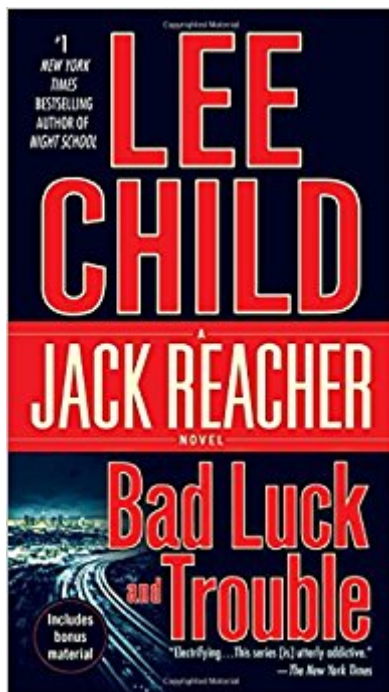


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Bad Luck And Trouble (Jack Reacher)



Synopsis

From a helicopter high above the California desert, a man is sent free-falling into the night . . . and Jack Reacher is plunged into the heart of a conspiracy that is killing old friends. Reacher has no phone, no address, no ties. But a woman from his former military unit has found him using a signal only the eight members of their elite team would know. Then she tells him about the brutal death of one of their own. Soon they learn of the sudden disappearance of two other comrades. But Reacher won't give up because in a world of bad luck and trouble, when someone targets Jack Reacher and his team, they'd better be ready for what comes right back at them.

Book Information

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#221 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Conspiracies

Customer Reviews

Ex-military cop Jack Reacher is the perfect antihero--tough as nails, but with a brain and a conscience to match. He's able to see what most miss and is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Each book in Lee Child's smart, addictive series (The New York Times has referred to it as "pure escapist gold") follows the wandering warrior on a new adventure, making it easy to start with any book, including his latest gem, *Bad Luck and Trouble*. However, be forewarned...once you meet Jack Reacher, you'll be hooked, so be prepared to stock up on the series. --Daphne Durham

Who Is Jack Reacher? A Video from Lee Child Watch the video A Note from Lee Child

Two years ago I was on a book tour, promoting that year's new Jack Reacher novel, *One Shot*. One

particular night, the event was held in a small town outside of Chicago. The date was June 21st. As I was giving my talk and answering questions and signing books, that date was nagging away at the back of my mind. I knew it had some significance. I started panicking--had I forgotten my anniversary? No, that's in August. My wife's birthday? No, that's in January. My own birthday? No, that's in October. Then suddenly I remembered--it was ten years to the day since I had been fired from my previous job. That was why and how I had become a writer. That night in Illinois was a ten-year anniversary of a different sort, somewhat bittersweet. And ten is a nice round number. So I started thinking about my old colleagues. My workmates, my buddies. We had been through a lot together. I started to wonder where they all were now. What were they doing? Were they doing well, or struggling? Were they happy? What did they look like now? Pretty soon I was into full-on nostalgia mode. Ten-year anniversaries can do that to a person. I think we all share those kind of feelings, about high school, or college, or old jobs we've quit, or old towns we've moved away from. So I decided to make this year's Jack Reacher book about a reunion. I decided to throw him back among a bunch of old colleagues that he hadn't seen for ten years, people that he loved fiercely and respected deeply. Regular Reacher readers will know that he's a pretty self-confident guy, but I wanted him to wobble just a little this time, to compare his choices with theirs, to measure himself against them. The renewed get-together isn't Reacher's own choice, though. And it's not a standard-issue reunion, either. Something very bad has happened, and one of his old team-members from the army contacts him, by an ingenious method (it's hard to track Reacher down). She gives him the bad news, and asks him to do something about it. He says, "Of course I'll do something about it." "No," his friend says. "I mean, I want you to put the old unit back together." It's an irresistible invitation. Wouldn't we all like to do that, sometimes? --Lee Child

Secrets of the Series: A Q&A with Lee Child

Q: Why do you think readers keep coming back to your novels? A: Two words: Jack Reacher. Reacher is a drifter and a loner with a strong sense of justice. He shows up, he acts, he moves on. He's the type of hero who has a long literary history. Robin Hood, the Lone Ranger, Aragorn from The Lord of the Rings, Jack Reacher--they're all part of the same heroic family. Reacher just ratchets it up a notch. Maybe more than a notch. Why is he so appealing? Most often people say to me it's his sense of justice; he will do the right thing. Even though there is no reward in it for him, even though there is often a high cost to be paid by him, he will always try to do the right thing and people find that reassuring in today's world when not too many people are doing the right thing.

Q: Jack Reacher gets compared to James Bond, Jack Bauer and Jason Bourne, each of whom now has a "face." In a movie, which actor do you think could fill Reacher's shoes? A: That's the toughest question. The thing about Reacher is he's huge; he's 6'5" tall

and about 250 pounds. There aren't any actors that size--actors tend to be small. So we aren't going to find a physical facsimile for Reacher because there aren't any. We have to find someone who is capable of looking big on the screen. Many people have said to me a young Clint Eastwood would have been perfect--we need someone like that who has the vibe of a big intimidating man. Hopefully there will be somebody available like that. It's also a question of finding somebody ready to sign up for more than one movie. They want to make a franchise, minimum of three, and that makes it a little bit harder. Q: What research is involved in writing one of your stories? A: My research is all kind of backwards. I don't go to the public library for three months and take notes in advance; instead my best research is by remembering and adapting. I read, travel, and talk to people just for the fun of it, filing away these interesting little snippets to the back of my mind and eventually they float to the surface and get used. The problem is, I approach writing the book with the same excitement and impatience that I hope the reader is going to feel about reading it. But even so, I need a certain measure of technical intrigue in the story. There is specific research I have to do as I go along, anything that's a small detail; a car, a gun, a type of bullet. I will check that out at the time. But, that's what I call the detail--the broad stuff is the stuff I already know. Meet Jack Reacher The Killing Floor Die Trying Tripwire Running Blind Echo Burning Without Fail Persuader The Enemy One Shot The Hard Way

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At the start of bestseller Child's winning 11th Jack Reacher adventure (after The Hard Way), the bad guys unceremoniously dump Calvin Franz, a former MP, from a Bell 222 helicopter "[t]hree thousand feet above the [California] desert floor." Trouble is, Franz was a member of the army's special investigation unit headed by Reacher--a one-time military cop who left the service to become a solitary drifter par excellence. A former colleague sends Reacher a coded SOS; the two rendezvous in L.A. and the game's afoot. More members of the band get back together, only to discover that Franz isn't the group's only casualty. As usual in Reacher's capers, practically nothing is what it seems, and the meticulously detailed route to the truth proves especially engrossing thanks to the joint efforts of this band of brothers (and two sisters). The author carefully delineates Reacher's erstwhile colleagues, their smart-ass banter masking an unspoken affection. The villains' comeuppance, a riveting eye-for-an-eye battle scene (hint: helicopter), is one of Child's more satisfying finales. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I know I'm going against the popular opinion here, but I found this particular Reacher episode tedious, dull, plodding and simply boring. I felt the author was treading water. I got about 40% of the way through it and the author had me so bogged down in details I lost track of the plotline. This is NOT typical of the Reacher novels, which is why this one stuck out like a sore thumb. I'm sure the next one will be better, but I finally quit reading this one.

I was recently turned on to Lee Child by a friend who is an avid reader. I was skeptical about reading a "series," but I've been pleasantly surprised from the start. I began with "Die Trying" and am currently on my fourth Reacher novel. I'd like to say that it's my guilty pleasure, but the truth is there is nothing about this author's writing style that gives the reader anything to be ashamed of. Jack Reacher is a believable action-hero; self-contained, relying solely on his wits and skills that have been honed to perfection over the course of his life. I love how with each new story, we pick up Jack with the shirt on his back and maybe a few dollars to his name. The character is quirky but completely believable; the plots are dynamic and full of surprises; and I've never found myself bored with Jack or the trouble that he can't seem to steer clear of. After the first book, I made myself switch genres so that I wouldn't get become a Lee Child junkie, but I find myself hankering for another Reacher novel. They are so entertaining, stimulating and satisfying. I'm glad it took me so long to discover this writer, for now I have plenty of unread books to look forward to. But I must say, I find it hard to imagine them being any better than "Bad Luck and Trouble." It is definitely my favorite so far.

"Bad Luck and Trouble" ranks right at the top of my favorite Reacher novels. I love it because it feels like quintessential Jack Reacher to me. He is totally badass and you get to see him in his prime. The story begins when circumstances reunites Reacher with his former military team. Everyone else on the team kicks butt and you can easily imagine them working very well together, past and present. What I love about Lee Child is the fact that he is such a descriptive author that while reading I imagine the story unfolding in front of me like a movie. If ever there was a Jack Reacher novel that would translate well to the screen, it would be this one.

Reacher is team player in this story, and it is a reunion of sorts for some of his ex-military MP crew. They cover a lot of Los Angeles territory as the plot thickens, and there is just enough freeway traffic and grid lock to make you feel like you're really in LA. This group on a mission scenario is a nice change from the more singular protagonist story lines in this series. The group has a well developed

chemistry and they are definitely pissed off about what has gone down, but killing of bad guys strictly for revenge was a bit troubling at times. I guess that's what you can expect if you 'mess with special investigations".

Reacher is in Portland, nearly broke, when he discovers that someone has deposited \$1030 into his bank account. It doesn't take him long to find out that a member of his old special investigative MP unit, Frances Neagley, has ingeniously sent him an "urgent assistance" radio code disguised as money. One of their own has been killed. Reacher meets Neagley in LA with mostly nothing but intuition about her location and they decide to put the unit, all now retired, back together. "You do not mess with the special investigators." Ominously, it is proving difficult to find the old guys and a girl. If the bad guys have gotten to more than one of them, they are indeed formidable. Reacher and his crew are about as fearsome as a police unit can get. Only the smallest shreds of evidence are found in ransacked residences, but they are worrying someone based on the surveillance. Eventually Neagley's contacts give them an opening; then it is a relentless pursuit. It is amazing to watch Reacher work. He's smart, calm, logical, in addition to his immense physical presence. Once you are in his sights, you stand no chance. It is interesting to see Reacher interact with Neagley and Karla Dixon, both stunning women, despite their lethality. All work and no play would make Reacher a dull boy.

I started reading Bad Luck and Trouble the second I tore into the packaging - in one day I had read 300 pages. Bad Luck and Trouble is, like other Reacher novels, a joy to read, even when the subject matter is serious. Child has made Jack Reacher a complete character that you look up to - a big man, tough, independent, with his own sense of justice. After 9/11, Reacher had to get on the grid because of national security - he now has a passport and an ATM card. When checking his meager funds, he notices a big deposit - the numbers in the amount correspond to a military code for emergency contact. He finds that a member of his old special investigation unit has been murdered. He and the remaining members of his unit reunite to solve the murder. Top secret military weapon components are missing, and are at the center of this investigation. It is interesting to see Reacher interact with friends. You see another side of him - still tough, dangerous, but one sees the love and loyalty with folks that watch each others backs and form one unit - whether in the military, or in civilian life. Interesting to read Reacher's reactions to the other members' post military careers and successes. The action is nonstop, and as usual, Reacher (and company) make their own kind of

justice to revenge the deaths of the lost members of their unit. Child has written a taut, exciting book that makes us like Reacher even more than before (if that's possible). Reacher is a loner, but he takes care of his own. And that's why he's such a marvelous character. A great read.

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