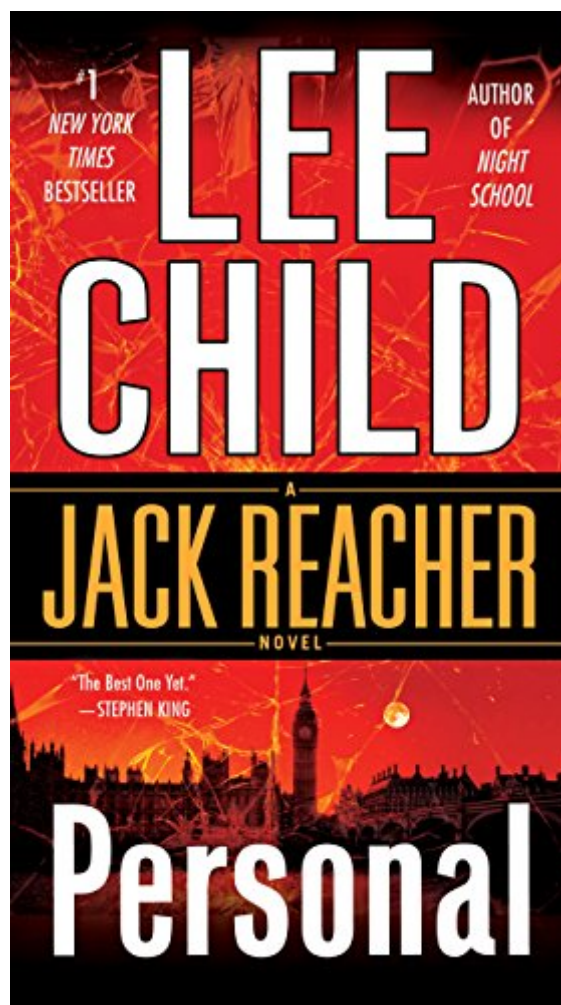


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Personal (with Bonus Short Story Not A Drill): A Jack Reacher Novel



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

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Customer Reviews

9-25-14 Personal is one of Lee Child's least effective Jack Reacher novels. Once noted for novels with hallmark action scenes, Mr. Child's Personal is tepid, although it seems to start well with a planted newspaper on a bus which is a call to action for Reacher. Unfortunately, there are perhaps 4 principal action scenes scattered throughout the book lasting perhaps 6 pages in total, with a great deal of wasted space as Reacher travels from the United States to Paris, to London and elsewhere in an attempt to stop an assassin from killing world leaders. Throw into the mix a man Reacher sent to prison fifteen years early, an inexperienced CIA/State Department rookie analyst named Casey Nice--a name belonging in a Bond novel--assorted thugs, ruthless Serbs, and others and we end up with a cliché-ridden piece about a worn-out Reacher. Reacher is over the hill as an action hero. He says in the book that his father served in WWII and his mother worked with the French Resistance as a young girl during that same war. All of that places Reacher close to 60, hardly the same man he was nineteen years or so ago when he came on the scene. Now, he is ready to be put out to pasture; yet, Mr. Child seems to think that Reacher is ageless, although he does limit the amount of action and fighting to a minimum. But the Reacher that readers know and, generally cared about, is gone. This Reacher seems to be looking ahead to Social Security,

Medicare, and retirement. It is curious that, while Mr. Child pairs Reacher with an inexperienced, twenties-something analysis, there is no sexual tension there; it is much like a grandfather/granddaughter relationship.

Let me save you the trouble of reading this book, and the money buying it. No spoilers. Mostly because that would require something to spoil. I'll start by saying I've read every Reacher / Child book, and most of them twice. But this one and the last few are just total garbage. Nothing, and I mean NOTHING happens for the first half of the book. Could it be more boring? Way to phone this one in, Lee- if you even wrote this tripe. Booorriing... Then Jack gets in a brief fight, 1 page, then another 10% of the book, then maybe 5 pages of action, then nothing until the finale. Oh wait, I'm sorry, "nothing" isn't exactly accurate, the whole book reads like some inane Facebook update bred with a Fodor's Guide Book. Please, devote another 9 pages to what a wall looks like and document every worthless minute of every day. I get it- you like to describe things, Mr. Child. Here's an idea: Describe a decent book where things actually happen. Clearly Child missed Leonard's rule of writing: Try to leave out the part that readers tend to skip. If you can't tell, I'm actually angry at how stupid this book was. Just painful to read. Was anyone else wanting to pull their hair out every time Reacher went on, and on, and on about the stupid Zoloft? Leave her alone, you nosy bastard. And let me get this straight, Reacher can always tell the time with his superhuman internal clock down to the minute, but he asks questions like, "What day is it?" Stupid. This book, however, is still on my reading recommendation list. It just moved from the "I recommend you read" column, to the "I recommend you tear out your eyeballs to avoid reading" column. Thanks for wasting my time.

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