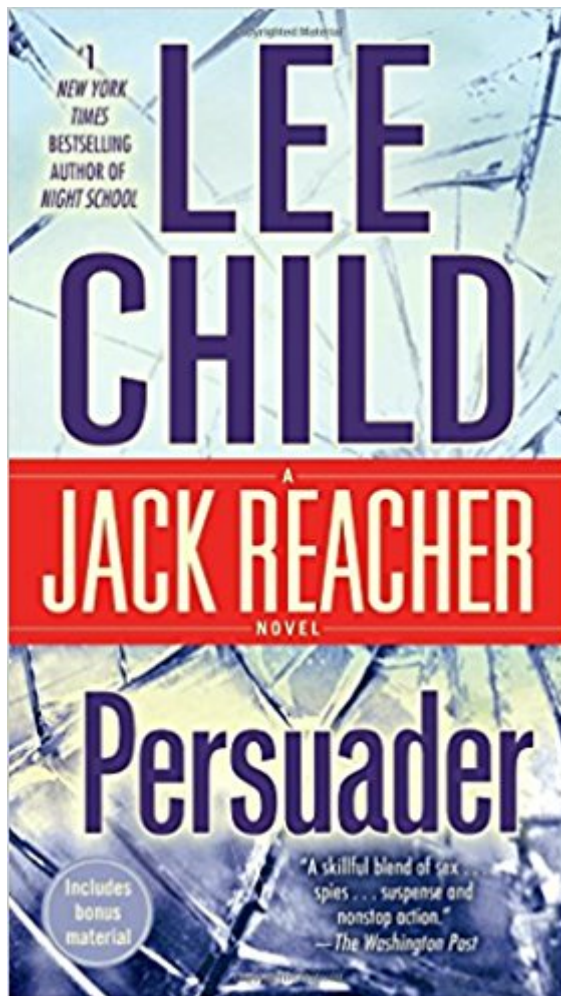


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Persuader (Jack Reacher)



Synopsis

“Gripping and suspenseful . . . Child ratchets up the suspense to new heights.” •The Denver Post “Jack Reacher lives for the moment. Without a home. Without commitment. And with a burning desire to right wrongs and rewrite his own agonizing past. DEA Susan Duffy is living for the future, knowing that she has made a terrible mistake by putting one of her own female agents into a death trap within a heavily guarded Maine mansion. Staging a brilliant ruse, Reacher hurtles into the dark heart of a vast criminal enterprise. Trying to rescue an agent whose time is running out, Reacher enters a crime lord’s waterfront fortress. There he will find a world of secrecy and violence and confront some unfinished business from his own past. Praise for Persuader “A page-turner . . . [Lee] Child’s tale drives hard and fast.” •Los Angeles Times Book Review “Wickedly addictive . . . so fast-paced it makes the eyeballs spin.” •Orlando Sentinel “A story that will sweep you along as fast as some of the riptides Reacher survives.” •St. Petersburg Times

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jack Reacher, the taciturn ex-MP whose adventures in Lee Child’s six previous solidly plotted, expertly paced thrillers have won a devoted fan base, returns in this explosive tale of an undercover operation set up by the FBI to rescue an agent investigating Zachary Beck, a reclusive tycoon believed to be a kingpin in the drug trade. The novel begins with a bang as Reacher rescues Beck’s

son from a staged kidnapping in order to get close to his father--and trace the connection between Beck and Quinn, a former army intelligence officer who tried to sell blueprints of a secret weapon to Iraq but was murdered before he could pull it off. Or so Reacher thinks, until he spots Quinn in the crowd at a concert in Boston. As usual, Child ratchets up the tension and keeps the reader in suspense until the last page, although his enigmatic hero hardly ever seems to break a sweat. In the tough guy tradition, Reacher and his creator are overdue for a breakout, and this muscular, well-written mystery might be the one. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The promo copy on the ARC of Child's new thriller proclaims, "We dare to make this claim: Lee Child is the best thriller writer you're probably not reading-yet." Hopefully the "six-figure" marketing campaign promised by Child's new publisher will make that statement obsolete, because readers will be hard-pressed to find a more engaging thriller this spring season. Child is a master of storytelling skills, not least the plot twist, and the opening chapter of this novel spins a doozy, as a high-octane, extremely violent action sequence sees Child hero Jack Reacher rescue a young man, 20-year-old Richard Beck, from an attempted kidnapping before the rug is pulled out from under the reader with the chapter's last line. The rest of the novel centers on the Beck family's isolated, heavily guarded estate on the Maine coast where Reacher takes Richard. Richard's father is suspected by Feds of being a major drug dealer and the kidnapper of another Fed, and also seems to have ties to a fiend who killed Reacher's lady 10 years before, someone Reacher thought he'd killed in turn, in a vengeance slaying. Tension runs high, then extremely high, as Reacher, ingratiating himself with the dealer and hired on as a bodyguard, pokes around the estate, looking for the kidnapped Fed and evading and/or disposing of in-house bad guys as they begin to suspect he's not who he seems. But then little in Child's novels is as it at first seems, and numerous further plot twists spark the story line. What makes the novel really zing, though, is Reacher's narration-a unique mix of the brainy and the brutal, of strategic thinking and explosive action, moral rumination and ruthless force, marking him as one of the most memorable heroes in contemporary thrillerdom. Any thriller fan who has yet to read Lee Child should start now. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The first 5 books in this series are amazing, and I couldn't put them down. After Echo Burning, they begin to get formulaic and dull... Without Fail, and Persuader were snoozers in comparison. One thing I didn't like about this one, is that Lee changes to a "first person" format for some reason, I for

some reason, i'm just not "feeling" it. "Make me", which I read out of sequence, was amazing. When Lee Child is inspired, he's great... I hope I come across some inspired writing soon.

I figure this is the 18th of Lee Child's Jack Reacher books that I've read. I'm picking them off like Reacher in a shooting gallery. And it was perhaps the best one, although they were all good. I loved the telling of the two stories, 10 years apart, that Child uses to slowly reveal the back story. The fight scene where Reacher ultimately takes down the giant Paulie was awesome. And the wrap up at the end is formulaic Child but I thought this one was particularly suspenseful and kept me breathless. Very well done all-around. The Persuader was great. Trouble is, I'm reading this series faster than he's writing them!

First to note: I'm a woman and many action adventures are not written for me. This book is written from the male POV without alienating the female reader. The storyline centers on gun, drugs, and essentially some violence - but it isn't "in your face" or glorified. No excessive swearing (though some, in context). Also: this is my first Lee Child novel and I had not read any of the previous Reacher stories. That being said, I still really enjoyed it. I read this on my Kindle and found myself slipping it out of my purse and reading a few pages here and there throughout the day, and looking forward to my nightly bedtime reading - a sure sign that I'm enjoying what I'm reading. I'm a voracious reader and I'm picky, so I notice everything. Usually I'm noticing everything I don't like. But in this novel, I instead was pulled along for the journey in a story that is a page-turner. The plot is interesting and not easy guessable, while at the same time is not so over the top that you finish and go "what? Huh?!" Upon re-reading, you would indeed find the clues dropped along the way. The action scenes have enough violence to be believable to the story (and there are multiple deaths) without being violence-for-the-sake-of-violence. The characters are multi-faceted and interesting, and not your stereotypical folks. The son, in particular, was very interesting to me - and while not a master character or central to the story, the author gave him substance and made him interesting. If this were a movie, you'd see a lot of faces you'd recognize - all those great character actors out there would identify with most of the cast in this book with interesting roles to play. The location - the house on the beach - even plays a "character" and is easily conjurable in the mind. The only downside for me was excessive description in some areas. I can tell when the author is giving too much description when I find myself flipping pages and scanning them without really "reading" them. I'm someone who thinks that if the text doesn't have a purpose in the book, then it should be cut. So there were SOME areas where I flipped to get to the "guts" of the story - it wasn't THAT much, but

enough to keep me from giving it 5 stars. From a woman's POV, this is a great action adventure that still includes the male aspects of the genre without alienating me, and I was sad to see it come to an end. I recommend this book - and for women in particular who have trouble finding good reads in this genre.

I'll focus on one plot element here to make a point. A writer of Childs' caliber has the unique ability to convey such horrific physical and emotional stress -- that many readers will feel their pulses begin to race, and own stress levels elevate. I'm not sure who gained the most physical relief when Reacher's head broke the surface of the ice cold water in one scene - Reacher or me! I had a five-week course in drownproofing at Hurricane Island Outward Bound school many years ago and, in addition to the bone chilling, shuddering cold of the ocean water in late August, was the psychological stress of having our hands tied behind our backs and feet tied together with plastic clothes line. In one lesson we had to swim 25 yards trussed up like that, between two dock wooden walls sunk into a cold water quarry pool. The trick was that you only had your head above water long enough to draw in a gulp of air while porpoising the distance to the other dock wall (and waiting hands). So we were taught to exhale before our mouths cleared the water, with that 1/2 second of clearance to inhale. Not a fun feeling if you don't time that right and all you inhale is ocean water. The only physical description more chilling than Reacher's water ordeal is in another book, in which rats play an integral role in confined spaces. I'm a veteran newspaper reporter (specialized in crime coverage for a large daily paper for 10 years) and I'm in awe of Mr. Child's abilities.

This has been described as a favorite of his reviewer, and I can see why. After reading it, I bought several other Reacher books; I find them great when I am not in the mood to relax, but want to get caught up in heart-pounding action. Child delivers, and how! WOW!

I definitely liked this book more than the previous one. The narration kept me inside of Reacher's head. I felt like I was climbing the wall with or fighting my way through the current. At least this time the love interest doesn't get killed.

I am about 1/2 way through... And I can't put it down... In fact I should be reading now and not poking at the keyboard writing this review... The storyline from one of the Jack Reacher books to the next always changes.... One never knows what the next Jack Reacher challenge will be.... All you know is that there will be good guys (gals) and bad guys (gals).... And Jack can be a shade of gray

from a sense that no prisoners are taken in some episodes (books).... This series is a fast and fun read which is good for me.... Some books that I read can take me a month to get thru them... This is not the case with these series.... like a week....

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