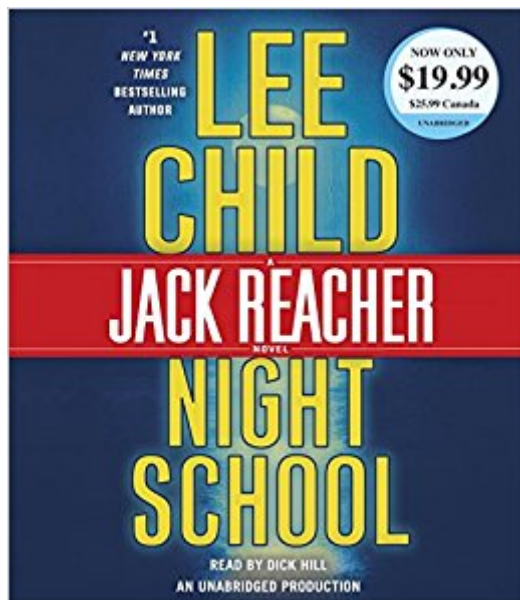


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Night School: A Jack Reacher Novel



Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *“The incomparable hero of Jack Reacher: Never Go Back takes readers to school in his most explosive novel yet. After eleven straight global #1 bestsellers, discover the thrillers that The New York Times calls ‘utterly addictive.’ It’s 1996, and Reacher is still in the army. In the morning they give him a medal, and in the afternoon they send him back to school. That night he’s off the grid. Out of sight, out of mind. Two other men are in the classroom—an FBI agent and a CIA analyst. Each is a first-rate operator, each is fresh off a big win, and each is wondering what the hell they are doing there. Then they find out: A Jihadist sleeper cell in Hamburg, Germany, has received an unexpected visitor—a Saudi courier, seeking safe haven while waiting to rendezvous with persons unknown. A CIA asset, undercover inside the cell, has overheard the courier whisper a chilling message: ‘The American wants a hundred million dollars.’ For what? And who from? Reacher and his two new friends are told to find the American. Reacher recruits the best soldier he has ever worked with: Sergeant Frances Neagley. Their mission heats up in more ways than one, while always keeping their eyes on the prize: If they don’t get their man, the world will suffer an epic act of terrorism. From Langley to Hamburg, Jalalabad to Kiev, Night School moves like a bullet through a treacherous landscape of double crosses, faked identities, and new and terrible enemies, as Reacher maneuvers inside the game and outside the law. Praise for Night School ‘The prose is crisp and clean, and the fighting is realistic. . . . This latest installment has all the classic ingredients: a great setting (Hamburg), a good villain, and a mystery that draws you in efficiently, escalates unpredictably, and has a satisfying resolution.’ The New Yorker ‘Another timely tour de force . . . The taut thriller is textbook [Lee] Child: fast-paced and topical with a ‘ripped from the headlines’ feel.’ Minneapolis Star-Tribune ‘As gripping as ever.’ The Florida Times-Union Praise for #1 bestselling author Lee Child and his Jack Reacher series ‘Reacher [is] one of this century’s most original, tantalizing pop-fiction heroes.’ The Washington Post*

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of November 2016: Last year's Reacher book, *Make Me*, ended on a minor medical cliffhanger which I, for one, was looking forward to seeing resolved this Fall. But author Lee Child isn't giving up the goods so easily. Instead of picking up where that book left off, he takes Reacher back in time to 1996. Still in the Army, Reacher is coming off a medal-earning career triumph when he is sent back to school. His three-man class (Reacher, a CIA guy and an FBI agent) however, is a front for a secret mission: figure out the plot behind a message intercepted in Germany which reads "the American wants 100 million dollars." The good news for fans is that all the familiar elements show up in *Night School*: the words "Reacher says nothing" appear at least half a dozen times, and as usual, Reacher combines mechanical precision and brute strength to beat up bad guys with a degree of violence falling somewhere between Bruce Lee and a backhoe. Best of all, fan-favorite Sergeant Frances Neagley makes a welcome reappearance, riding shotgun with Reacher as he hunts for his quarry. Is the plot as robust and impressive as our hero? Not entirely, but readers will barely notice. Twenty-one books into this series it's clear that what makes them work as well as they do is the joy of watching Reacher's extraordinary powers of deduction working in tandem with his remarkable ass-kicking abilities. On that front, Child delivers as usual. --Vannessa Cronin, *The Book Review*
--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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feel. *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* "As gripping as ever." *The Florida Times-Union* Praise for #1 bestselling author Lee Child and his Jack Reacher series "This series [is] utterly addictive." *Janet Maslin, The New York Times* "Reacher [is] one of this century's most original, tantalizing pop-fiction heroes." *The Washington Post*

I've read all 20 Jack Reacher novels, written by Lee Child. I jumped at the chance to evaluate copy of his newest book. You don't read 20 of anything unless you really like the characters, and *Night School* is no different. Taking place back in the mid-90's Military Police Major Jack Reacher is reassigned to go back to school but it isn't what anyone thinks.

It's really just a cover to investigate a possible act of treason and terrorism. Reacher teams up with his old colleague Sgt. Frances Neagley and a group of new folks representing the FBI, CIA and the national Security Council to find out what is happening and how to stop it. The best part of a mystery is finding out what happens, so I won't spoil anything, but Jack Reacher does his usual thing and in the end prevails in the usual Reacher fashion. The interaction between Neagley and Reacher, along with the other team members is entertaining. That's the good part, now the part that isn't quite as good. I like Reacher novels because over the years he has been consistent - Jack Reacher is a really interesting character who keeps a clock in his head who always know exactly what time it is. Calculates the physics of a punch before he throws it, etc. In this book, Reacher is a bit more superficial. There is a lot less of Reacher's thought process in this book and I felt it made the book a bit less fun to read. In fact, I can only give it 4 Stars because it's good but it lacks a bit of what makes Reacher novels so enjoyable. Reacher fans will love it. Folks new to the series will enjoy it, as well. I enjoyed it. I just wish Lee Child done a bit more to keep Reacher's character as unique and entertaining as he has done in the past.

I've been a Lee Child fan since reading my first Jack Reacher novel, so you can imagine my disappointment when I began *Night School* and discovered it wasn't the old ex-Army Reacher. *Night School* is set in the era before Reacher left the Army. The story itself is okay, good even, but not the independent Reacher we've come to know. To be sure, some of the elements are there such as his

impeccable logic, but it just doesn't have the same Reacher feel. Does my disappointment mean I'll stop buying Child's novels? No, it just means I'll scrutinize them much closer and won't buy them on a pre-release basis.

I love Reacher novels, and own them all, but this one was flat-out boring. Normally I can't stop reading and end up losing sleep because I have to know what happens next. With "Night School" I had to force myself to keep going. I'd suggest skipping this one, or waiting till later once the price has dropped.

Lee Child, in "Night School," takes us back to 1996, when Jack Reacher was a thirty-five year old army major who had served his country for twelve years. His superior officer, General Garber, orders him to report to the Pentagon, where he is supposed to take a continuing education course. However, this is merely a ruse to keep anyone from knowing that the President of the United States wants Jack and a select group of agents from the CIA and FBI to prevent a catastrophe. Alfred Ratcliffe, the National Security Adviser, and Ratcliffe's deputy, Dr. Marion Sinclair, inform Reacher and his colleagues that an Iranian spy working for the CIA in Hamburg, Germany, has learned that Middle-Eastern extremists are about to make a major purchase from an unidentified American. We are off to the races, and fortunately, Reacher is on our side. In addition to his prowess in hand-to-hand combat (he is six feet five and two hundred and fifty pounds of muscle), Jack is a thinker who analyzes data, makes critical decisions, deploys resources as needed, and uses his uncanny instincts to excellent advantage. He recruits the intelligent and competent Sergeant Frances Neagley to assist him. Jack and company face a daunting challenge: They must identify the key players in this proposed exchange; find out where and when the sale is supposed to take place; and stop it from happening. All of this must be accomplished without alerting the public. Reacher ignores orders and sidesteps the law when it suits him. He knows that if he succeeds, he will be forgiven, but if he fails, he will be blamed and perhaps face prosecution. "Night School" is a diverting throwback to the days before 9/11. The Internet and supercomputers had not yet changed the world. In addition to Reacher, a man who makes every word and deed count, the cast includes a German chief of detectives who has good reason to help Jack; a band of Aryan racists eager to pursue their own nefarious agenda; and the shadowy American who intends to enrich himself at the expense of countless innocent lives. This plot-driven story has the usual clichés (a race against time, highly-charged romantic encounters between Jack and his sexy lover, and a final violent confrontation), and the author makes no attempt to delineate his characters with any degree of

subtlety. "Night School" may not be great literature, but Child doesn't pretend to be Tolstoy. He delivers a fast-paced novel of action-adventure that has enough thrills to entertain fans of this long-running series.

As a big fan of the Jack Reacher series I was very much looking forward to this book when I found out it was a prequel. I thought it would be sort of an origination story, telling the how and why of Jack Reacher. Unfortunately this was not the case. I always marveled at Mr. Child's economy of words and fascinating stories, though similar to each other, different enough to be definitely worth reading. In this book the plot moves ponderously with way too many words getting in the way of it. Likewise, the amazing number of "wild guesses" that prove to be incredibly accurate, enabling our hero to once again defeat a terrible enemy were just too good to be true and burst the bubble of artificial reality a great author like Mr. Child creates. I was brought back to reality time and again by the number of these remarkable deductions. Though I will continue to read the series, until convinced Mr. Child has "lost it", I cannot recommend this book.

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