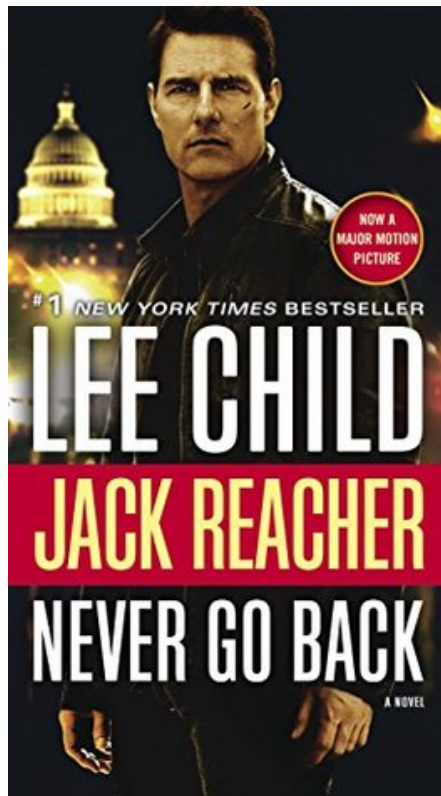




Never Go Back

Lee Child

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After an epic and interrupted journey all the way from the snows of South Dakota, Jack Reacher has finally made it to Virginia. His destination: a sturdy stone building a short bus ride from Washington D.C., the headquarters of his old unit, the 110th MP. It was the closest thing to a home he ever had.

Why? He wants to meet the new commanding officer, Major Susan Turner. He liked her voice on the phone. But the officer sitting behind Reacher's old desk isn't a woman. Why is Susan Turner not there?

What Reacher doesn't expect is what comes next. He himself is in big trouble, accused of a sixteen-year-old homicide. And he certainly doesn't expect to hear these words: 'You're back in the army, Major. And your ass is mine.'

Will he be sorry he went back? Or – will someone else?

Never Go Back Details

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Author : Lee Child

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From Reader Review Never Go Back for online ebook

Harry says

Book Review

Jack Reacher is back, in this, the 18th in the series. Like all the others I read this in one or two sittings in spite of the fact that some parts did not involve as much action as we have come to expect from this series. Lee Child's skill in causing one to turn the page is really quite excellent. Completing the book I took a look around GR and touched base with some fellow fans of this series. Although I was going to give this book a 4 star rating, reading their reviews caused me to halt spitting out my own. It's been a few weeks since completing this book and in that time I've had reasons to downgrade this book. In part, due to my friends' reviews, and in part because I let my subconscious sift through the rubble that was my initial thinking.

I believe Child made a serious mistake in this one. When I eat a certain delicacy over and over, one after the other, there comes a time when I want something different. Or, perhaps another analogy might do: you know those cereal boxes in the store, the ones with the horrendous packaging? How long has it been since humanity has had to deal with those impossible to open wax paper linings inside the cereal box. I mean, really! Isn't it time that we added a zip lock to the damned things? You see, right? When repeatedly going through the same struggle, we want some sort of progress. Same thing with series books.

Without introducing spoilers, Lee Child introduced certain plot elements and characterizations in this novel that are quite different from previous novels, elements that could have moved this series into another realm, into something that would cause us to eat another 18 books like pop corn. He didn't do that. He relied, I'm guessing because of writer's fatigue, on his old formula. I'm thinking if L. Child is tired of writing Reacher novels, he could have ended the series beautifully with this novel. Or, if not tired, by taking a leap forwards, he could have transformed Reacher, given us the core reason why he is alone...why he discards human relationships, and in a way forced him to abandon that and bring us into more novels where he might struggle with his former life while living a new existence.

Yes, yes, I know, easy enough for a reader to say "If I'd written this, I'd have done this and this." And in general I'd agree. But in this case, it might very well be a reason why I might abandon this series in the future.

Series Review

Lee Child

If you feel a certain affinity for the lone hero, a man of principle, of unwavering knowledge and assent as to his own actions, than Jack Reacher's your kinda guy.

Out of all the consequences that arise out of human motivation I do think that the threat of isolation and the threat of death are among the top two motivations that drive humans to do what they do. The Dark Ages, for example, arising out of a religious view - which is at base made possible by a fear of death - is one such consequence and much has been written about this in fiction: Umberto Eco's, the Name of the Rose for example. And then on the subject of isolation, a continuing theme in this series, we have Lee Child's hero

Jack Reacher.

Let me preface this by saying Lee Child is no Umberto Eco. This should not be read if what you're looking for is an in-depth, psychological understanding into the human psyche delivered with beautiful literary prose. This is not literature. It is escapist reading par none. The series relies on a certain formula that the reader has come to expect from L. Child. The books are easy to read, page-turners, so to speak. You sort of gobble up the books like pop corn at the movies. When finally a new book is published in this series, you're the first to buy it and you finish it in one or two sittings out on the back patio with coffee (and in my case, a cigarette or so).

The formula consists of the following: a nomad with military experience travels the country. He is discharged from military services, owns nothing but the clothes on his back which instead of throwing in the laundry, are thrown into the rubbish bin when dirty. The nomad, Reacher, finds someone in trouble and he steps in to help. In this process he meets women and gets involved. Once done solving the problem, like his clothes, he moves on discarding everything and everyone involved in the novel's elements.

What fascinates about this series is the portrayal of Reacher. Forget about the movie that has just been released. Jack Reacher is NOTHING like Tom Cruise (probably one of the worst casting I've ever seen, let alone the disgusting need of Hollywood to sensationalize everything it produces). Jack seems to implicitly understand that he is a unique animal/human running around on this planet and that in spite of social conventions, cultural trappings, and whatever conventions and abstractions we allow into our mind in order to alleviate this core fact of our singularity (and solitude)...the truth of it is not something Mr. Reacher denies. Secretly, we only wish we could face life alone as Reacher does. It would certainly lift the veil off love, cure the blindness with which we often enter into romantic relationships - another often repeated theme in literature.

Jack Reacher embraces it. Understands his philosophy implicitly, revels in his physical being, his conventions and values. He defends those he loves (albeit temporarily), those he does allow into his world, with a loyalty bar none while never letting go of the notion that he is alone and being perfectly comfortable with that.

Lo9man88 says

It's so frustrating all this moving around and the wandering , our hero can't settle down , i think deep down he's afraid of building a life and something for him and thus becoming an ordinary man . otherwise i loved this novel: ain't no messing around with the MP , Reacher kicked so much ass and i think I'm a little disappointed that Sam didn't turn out to be his daughter after all it would have changed things drastically for him.

I laughed my ass off when Susan told our boy you're so feral

The coolest thing for me was the breakout of the base it was cold logical and well timed it shows the superiority of the Reacher gene ... of course breaking fingers and elbows in planes was very satisfying.I hope you enjoyed it as much as i did .

Andrew Smith says

Cards on the table. I like Reacher, always have, but I might be getting a bit tired of reading the same story.

I settled in to read the latest offering and at first it was like meeting up with an old friend, it prompted a smile of anticipation as I turned the first page (albeit electronically these days). I like the routine stuff: the coffee drinking, the luggage load of a toothbrush and nothing more, the alarm clock in his head and all the rest. I like the clinically linear way the stories are told. Even when the tale is told in the third person, as this is, the reader is essentially Reacher for the few days it takes to live through the latest adventure. There is no trickery, no clever sub-plot waiting to confuse or over-tax the reader. All this is good... to an extent.

So what didn't I like about this book? It boils down to a couple of things:

1. I guess (like all Reacher fans) I've worked out that the story will essentially be a simple one with one or two elements left to resolve when we reach the denouement – tying up a few loose ends and making sense of all the bad behaviour, essentially. I don't think there's anything intrinsically wrong with that, but on this occasion I did find the knowledge that this was the way it would play out limiting. It seemed to put a ceiling on the amount I'd be able to get out of this story.

2. Lately, (or maybe it's always been this way) the stories seem to take place in a very small geographical area. In fact a few buildings and a few roads are mentioned and that's about all. It's like a stage play with a limited number of backdrops. This leads to repetition and I found this, frankly, boring. The limitation itself didn't add anything to the mechanics of the story – there was no hidden significance - but it did detract from the flow when yet again Reacher walked the same two blocks between the same two buildings and saw the same bus rolling by in the same direction. And I realised I'd been here before with Reacher and that I didn't like it last time either. Another thing with the repetition: he introduced a 'flip of a coin' element towards the end of the book that drove me mad! Again, it didn't add anything it just left me thinking 'why?'

I'm seldom surprised by Reacher these days. Actually, I'm never surprised. The books are fun but hardly stimulating. It's starting to feel like Lee Child isn't trying hard enough, he has a formula that's worked for him and he's sticking to it – rigidly. However, when all is said and done, I will be buying the next Reacher book: partly because there is something enjoyable about settling down in the company of old friend but also in the hope that Child can re-create the pure excitement he's capable of at his very best

Edward Wolfe says

There's not much I can say here. If you're a Jack Reacher fan, get this book.

If you're not yet, then do yourself a favor and pick up a copy of Killing Floor - the first Jack Reacher book. Once you've fallen in love with Reacher, rejoice in the fact that there are 17 more novels to get absorbed and lost in.

This book was a great way to lose more than half of a Saturday. People always ask the same stupid question at work on Monday mornings: How was your weekend? [As if anyone really gives a f* how anyone's weekend was. Why can't people just say Hello when they pass you in the damned hall?] This time, I'll say, "It was great! I read the new book from Lee Child on Saturday."

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Never Go Back (Jack Reacher, #18), Lee Child

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

I tried my hardest to finish this book before the movie came out, but I was a couple weeks too late. Actually it could be closer to a month by now! I kept putting it down as it just didn't hold my interest. Couldn't get into it.

I hope I enjoy the movie more than I did the book. To me it was the same old Jack Reacher, saving the world and finding a little love along the way, only to move onto the next town and do it all over again.

I still enjoy the series and will keep reading it. I am too far into it to stop now!!

James Thane says

While traveling through South Dakota in 61 Hours, ex-military cop Jack Reacher had occasion to call in to his old office in Washington, D.C, the headquarters of the 110th MP. Reacher once commanded the unit but it now belongs to Major Susan Turner. Reacher decided that Turner had a very nice voice and, on the strength of that impression, he has slowly been making his way in the direction of D.C. in the hope that she will go out to dinner with him.

As this book opens, he finally arrives only to discover that Turner has just been arrested. His old unit is now under the command of an acting head named Morgan. Morgan not only tells Reacher that Turner is in the slammer but that Reacher himself is being charged with two relatively ancient crimes. Reacher claims to be totally innocent and to have little or no memory of either alleged incident. Nonetheless, the acting commander invokes some arcane regulation and informs Reacher that he is now back in the army and under Morgan's command, at least until the charges are cleared up. Morgan orders Reacher to go to a motel and to then report for duty first thing in the morning.

At this point, neither Reacher nor the reader has the slightest idea what in the hell might be going on, but obviously something very unseemly is in the works. Reacher is determined to discover what it might be and so dutifully checks into the motel as ordered.

As soon as he does two musclemen, clearly military men out of uniform, arrive at the motel and tell Reacher to get out of town, promising that no one will come looking for him if he does, and that they will beat the crap out of him if he refuses to do so.

Well, of course, no one threatens to beat the crap out of Jack Reacher, let alone actually do it, and before long the two musclemen are lying comatose next to their car which now has two new dents in the sheet metal from where Reacher has introduced their heads to the side of their ride. The next morning, Reacher gets up and reports to the unit as ordered, which is going to be very bad news for the people who are screwing with him.

It wouldn't be fair to say any more; needless to say the story proceeds as long-time Reacher fans will expect. The conspiracy at hand is deep and complex and, as always, Reacher will have to kick the crap out of any number of people who continue to underestimate him in spite of his size. (He is, of course, *considerably* larger and more intimidating than Tom Cruise.)

This is one of the better entries in this long-running series and would make a great summer read--or any other season, for that matter. This particular edition also includes an entertaining Reacher short story called "High Heat," which features a very mature sixteen-year-old Jack Reacher.

Rosemary says

Where is Jack Reacher? Who is this imposter?

I am a huge Lee Child / Jack Reacher fan, and have been reading these books for years, but it has got to the point where I say that this could very well be my last Jack Reacher purchase. It pains me to say this, as these books have been the highlight of my reading calendar for a long time.

There were a few times when I seriously considered not finishing the book, but this is Lee Child and Reacher, surely it can only get better? No, the writing was consistent throughout, it was boring and repetitive. The plot was weak, and every solution to every problem on both sides was just too convenient, unbelievably so on many occasions.

Jack Reacher, in my opinion, has become arrogant – he is no longer the Jack Reacher I have enjoyed reading about all these years. This new Jack does things because he can – not because he must in order to survive. The ridiculous fire episode and the aeroplane scene clinched the deal for me.

The ending, and the reason for all the trouble Jack found himself in, was crazy, far-fetched and not what I have come to expect from Lee Child.

I have been holding back on this review for days, but when you take the price of this book into consideration, and what is between the covers, I think it is important that potential readers know that this is not up to Lee Child's earlier standards.

I am definitely the minority when it comes to reviewing this book – the 5 star reviews are rolling in on both Amazon and Goodreads. Maybe you will still enjoy this book if you are a die-hard Reacher fan, if not, I would give it a skip and rather try Lee Child's earlier Jack Reacher novels – they were brilliant.

Would I recommend this book? No

Will I buy the next book? Not on pre-order, I will wait for the reviews to come in first before buying – if at all.

Michael says

There is such a purity in Child's formula, I can't resist it. All variations on a primal theme of one man against a Goliath of corrupt forces. A haiku of nouns and verbs, of chase and run, the reading of tea leaves like ripples that point to the track of sharks. Brave confrontations with desperados without even a butter knife. In this one our ex-military policeman hero Reacher breaks the mold by teaming with a twin, the new female chief of his former MP unit. Child whets us with small glimpses of their faceless enemy, high in Homeland Security, tracking their moves under code names of Romeo and Juliet. So satisfying to fulfill the dream of a true American setting the world right again. In another year, the hunger for such a hero will likely return, and I will know where to look.

Deb Mj says

More like a 3.5 for me. Much better than the last offering, this is classic Reacher. However, after 17 of these books, I was hoping for a bit of evolvment in Reacher's character or life position. There were glimmers of hope, but in the end we're still left with Reacher on his own, kicking ass and righting all the world's wrongs. I love Reacher, but I have to admit that I'm getting just a little bit bored.

And, not having written a review since "A Wanted Man", which came out after the casting of the Reacher movie, I have to say the movie itself wasn't awful. Casting was horrendous - Tom Cruise is simply not Jack Reacher and I thought Rosamund Pike was just awful - but I thought the movie was fairly well done despite that.

Book Addict Shaun says

Never Go Back was another fantastic instalment in this series and the book where Reacher finally gets to Virginia after whole books worth of delays. What leads him to his old army base is that he liked the voice of the woman that now does his job. If only he wasn't a typical male thriller character led by his dick then this story may never have existed. This genre does love a cliched character.

That said I did love seeing Reacher having to become a fugitive across America as he was hunted down by multiple agencies for crimes he may or may not have committed. There's also a major question mark over something from his past and I think Lee Child missed a trick by not exploring this further because it could have spun a whole new series. After all just how long can this one go on... Although I never want it to end.

I am now moving straight on to Personal which is where I wanted to be before my holiday later this week where I'll be taking the most recent Reacher stories and the short story collection to read while I'm away. Reading these books one after the other has only made me love this series even more and I am dreading reaching the end and having to wait months for the next one.

Linda Wells says

This Jack Reacher novel continues the series of deceptively simple, well conceived and crafted, and satisfying novels. Reacher is a bit more mature at times but always ahead of the story curve. The plot is timely, and the story is driven by ethical dilemmas faced by Reacher as a result of his past.

I try to anticipate the ending in as much detail as practical, but Never Go Back was a challenge in this regard. Never Go Back is a worthwhile read, even for a new Reacher fan.

Jason says

You're going to like this, or you're not going to like this. Fifty-fifty.

Larry says

One of the characters in the 18th Jack Reacher book, an army MP major (like Reacher) sums Reacher up economically: "It's like you've been sanded down to nothing but yes and no, and you and them, and black and white, and live or die (176-177)." There's a lot in this book to support that view, but, as usual, there's a few moments that make it clear that Reacher isn't really "feral," as the other major characterizes him. What happens to a scared young waitress matters, just as what Reacher admires in a young woman who might be his daughter matters.

Reacher has reached the 110th MPs, the unit he once commanded. It is a trip that started out four books ago. He is there to have dinner with a woman MP whom he talked with on the phone when he was trapped in a South Dakota blizzard in "61 Hours." Meeting her under duress for both of them, seeing her dressed in his shirt when they're both on the run from trumped up charges, he judges that she was worth the trip. That judgment is Reacher in a nutshell: focused, determined, whimsical. How Reacher and the woman major get clear of their situation makes for a good novel in the middle of the pack as Reacher books go. It may end abruptly (it has been claimed by other more critical readers), though the grounds for the ending are prefigured along the way. Lee Child doesn't waste exposition and he doesn't make mistakes about structure.

The first two Reacher books were good and got my attention but the series accelerated with the third book, hit its stride with the fifth through eighth books (the splendid run that started with "Echo Burning" and carried through "The Enemy"—the best four books in a row written by anyone anywhere), and peaked with the eleventh and twelfth books: "Bad Luck and Trouble" and "Nothing to Lose." There has never been a Reacher book that wasn't worth my time, not even "A Wanted Man." All of them mesh together in pleasing ways. I look forward to the next one already.

NOTE: I reread the four-book sequence that I admire so much and am convinced again that "The Enemy" and "Without Fail" are the two best thrillers I've ever read, both as thrillers and as wonderfully crafted novels. I also watched "Reacher," which is a decent enough thriller that isn't really a Reacher movie because Jack Reacher isn't in it.

Courtney Vasiliev says

Never Go Back (Reacher #18)
Lee Child ?★?★

I won an advance copy from goodreads first reads.

WOW! First Reacher novel Ever and certainly will not be my last.
Lee Child did a great job with making it a stand alone novel, but sometimes throughout the book I thought it would have been a little more helpful to read the past books and have a back story. But with that said I was still able to follow on and enjoy this novel.

In this novel Jack Reacher goes to Virginia to Meet Major Susan Turner who had intrigued him only to find out she was not commanding officer anymore.

From there it just gets nutsss

Reacher is the hunted in this book and from what Ive read that was not his usual position. Reacher does everything with such cool calmness (thanka to his military training) I know sometimes he had my heart pounding.

This book was so much fun for me, fast paced, left me on the edge of my seat! And Even a little steamy action added

I would definitely recommend
