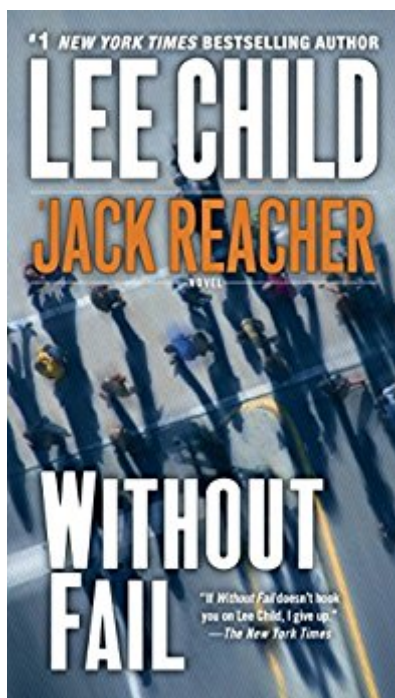


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Without Fail (Jack Reacher, Book 6)



Synopsis

Jack Reacher takes aim at the White House in the sixth novel in Lee Child's New York Times bestselling series. Skilled, cautious, and anonymous, Jack Reacher is perfect for the job: to assassinate the vice president of the United States. Theoretically, of course. A female Secret Service agent wants Reacher to find the holes in her system, and fast "because a covert group already has the vice president in their sights. They've planned well. There's just one thing they didn't plan on: Reacher.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While i'm a huge fan of the series, "Without Fail" doesn't meet the standards of previous Reacher books. What's missing... The wit, the suspense, the witty deduction, the action, the complexity, you name it. The plot is a sad, boring attempt that reads like a lame "24" episode, and while other books in the series had me itching to turn the page, this one had me itching to reach the end, so I could get to the next book. (I gave up at 84% read, and just deleted it.)

Some spoilers below, read on at own risk. I like the Jack Reacher series. It's a predictable flow for each book, but you just have to accept that. He's a badass, always one step ahead of the bad guys, always the smartest guy in the room, figures things out before everyone else, etc. And, of course, he hooks up with some hot woman, gets into a serious relationship with her, and breaks up by the end. All that, no problem. Just accept that that's how it's going to go, and read on to see how it is handled this time around. In this book, Jack is a little TOO smart. A little TOO good. I think it was just pushed a little too far, while other things didn't make a lot of sense to me. For instance, the knowledge and skills of the would-be assassins don't add up considering their background. Also, in one attempt at making Jack seem so much smarter than everyone else was just off-base, and that had to do with the Beretta in the kitchen drawer. Most law enforcement or military folks I know advocate that a gun being used for self-defense should be loaded and ready to fire - that extra step of inserting the magazine, pulling the slide, etc - could be the difference between life and death. In this case, the Beretta was in the drawer with the mags next to it. A professional such as a secret service agent wouldn't have had it that way, and a military professional such as Jack wouldn't have considered it a mistake to have the bullets in the mag. I think BOTH would have kept the gun in the drawer, bullets in mag, mag in gun, ready to go. Not a big deal except that the whole idea becomes a major plot twist at the very end of the book. Anyway, it's a good book, I recommend reading it, there were just a few things that bugged me and made me think that the author was trying too hard to be clever.

If you are reading this review. Stop. Start with Lee Child's first book "Killing Floor". This is his 6th book. Asked to rate the writing and I marked Great because they didn't have Totally Awesome. Violence rating: I put Some because a lot depends on how your imagination interprets what is written. He describes some pretty terrible stuff in his books but I tend to read it like I would an autopsy report, without a lot of emotion, just facts. Sexual content: Some, but like a PG rating. He says things like "when they were done", or "they went into the bedroom". Fine by me because details won't further the story line. Smart. Just keep it moving. His whole writing style is just a constant movement. Very entertaining.

Have loved many Reacher novels but you need to suspend disbelief way too much in this one. Defending the VP from killers somehow boils down to Reacher in a Church steeple seeing the killers drive up through a field. It just doesn't work for me. Considering the pros the Secret Service has it is too hard to believe this guy is the only one able to find the killer. Reads slow too.

Jack Reacher novels are a godsend while sitting on long flights. The narrative is simple and there is usually enough suspense from chapter to chapter to retain interest. I have read more than half of Lee Child's offerings of this character. This particular novel is oddly uninteresting almost from the very beginning. The story is essentially about the rigors of guarding the VP elect complete with elaborate descriptions of protocols and procedures, which to my opinion is rather tedious. The action here is almost cerebral or clerical in an odd way rather than visceral. This effort doesn't seem to be as good as other Reacher novels that I've read up to now. In addition, the final resolution appears a bit contrived. Not the best of the series I'm afraid.

The last one, Echo Burning was terrible. I thought I would give it one more try, but despite the far more interesting story line, the author's writing style is just too long and drawn out. I find myself skipping pages as he makes these long, drawn out descriptions of the person's apartment or what they're wearing, which does nothing to promote the story line. I need a new book series, hero and author. Any suggestions out there?

Reacher is once again drawn into the world surrounding Washington politics. by his brother's ex who is in the Secret Service, guarding the VP elect. the threats are real, the direction from which they came is difficult to access. when the threats become deadly, Reacher makes some tactical decisions that might not be popular, but should save lives. the more I read the Reacher series, the more fascinated I am by the characters and situations. the psychology behind his thought processes is unspooled slowly. Fantastic

It's been too long since I've read about the escapades of Jack, and I feel a bit poorer for it. Lee Child's story was written so that real suspense about a credible murder motive, hate, never hit a slow patch. The good and the bad is no easier for the pros to sort out as it is for most of us. At least not for me. To lose family, close friends who were comrades, to lose a long searched for love in Jack's life who was his late brother's one-time flame to an assassination are all overpowering sources of lifelong guilt and sadness and regret. Will he and his partner succeed in stopping the unsafe threat to the newly elected government? I invite you to read to see. Excellent in all ways. A hard to put down book. My thanks to the author, Lee Child.

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