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Tripwire (Jack Reacher)



Synopsis

Jack Reacher hunts the hunter in the third novel in Lee Child's New York Times best-selling series. Ex-military policeman Jack Reacher is enjoying the lazy anonymity of Key West when a stranger shows up asking for him. He's got a lot of questions. Reacher does too, especially after the guy turns up dead. The answers lead Reacher on a cold trail back to New York, to the tenuous confidence of an alluring woman, and the dangerous corners of his own past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ex-military policeman Jack Reacher is lying low in Key West, digging up swimming pools by hand. He is not at all pleased when a private detective starts asking questions about him. But when the detective, Costello, turns up dead with his fingertips sliced off, Reacher realizes it is time to move on. As in Lee Child's two previous thrillers, *Die Trying* and *Killing Floor*, Reacher is soon up to his neck in lethal trouble, this time involving a vicious Wall Street manipulator, a mysterious woman (of course), and the livelihood of a whole community. Even the fate of soldiers missing in action in Vietnam is stirred into the brew. But this is not a book by one of the new breed of U.S. thriller writers. Child prides himself on his ability, as an Englishman, to write American thrillers that are utterly convincing in milieu and toughness of action, without a trace of English sensibility. *Tripwire* is no exception. Every bit as lean and compulsive as its predecessors, it also builds on the freshest

aspect of those books: Reacher may be a tough, epic hero, but he always remains human and vulnerable. --Barry Forshaw --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jack Reacher, the hulking ex-soldier readers will remember from Child's first two thrillers, *Die Trying* and *Killing Floor*, can kill with his bare hands, and sports chest muscles thick enough to stop bullets. He's actually a dynamo of a character, wily in an innocent sort of way, and the anchor to one of the best new series in thriller fiction. Here, Reacher is incognito, living the life of a drifter and digging swimming pools in Key West. When a PI from New York comes looking for him, and shortly afterwards turns up dead with his fingertips sliced off, Reacher flies north and discovers that the instigator of the search is Leon Garber, his former army commanding officer. But Garber has died the day before Reacher arrives. As Reacher finds out from Jodie Jacob, Garber's beautiful attorney daughter, Garber was helping an elderly couple to locate their son, who supposedly died in a helicopter crash during the Vietnam War. The military won't confirm the death, however, or even classify the soldier as missing in action. Pursuing the search together, Reacher and Jacob narrowly escape murder attempts by a pair of dark-suited thugs who work for an evil corporate loan shark named "Hook" Hobie, who has a hideously disfigured face and a metal hook for a right hand. Hobie is harboring a terrible secret linking him to the couple's vanished son, and he'll kill anyone who tries to discover his diabolical past. A showdown between the two men is inevitable, and when it happens, it's a beautAalmost as good as Child's skillfully laid surprise ending and the crisp and original dialogue throughout. Reacher is a complex, contemplative brute whose aversion to social and material entanglements entail very peculiar habits and ideas. He never cleans his clothes, preferring to buy new ones (going to a dry cleaner implies a commitment to return); and he's spellbinding whether kicking in doors or just kicking around a thought in his brain. Literary Guild featured alternate; feature film rights for *Killing Floor* and the character of Jack Reacher optioned by Mark Johnson/Polygram; rights to Jack Reacher series sold to 18 countries. (July) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

... or a "World Class Psychopath meets Harry and Sally who Copulate (again and again) After Years of Repressed Incestuous Feelings Towards One Another". Okay - That's a little too long for a book title. But, the point being that "Tripwire" is a short story once if you skip over the cheap 50s style detective novel mix of superfluous gore, blood, and sex. I don't consider this in the same class as Lee Childs' later novels, such as "The Hard Way", "One Shot", or "Personal". This novel's mental level is several IQ points lower than Lee Childs' earlier Jack Reacher novels - But at least you find

out how his chest muscles stopped an anemic 38, and the resulting scar, which is referenced in several of the later novels. The monotonous gore and sex is even more evident if you __read__ the book (I also own the Kindle version). One will keep turning the pages if only to find the buried story of a psychopathic Vietnam veteran, who is unfortunate enough to cross Jack Reacher. The story is edgy due to the system, which the villain has entrenched over the past thirty years. The story is set between late 90s - a couple of years prior to 9/11/2001 (The World Trade Towers is where the story climaxes). "Tripwire" fails to explain why the army didn't incarcerate the psychopathic lunatic years ago - Gross army incompetence? Possibly. A dog tag swap wouldn't have nixed a dental record check. One also assumes that Jack isn't too interested in the inherited house and land (received in the written will of his deceased good friend), NOR in that same good friend's daughter, with whom he has repeated trysts (before, after, and during - once he, and she, overcomes their incestuous feelings), because Jack is __totally__ unattached in followup novels. One assumes Jack dumps both with equal aplomb. So much for distractions and attributing to a hero the feelings of a toad. At least the real Hobie is a hero. You could have wrapped the story up better, Lee. The audio edition suffers because Dick Hill __IS NOT__ the narrator - Which is sad, because Dick could at least have added some vocal dynamics to make the listening more enjoyable. I had listened to the "Killing Floor" and "Tripwire" years ago, and although the two novels are at the same reader/listening level, I found "Killing Floor" much more enjoyable with respect to listening. I am now listening to "A Wanted Man", which I've had on the shelf for awhile - Now that is five stars.

Mr. Child's previous installment 'Die Trying' had his protagonist constantly in life-or-death situations. I found it to be highly enjoyable escapism. 'Tripwire' takes a more laid-back approach when compared to it. There are much fewer action sequences. The author has his iconic drifter struggling more with his personal choices when it comes to lifestyle. Also, of course, Reacher is partnered up once again with an "achingly beautiful" woman in this adventure. Mr. Child's spends a large amount of time effectively fleshing out the antagonist with the playful alliterative name of Hook Hobie. It is very well done because you get to appreciate that Reacher's nemesis is one scary vicious dude. My problem with the author's mystery/less action 'Tripwire' is the amount of time spent on Reacher and Jodie Garber. Lordy, lordy, they certainly have the hots for each other but are too afraid to admit it. The story has Reacher's brain spending way too much time, in my humble opinion, racing back-and-forth between his cranium and the fella hanging between his legs. I find Mr. Child's stories to be entertaining because of the mystery involved as well as the interesting process Reacher goes through in solving it. The author also does a nice job of explaining some military trivia about Vietnam

and MIAs. Because the reader knows Reacher's life isn't truly in peril, it's the other innocent victims who you are concerned about when it comes to their safety. Mr. Child's has a generous handful of such people in the book. In the end, I found it difficult to rate 'Tripwire' because of its mixed results. Less of randy Reacher and more of riot Reacher would have been my preference. I will continue reading the Jack Reacher series in the sequence they were published, but I hope there's less Harlequin Romance stuff in future installments.

I'm enjoying the Jack Reacher series. The protagonist is Jack Reacher an MP (Military Police) who has recently left the armed services. The book is a good old who done it and you follow Reacher and his new accomplice Jodie while they are investigating. The villain (the most important part in any story) was great. He is this nasty deplorable character capable of anything. I thoroughly enjoyed this villain. One of my biggest gripes about the book is the authors only movie knowledge about firearms. Shotguns don't require aiming and will kill everyone in a cone in front of you and calling semi-automatic guns automatics. This annoys me, it might not be bothersome to you, but it does take me out of the action. I still enjoy these books and am looking forward to the next in the series.

I have read quite a few Jack Reacher novels this year; however, as a Jack Reacher fan I decided to attempt to read each of Lee Child's novels in the order they were published. I have just finished "Tripwire" and found it to be exciting and interesting. One of the things I do not understand is why Jack Reacher lied in the beginning about his identity, especially after detective Costello told him why he was looking for Jack. After Costello is brutally murdered Jack Reacher feels he was responsible for not being more honest with the private detective. As it turns out two thugs come to the strip club where Jack worked as a bouncer/doorman looking for him. Jack also lied to them about his identity, which in this case was smart because they would have also killed him. Now Jack begins his search for a Mrs. Jacob, who is the person who hired detective Costello to find Jack. As with all Lee Child's Jack Reacher novels there are numerous twists and turns with numerous vicious bad guys who are trying to kill him. I never give away too much when reviewing novels because it spoils it for the reader. If you are a Jack Reacher fan you should check out this book. My only complaint is the length of Lee Child's novels. Always way too long and drawn out. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: Martial Art Myths).

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