jack Reacher?" the guy asked for the third time.

Reacher set his bottle on the table and shook his head.

"No," he lied.

We, the readers, are fully aware this man is Reacher, because we've been told so at least a dozen times in the past three pages. "He lied" is unnecessary and stupid. It would have had more impact had Child simply written *"No," he said.*

"Who wants him?" Reacher asked.

"My client," Costello said. "Lady called Mrs. Jacob."

Reacher sipped water. The name meant nothing to him. Jacob? Never heard of any such person.

The line "Jacob? Never heard of any such person," should be deleted from the page, burned, and flushed down the toilet.

A few pages later, Reacher enjoys a "steak that hung off both sides of the plate at once."

Is there any way for a steak to hang off both sides of a plate **not** at once? Are these two, irritating little words there to ensure we know that this isn't one of those steaks that hangs off both sides of the plate, but not at the same time, because it has legs and walks back and forth?

I could go on and on, but I won't. Tough guy characters need tough-guy prose. To properly craft terse, tough-guy prose, Child needs a good editor. He doesn't have one.

--update--

OK, I finished. Of the first three novels about Jack Reacher, this was far and away my least favorite. Besides the poorly edited, hackneyed prose, the story takes forever to get going. The first two Reacher books both have slam-bang openings that carry the reader through some of the more boring bits, but this one doesn't, which makes all the repeated verbs and interminably long descriptions of people doing things harder to get through. The first 200 pages could have been edited down to 75, and pages 200-400 could have been edited down to 100. The climactic 150 pages are pretty good, but it takes too long to get there. The first two Reacher books weren't great, but they weren't boring. Unfortunately this one is. It could have been a tight 325-page thriller, but it's a bloated 550-page snoozer. Comparisons to Hammett and Chandler are way off. If anything, Lee Child is a higher quality Don Pendleton.

William says

3-star. My somewhat lacklustre review follows:

This could have been 4 stars, if not for the repetitive and excessively overwritten sections.

Wow, the prose has improved a lot since books 1 and 2. More economical, better rhythm. ... but a different rookie mistake: Changing viewpoint between Reacher and thugs every paragraph. Sucks the tension and pacing right out of it"

And the economical prose doesn't last. The last half of the book has lots of car and plane rides with uber-detail of seats and steering and baloney to fill pages. Ugh.

The climax is badly overwritten.

(The woman blushes only once in this book)

Okay, don't get too excited now. According to Child, Reacher is 6' 5" and about 250 lbs of hard muscle. This is what that might look like.

On Jodie's apartment wall, painting by Piet Mondrian
Composition with Red, Blue and Yellow (1930)

Full size image

I really like how Child presents and develops the character of Marilyn Stone. Very smart and capable.
Another strong female character !

Reacher's gun (this book)
Steyr GB

Full size image

Child still has a tendency to slip into excessive detail now and then. I bet he loves to blather on and on at parties.

Hobie looks out the window of an apartment in Manhattan and thinks this **UTTERLY RIDICULOUS** thought:

The Twin Towers looked shorter than they should, because of the curvature of the earth.

Where did Child get this? OMG stooopid.

Jodie calls a hotel, a new experience for Reacher.

He had never called a hotel. The places he stayed always had a room, no matter when. They were delirious if their occupancy rates ever made it above 50 per cent.

The hotel was a medium-sized old mansion set on a wide quiet street lined with chestnut trees. It had a big door painted shiny black and oak floors the colour of honey. Reception was an antique mahogany desk standing alone in the corner of the hallway. Reacher stared at it. The places he normally stayed, reception was behind a wire grille or boxed in with bulletproof plexiglas.

Lazy writing, plot event failure, stoopid AGAIN...
(view spoiler)

60% done
The figured out the secret mystery. (view spoiler)

.

Lyn says

Somewhere on Lee Child's desk there is a formula that looks something like this:

1. Remind the reader that Jack Reacher is an ex-MP drifter; he's tall and strong and dangerous – a tough guy's tough guy, damn near bullet proof.
2. Through no fault of his own, and without looking for trouble, Reacher gets in trouble.
3. There will be a pretty woman and she will be attracted to Reacher.
4. Create a sadistic bastard as an antagonist.
5. Construct a thriller with mystery elements to keep the pages turning.
6. Reacher kicks ass.
7. Submit to publisher.
8. Pick up royalties check.
9. Repeat steps 1 through 8.

And I'm not complaining. It works and is fun to read. This time around we find Reacher doing some manual labor in the Keys, getting tanned and even more Hulk-like when an investigator comes looking for him. He follows the trouble up to New York, kicks ass, does some good, works on solving problems, gets the girl, kicks some more ass and then the denouement. The villain in Tripwire is an especially nasty and unlikeable cretin and we get to see some military intrigue and some Vietnam secrets revealed.

As in other Reacher novels, there is a fair amount of unbelievability, but we're having fun so where's the harm? In this one, most veterans will have a few eye roiling moments and there was one military scene that was almost laughable and made me consider that maybe British writer Child was confusing English bureaucracy with ours.

One of the joys of reading fiction is discovering new characters and one of the even greater joys is finding a character who steals the show. In film parlance, this is usually a supporting actor or actress but can even be a scene stealing bit player with only a few lines. Estelle Reiner in *When Harry Met Sally* did just that when she famously stated, "I'll have what she's having." Supporting actor Christian Bale took over "The Fighter" and I actually had to look up the star of that film – Mark Wahlberg – because Bale's performance was all I could remember. Likewise, Joe Pesci's performance stands out in *Goodfellas*, more so than De Niro or Ray Liotta. And I cannot forget John Goodman's portrayal of Walter Sobchak in *The Big Lebowski*, nor the actor who won the Academy that same year in the best supporting actor category for his role in *Good Will Hunting* – Robin Williams.

So we come to this show stealer, Marilyn Stone. With enough lines to garner her a nod from the Academy, she did more than steal a scene or two; I began to look forward to her scenes as Child drew her as tough and resourceful as a certain 6'5 former MP. Child's characterization and dialogue are usually good and with Mrs. Stone, he outdid himself.

Another fun outing and Reacher fans will enjoy.

Brent Goldstein says

I'm reading the Reacher series in order from 1 to whatever and this is my third. Loved #1. Liked #2. Not happy with #3. On the positive side, I read it pretty quickly and was just interested enough in the story that I didn't quit and throw it back on the shelf. That being said, this story was a pale comparison to the first two.

I have several criticisms of this book, some major and some minor. On the minor side, the prose was suspect, redundant and often lazy. As some other reviewers have pointed out, there were plenty of instances where I would read a sentence twice and say out loud to myself "where the hell was the editor?" I also couldn't understand Child's sudden penchant for describing every scene and every action to exhaustion. I really didn't need to know every facet of Jodie's wardrobe or every detail associated with Marilyn's sale of her home or a full recap of how long it takes Reacher to take a shower. These were run-on paragraphs that added nothing to the story and I found myself simply skipping over them. This happened over and over again and probably added a good 100 pages to the book.

My major issues start with how Child diminished the character of Jack Reacher in this book. Instead of the brilliant and brave investigator hero from the first two novels, the Reacher of *Tripwire* came across as a bit of an oafish rube . . . clueless about the ways of the world. It was almost laughable. Issue two is that the story just seemed to plod along for no reason. Issue three is that the story itself was absurd and there were a lot of open holes at the end of the book. Now I understand that the Reacher novels require a suspension of disbelief when it comes to the villains and storylines, but this one was just beyond silly and, when I sat and reflected on the book after finishing it, it really made no sense.

I'm going to give #4 a shot, but if the series continues the downward progression, then that will be my last.

Julie says

This is the third Jack Reacher novel by Lee Child. My husband and I "buddy" read these. My husband loves Jack Reacher. After reading the first two in the series, I can see why the Reacher novels are so appealing to the male population. Lots of details on guns and weapons and lots of action. I enjoyed the first two as well, but not like my husband did. This one though made me a bigger fan. This is one of the third person novels. Jack is in Florida digging ditches for swimming pools when a private detective shows up asking for a Jack Reacher. At first Jack denies knowledge of anyone by that name, but then the detective turns up dead and Jack decides he better find out who is looking for him.

This leads him sadly to discover the death of an old friend, Leon Garber. Leon was working on something and he had been wanting Jack to help him. As Jack and Garber's daughter start investigating Leon's case, they find themselves being followed, shot at and disturbed by the possibility that a former war vet presumed dead might have turned bad.

This one is still really fast paced, but it's more plot driven than the previous two. The action scenes didn't turn up nearly as often and the suspense was more intense as a result. I suppose that's more my style than non stop action scenes. So, my husband and I disagreed just a little about this one. He complained about the lack of action and I praised the more intelligent plot. Overall we both liked the book very much and are excited about reading the next one in line.

Overall an A.

Alp says

4.75/5

There wasn't as much action in this book as there was in the previous one, but it was full of suspense which helped move the story right along. The investigation was incredibly intense and thrilling. It kept me wondering and guessing almost up until the end.

The author did it to me again! On the one hand, I really wanted to know the truth after being kept in suspense, but on the other hand, I didn't want to turn the next page because I was too afraid something very bad would happen to those characters. Oh, my poor nerves!

Although the ending wasn't an earth-shattering surprise, I can tell that it was a very ingenious plot twist. Tripwire is another one of my favorites in this series. I really did enjoy it!

Mike (the Paladin) says

Okay, more like it. I have found myself running hot and cold in the Reacher series. There can be a huge eye roll factor in some of them...and there is a bit of that here. However...this one is very well constructed and the story pulled me in and wouldn't let go.

Okay a bit more detail (as I liked this one). So, what's the eye roll factor?

Well, let's look at an example. Reacher has been in Florida when he's drawn into the "mystery" (no spoilers, sorry). He's been making a living hand digging swimming pools. Once he's drawn into said mystery however events demand he leave, at once.

Now see Reacher doesn't carry anything, a pack, an overnight bag...nothing. He doesn't go to laundromats he just buys new clothes when he needs them. So he travels and then shows up at a funeral, not having bathed in 3 or so days, in the clothes he's worn for maybe a week without having shaved or cut his hair in "who knows when".... And the girl from his past whom he meets there practically falls into his arms (well that takes a couple of days but she wants to right away).

The girl? Oh yeah she's lovely...beautiful...described as "achingly beautiful".

Get the picture?

But that said the book itself takes off and the plot is an excellent one. This one (in spite of the logic straining Reacher details) is a great read. I can and do recommend it. You get some multilayered thinking here and we leave a lot of the somewhat formulaic plotting that showed up in the last book in the series behind. Reacher and his "achingly beautiful" co-protagonist have a mystery to solve, a puzzle to unravel and a wrong to right.

Good book.
