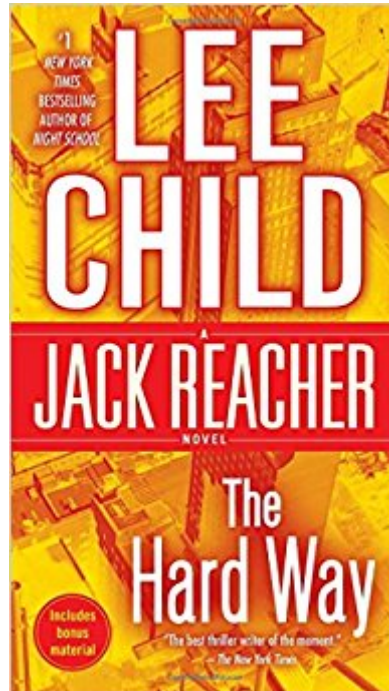




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The Hard Way (Jack Reacher)



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES ¹ BESTSELLER Jack Reacher was alone, the way he liked it, soaking up the hot, electric New York City night, watching a man cross the street to a parked Mercedes and drive it away. The car contained one million dollars in ransom money because Edward Lane, the man who paid it, would do anything to get his family back. Lane runs a highly illegal soldiers-for-hire operation. He will use any tool to find his beautiful wife and child. And Jack Reacher is the best manhunter in the world. On the trail of vicious kidnappers, Reacher learns the chilling secrets of his employer's past . . . and of a horrific drama in the heart of a nasty little war. He knows that Edward Lane is hiding something. Something dirty. Something big. But Reacher also knows this: He's already in way too deep to stop now. And if he has to do it the hard way, he will.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In bestseller Child's 10th novel to feature ex-army MP Jack Reacher (after 2005's *One Shot*), a sidewalk cafe encounter in New York City plunges Reacher into one of his most challenging and thoroughly engrossing adventures to date. Acting out of "reflex and professional curiosity" (and the promise of a generous fee), Reacher agrees to help sinister ex-army officer Edward Lane, whose posse of six Special Forces veterans are even more ominous than he, track down his kidnapped daughter and trophy wife. Since the kidnapping of wife number one five years earlier ended in her death, Lane cautions Reacher that he will not brook police interference

("You break your word, I'll put your eyes out"). From Lane's quarters in the West Side's venerable Dakota apartment building to the shady sections of SoHo and Greenwich Village, the author's atmospheric descriptions make Manhattan a leading player, with menace lurking at every intersection. The inevitable showdown, on a farm outside a tiny English village, ranks as one of Child's most thrilling finales. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Mass Market Paperback edition.

Lee Child has become one of the most popular writers in a genre known for the hard-earned loyalty of its readers. Fortunately, his character Jack Reacher, "the literary heir to Mike Hammer, Sir Lancelot and, perhaps, Jack Paladin" (Denver Post), shows no signs of cooling off. Critics applaud Child for bringing fresh observations and endearing quirks to Reacher's character (keep an eye out for the clothing in this latest effort), who was first introduced to readers in *Killing Floor* (1997) and most recently appeared in *One Shot* (2005). The books also contain a sense of humor, which contrasts nicely, at times ironically, with scenes of intense violence and cerebral intrigue. Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Mass Market Paperback edition.

Lane's paramilitary group and Jack worked initially to find Lane's kidnapped wife, Kate and his step-daughter, Jade, then parallel to get just for the possible murders of Kate and Jade. But he also realized seconds before divulging Taylor's location, that it was a charade, a clever misdirection feat employed to get Kate and Jade away from the brutal Lane, and to bring the fight to England on Taylor's turf. Jack's deduction of the clues were impeccable and Pauling's assistance as his partner and temporary bedmate made the plot and storyline that more interesting. Great action scenes, great editing and dialogue. Retribution for the first Mrs. Lane was divine! 07/15/17

I'm not sure Lee Child knows how to write a bad book. This one definitely lives up to the quality of any others of his I have read and the storyline makes it difficult to put the book down, even when my eyes will barely stay open. I love the ability to think along with Jack while he is going about his day figuring out the impossible solution to the mystery he is thrown into. I love that he is still himself and hasn't changed. I actually heard this one on audio and reading it anyway. It's a whole new story when it is digested slowly and just as good the second time, even if I know the ending!

I am a hard grader. Very entertaining novels with little ambiguity or gray ethical issues to disrupt the

flow of the action - the villains are fully or partially unmasked early on and the suspense results from how Reacher, not the army or the police or some magic gadget, but Reacher more or less single handedly mitigates or stops the harm to innocents. Some of these books not including this one contain improbable coincidences that stagger credulity and disrupt the suspension of disbelief necessary to appreciate more suspenseful more subtle and more nuanced fiction. I read these books and I will read every one of them in order because they are fun.

In his 10th Jack Reacher novel, Lee Child again places his hero, the giant with frozen turkey-sized fists into a scenario in which he's arbitrarily selected to participate in an intense unfolding drama. This one puts him in the employ of one Edward Lane, angry, ex-military and vowing revenge and destruction on whomever kidnapped his beautiful wife. Then we find out there's a kid involved. Lane didn't mention it at first. It's the first indication readers get that this man, who now heads a seemingly top-notch private security team, is not as above board as he first would seem. Lane promises Reacher a bucketload of money to find his wife, and Reacher takes the case. Nothing works out for Reacher. But Child strings out the clues from the first details in which Reacher spots the purported kidnapper getting into and driving off in a Mercedes. Tension builds until the last third of the book when the whole case evolves in Lee Child style. Then the action takes off and Reacher does some serious ass kicking. He always does, right? Which reminds me of bumping into another Reacher fan in a used book store. He had three Reacher books to go and hadn't read them in sequence like I did. He said whenever he spots the Brit phrasing in the dialogue it drives him a little nuts. I can't say that I've been put off with it nor did I really spot anything. But now I'll be looking for it.

I really like most of the Jack Reacher novels. This one, for me, was a disappointment though. Not enough action, too much detailed analyses and not enough tough-guy Reacher. I found the story line a little difficult to follow. The Reacher personality did not wake up until the end, where Jack finally made things right and got the justice we're used to seeing, I just like Jack's character sprinkled throughout the book. But, I'm hooked on Reacher, so I look forward to the next one. Thanks Lee.

Jack Reacher is the ultimate literary hero character. But the supporting characters are amazing. Each is sympathetic and a fundamental structure in the plot. There is a common structure in each book, but in each, the reader always emerges cheering, as Reacher's justice rectifies and balances.

I love the pace, the logic, and especially the lack of specific descriptions in the sex scenes. This is wildly entertaining.

Classic Reacher. Lee Child is a must buy, must read author. Stand-alone that is easy to follow. Graphic brutality, no drag-you-down drama. The storyline has plenty of twists to keep reader's interest. Believable characters with distinct personalities. Thought-provoking and informative dialogue. I will re-read this story and always look forward to works by this author.

This is the third Reacher I've tried. It's pretty formulaic and tiresome in that way -- taciturn Reacher, incomplete sentences to show imminent action, always a woman he loves but has to leave for his solitude. Very violent and the villains are often laughable caricatures of evil -- e.g. fat (for bad), squinty eyed (for calculating), sadistic (almost always). Evil is actually pretty subtle in most of life.

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