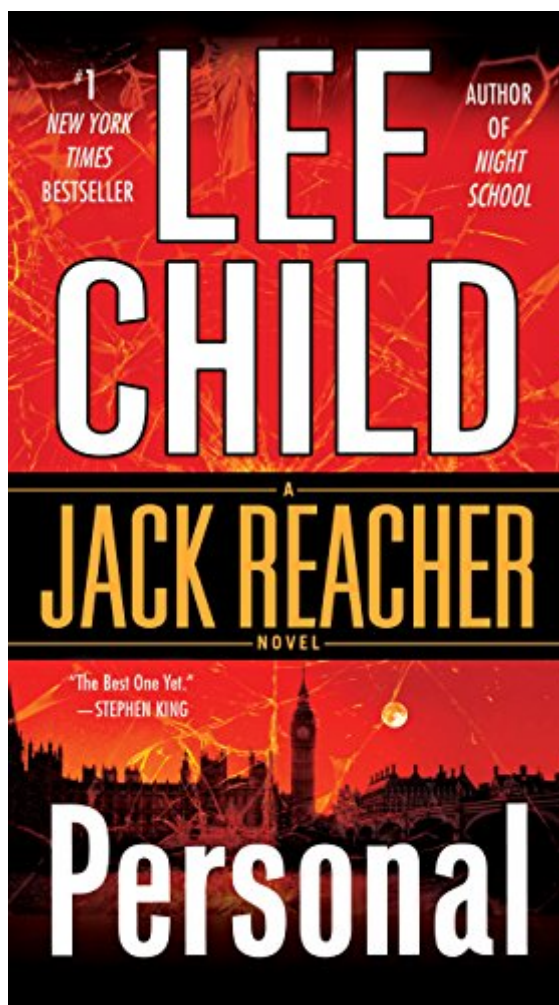


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# Personal (with Bonus Short Story Not A Drill): A Jack Reacher Novel



## Synopsis

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • Jack Reacher returns in another fast-moving, action-packed, suspenseful book from Lee Child. "You can leave the army, but the army doesn't leave you. Not always. Not completely," notes Jack Reacher "and sure enough, the retired military cop is soon pulled back into service. This time, for the State Department and the CIA. Someone has taken a shot at the president of France in the City of Light. The bullet was American. The distance between the gunman and the target was exceptional. How many snipers can shoot from three-quarters of a mile with total confidence? Very few, but John Kott "an American marksman gone bad" is one of them. And after fifteen years in prison, he's out, unaccounted for, and likely drawing a bead on a G8 summit packed with enough world leaders to tempt any assassin. If anyone can stop Kott, it's the man who beat him before: Reacher. And though he'd rather work alone, Reacher is teamed with Casey Nice, a rookie analyst who keeps her cool with Zolof. But they're facing a rough road, full of ruthless mobsters, Serbian thugs, close calls, double-crosses "and no backup if they're caught. All the while Reacher can't stop thinking about the woman he once failed to save. But he won't let that happen again. Not this time. Not Nice. Reacher never gets too close. But now a killer is making it personal. **BONUS:** This edition includes the short story "Not a Drill" and an excerpt from Lee Child's *Make Me*. **Praise for *Personal*** • "The best one yet." • "Stephen King • Reacher is the stuff of myth, a great male fantasy. . . . One of this century's most original, tantalizing pop-fiction heroes . . . Child does a masterly job of bringing his adventure to life with endless surprises and fierce suspense." • "The Washington Post • "Yet another satisfying page-turner." • "Entertainment Weekly • Reacher is always up for a good fight, most entertainingly when he goes mano a mano with a seven-foot, 300-pound monster of a mobster named Little Joey. But it's Reacher the Teacher who wows here." • Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times* • "Jack Reacher is today's James Bond, a thriller hero we can't get enough of. I read every one as soon as it appears." • Ken Follett • "Reacher's just one of fiction's great mysterious strangers." • Maxim • "If you like fast-moving thrillers, you'll want to take a look at this one." • John Sandford • "Fans won't be disappointed by this suspense-filled, riveting thriller." • "Library Journal (starred review) • "Child is the alpha dog of thriller writers, each new book zooming to the top of best-seller lists with the velocity of a Reacher head butt." • "Booklist • "Every Reacher novel delivers a jolt to the nervous system." • Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Not one of Child's best by a long shot. I thought it was slow and not a page turner like most of his books. I always enjoy the bevy of information Child includes, but there is a major error on page 52, where he says force equals mass times velocity squared. Every first year physics course will tell you that  $F=ma$ , mass times acceleration (Newton's second law). Acceleration is the rate of change of velocity ... very different from velocity squared. Also, it stood out that 95% of the time he mentioned Casey Nice's name, it was always "Casey Nice", not just the surname as with all the other characters. In fact I would guess that in the first 200 pages, it was 99% of the time. An amateurish event of "cut and paste". I felt at times that someone else wrote parts of this book. But the book is not so bad, that I won't buy Mr. Child's next book.

Nothing really happens until the 16th chapter, page 87 ... unusual for a Jack Reacher novel. Lee Child likes to set the foundation in detail. I realize that it's necessary to a point, but this novel, unlike the others I've read, focuses primarily on strategies, hypothetical situations & scenarios, and way

too much detail about the artillery and ammunition used or not used as in some cases. All the technical stuff such as velocity of bullets, ranges, angles, specifications, material used, etc., I mean pages of this type of stuff. "Personally," this reader just wanted him to get on with the story. The knock-down drag out fist-fighting is much the same, blow by blow description of how it went down, to get the bad guy ... and when he finally gets the bad guy, which we all know he is going to do, it seems anti-climatic. I've skimmed through this part of his novels in the past, but found myself tempted more often by this one. I've read all the Reacher novels and enjoy his character. It pains me to give such an acclaimed author a rating as low as a 2-star, but I'm trying to be honest here. If you haven't read Lee Child before I would pass this one over. The series can be read out of order, each novel can stand alone, but it's more enjoyable and you can see how the character of Jack grows if you start at the beginning with book 1: "The Killing Floor" and go from there. It is a great series. Disclaimer: I was provided a complimentary pre-release ARC of this work by for my unbiased, true opinion and review on .com, of which any opinion I give for review always is the truth, like it or not, IMHO.

I've read the majority of the Reacher series until the day came that I tired of the formula; no matter however successful it was in the eyes of most readers. I believe I skipped three or four in a row until I decided to give it another shot. "Personal" was the shot, and like a has been boxer who makes one last comeback and fails miserably I should have skipped it. This book is extremely long on conversation and I'm talking redundant, boring and nothing but useless filler; reminiscent of the late Robert B. Parker Spenser novels. Little philosophies and catch phrases that Lee Child must have thought clever but I found extremely over the top and irritating. One example is his multiple effort to persuade a green 28 year old CIA agent to leave her position and join the Army. This is the same Army that laid off the West Pointer Reacher at the 15 year mark to roam American and now Europe with no pension and only a Dollar Store shirt on his back. C'mon Lee, if this is your best effort, please revert back to the formula.

I chose 3 stars because I felt the book was not up to the standard established in earlier books. It felt as though it had been written for something to do on a Sunday afternoon. The events were predictable. Reacher went into it already knowing a lot, with a somewhat personal agenda which happened to present a benefit to the U.S. He knew there were other things going on, but the story stayed focused on finding and eliminating Knot, as that would be the end-all solution. It read slowly, partly because I did not care about the characters or what happened to them and partly because of

things going along as you might expect. As I thought would happen, Nice came through. Of course, no matter what, Reacher may be hurt, seem down for the count, but always survives. You know the moment that Reacher lies the gun on O'Day's desk, after reciting the storyline, that he is going to commit suicide, the honorable thing to do rather than be found out. Foreign intrigue is just so familiar. In this book, the gang members were, in some ways, the most interesting of characters. The development of Nice's character could have been given more in-depth attention. I never really felt the impression of her difficult times, internal turmoil or growth, the movement toward being able to kill White. It seemed to be more to show Reacher she could do it. He had orchestrated her every move up to then. Earlier books had stronger story lines and plot development, more insight by Jack, yet surprises, and the reasons for his actions were better developed. Here, it felt like he did the math, took action, then on to the next item. He usually rights a wrong for someone, not necessarily himself. Usually, surprises are revealed to us as he learns them so we can get more into his thought process. When I finished the book, I did not feel that Jack had accomplished much or felt people involved were better off for his actions. People were dead, and survivors went back to their places. Once you knew "the target" could or would not be killed, there was little point to the story. Even the bad guys were somewhat nonessential to the movement of the story. Hope I enjoy the next book. If not, it may be the end of my reading about what happens to Jack and how he resolves the matter.

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