



## Light It Up

*Nick Petrie*

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## **Light It Up** Nick Petrie

Combat veteran Peter Ash leaves a simple life rebuilding hiking trails in Oregon to help his good friend Henry Nygaard, whose daughter runs a Denver security company that protects cash-rich cannabis entrepreneurs from modern-day highwaymen. Henry's son-in-law and the company's operations manager were carrying a large sum of client money when their vehicle vanished without a trace, leaving Henry's daughter and her company vulnerable.

Then, when Peter is riding shotgun on another cash run, the cargo he's guarding comes under attack from hijackers and he narrowly escapes with his life. As the incidents mount, he has to wonder: for criminals as sophisticated as these, is this money really worth the risk? And if not, what about his cargo is worth more?

## **Light It Up Details**

Date : Published January 16th 2018 by G.P. Putnam's Sons

ISBN :

Author : Nick Petrie

Format : Kindle Edition 399 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Light It Up for online ebook

### Rana says

Boom, boom goes the dynamite of a well-paced thriller with an actual god-damned interesting plot.

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### The Pfaeffle Journal (Diane) says

Peter Ash in this third book of the series once again seems to have gotten himself mixed up with some bad hombres while trying to help a friend. The story was clever and original but there was just a little too much violence for my taste. This is an action packed story with Peter fighting for his and his friends lives every moment. While I enjoyed the second book, this book left me cold. The story was good and well plotted and will have an appeal to many readers.

**This review was originally posted on The Pfaeffle Journal**

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### Ben says

Nick Petrie has a hero, Peter Ash, the Jack Reacher mode. The novels featuring him are fresh, fast and entertaining. "Light It Up" is no exception.

Ash, an ex-Marine with PTSD from too many tours in the Middle East wars is working for a friend in Denver pwho runs security for a company that transports money for legal pot growers. One of the trucks rpferrying the money has already been hijacked, money stolen, the guards disappeared. Now Ash, his friend, and two other ex-mil types are guarding another shipment.

That is the beginning of a violent short trip for Ash, followed by an even more violent few days.

What makes it all work is the background Mr. Petrie provides about the pot business, Ash's background and the grander plan behind the robberies. No, it is not simply about the money. The robberies involve merely a few thousands; millions are on the table to be snapped up by an unscrupulous, shady Mr. Big.

If there any holes in the plot, and I did not see any, Petrie does not give the reader any time, nor reason to think about it because the action hardly ever lets up. When it calms down, relatively speaking, the pause is there to set the reader up for more action. As to the ending, well, I was hoping that the author would get to it faster---because I couldn't wait to get to see how it all worked out.

Fun all the way

Notes: expect violence. Bit of romance, a bit of creepy lust-neither explicit. Great for fans of the Loner who rights wrongs and settle scores.

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### Larry H says

4.5 stars, rounded up.

There's this feeling I get when I'm reading a series of books I like. It's like hanging out with old friends—it feels good to see them again and spend some time with them, and while the circumstances are always a little bit different, I know what to expect of them, and I like that.

Although *Light it Up* is only Nick Petrie's third book featuring awesomely badass drifter Peter Ash, I got that feeling when reading it. Peter is one cool, complicated character that I find totally fascinating—a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan whose PTSD manifests itself as claustrophobia that makes it difficult for him to be indoors or closed-in spaces for long periods of time. Peter is fiercely loyal, and that loyalty can demonstrate itself in dangerous ways, for those who choose to test it as well as for himself.

When Peter meets Henry Nygaard, despite the significant difference in their ages, there is an immediate kinship built on their shared veteran status (although vastly different wars), their strong work ethic, and their mutual belief that both may still be capable of redemption and happiness despite all they've done in their past. When their work rebuilding trails in the Pacific Northwest ends at the conclusion of a summer, they're ready to part ways, until Henry asks Peter for help, a clarion call Peter is unable to resist.

Henry's adult daughter runs a security company in Denver, a company he helped her set up, partially as a way of making amends for not knowing she existed until not too long ago. She told Henry that her husband, a former veteran himself, and his crew disappeared one day while making a run for one of the rapidly growing entrepreneurs in Colorado's cannabis business.

The money, the vehicle, the men—all have gone without a trace, and the police have no clue of their whereabouts. Henry's daughter needs a new crew to handle a money run for another businessman, and she needs this to succeed or all she has put together will collapse.

Henry recruits Peter and a few other vets to help with this run. When everything goes spectacularly wrong, Peter barely escapes with his life, and he realizes that they're up against a far more formidable foe than simple highway robbers. But what is there to be gained if the actual financial payoff isn't that high? How lucrative can the cannabis business really be, when so many in the state are growing and selling it these days?

In trying to figure out who is behind the attacks, Peter stumbles into a much deeper plot, being organized by those who will stop at nothing to get what they want. As he enlists some friends, including investigative reporter June Cassidy, with whom Peter dares to perhaps hope for a future, he realizes there is danger hidden within this seemingly mellow business, danger which could affect them all.

Petrie hits another home run with *Light it Up*. This is such a terrific series and Peter is an immensely fascinating character, someone far more complex than the troubled, musclebound Marine you think he is at first glance. This book gives you more of a glimpse into his mind and his heart, while not letting up for one second on the action. There are truly some scenes in this book that are tailor-made for the big screen, chases and fights and encounters that leave your heart racing.

I believe I've said in my reviews of Petrie's earlier books, *The Drifter* and *Burning Bright*, that I don't know why he isn't a star, and why Peter Ash isn't as well-known as Jack Reacher. (Lee Child even blurbs Petrie's books!) Read this one, or any of these books in the series, and maybe you'll agree with me—and then tell as many people as you can about them!

NetGalley and PENGUIN GROUP Putnam provided me an advance copy of the book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making this available!

See all of my reviews at <http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blog...>

## Georgia says

Find more in Chill and read

“Light it up” is the third book in the Peter Ash Series and it is the first book in the series that I have read. However, it was not difficult for me to understand the main character, the book atmosphere or follow the story.

Peter Ash is a former Marine. He is back in the States now, but he is suffering from PTSD, meaning that he has such a nasty claustrophobia, he cannot stay inside four walls for as much as more than 20 minutes, without freaking out. Therefore he stays in the woods, rebuilding hiking trails in Oregon, along with a newly acquired friend, Henry, a veteran like himself. Henry’s daughter is running a security company which protects cash-rich cannabis entrepreneurs from modern-day highwaymen. So when her husband and his crew are gone missing on an assignment, Henry turns to help her and asks for Peter’s support. While the two friends are on an assignment, they get attacked probably by the same hijackers that attacked the other company vehicle. As gunshots start to fly around, Peter starts to wonder, is it worth it to risk his life for that money? He would however, risk everything for his friend’s life.

After cannabis legalization, a whole new legal business has been set up in the states. It is a way through for those working with it outside the law. Now they can make it legal and still keep growing and selling it. The only catch is that the business is not supported by the banking system, so all exchanges must be made in cash. This raises the need for a safekeeping place for all that cash, as well as guarding and security services. This is where new security businesses come up, however, at the same time there is a new opportunity for those that want to benefit without effort. Grab the cash and walk away.

The story is very well told. Amazing big screen scenes all over the book, while at the same time there is great character building. Peter Ash is a marine, but he is much more than that. He is a thinking person, one that has definitely been through a lot and he has learned to appreciate things and take nothing for granted. He is the honest guy, the one you can trust with your life, the person that would do anything for his mates. To keep them safe. To make sure the return home on their own, not in a box.

Apart from the fascinating story and plot, the action and the military part of the book, there are also other aspects of the hero laid out. He is a troubled person, as one would expect, based on his experiences and PTSD, but he is trying to become normal again and live his life like everyone else. The author gives a glimpse of his mind and as well as his feeling. He has met a woman in the previous book which he likes, so he puts an effort to be able to be with her like everyone else would.

Peter Ash is a character that is going to be around for a while and I would most definitely like to read more of Nick Petrie’s books!

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## Paul Falk says

This ARC was accepted compliments of NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased review. Gratitude sent to G.P. Putnam's Sons for allowing this pre-release made available.

In his third installment of the Peter Ash series, Nick Petrie failed to keep me waiting long for the adrenaline-packed action to unleash. Just the way, (a-ha a-ha) I like it. I wasn't left out in the cold for not having read

the first two books in the series. A natural born standalones. The characters arrived well-developed. I was never left behind. The story line danced to the sound of rolling thunder. It was all I could do to keep from falling off the edge of my chair. In the end, the rush of brutality hit with the power of a tsunami. Some needed R&R would be in order.

Since its legalization, the cannabis industry is booming, especially, in the mile *high* city of Denver. Growing in leaps and bounds, the industry's found itself in the crosshairs of many unsavory characters. An all cash business. What more could you ask for? Most attractive to the criminal elements of society. Until federal laws change, banks will refuse to deal with this budding industry. The risks of prosecution are all too great. Though legal in Colorado, it's still a punishable offense to sell or use marijuana. There lies the conundrum. As a result, the successful dispensaries are laden with cash.

Former platoon leader, Marine lieutenant, Peter Ash, found himself the lone survivor of an orchestrated hit made on security company, Heavy Metal Protection. The company vehicle had been hijacked on a desolate mountain road outside Denver. A client's money stashed aboard. The company's founder, Henry Nygaard, and two employees had been killed in the melee. They were all Peter's friends. Mostly Henry. Four of the hijackers had been taken out. The ringleader, had gotten away. A total of seven dead. A bloody day. Peter barely escaped with his life. Again.

The security detail was transporting \$300,000 cash to a well-hidden place for safekeeping. The hijackers were pros. They learned of the route the armed security guards would take. It seemed strange they would risk life and limb for a relatively small payoff after being split several ways. There had to be more, something else they desperately wanted. Something of greater value than money alone. Point was, they were invested too deep and were not about to give up the ship until they had what they were after. Whatever it was. No matter how many more paid the ultimate price. Though one insurmountable obstacle stood in their way - Peter Ash, a battle-hardened Marine. He wasn't about to back down from any challenge. Didn't know how. Not so long as he still had a pulse. Bring it on!

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## **Darcia Helle says**

I should have loved this book. The content ticked all the right boxes for me. I wanted to love it. But I was left feeling kind of... meh.

First, a strong positive: The action scenes are great. Nick Petrie gives a cinematic feel to the fight and chase scenes, so I could see this stuff playing out as I was reading.

Now my thoughts on the other stuff...

The plot feels largely formulaic. For me, it was like watching a train race down a straight track from a mile away. I knew what was going to happen every step of the way, and there were no surprises at all.

After a while, the action became repetitive; a kind of rinse and repeat of scenes. By midway through, I found myself skimming over paragraphs at a time.

And, finally, the ending pushed plausibility too far for me. Everything wrapped up in a giant explosion of action, as thrillers usually do, but it all made me roll my eyes more than it made me breathless.

I have not read the first two books in this series. While there are references to things that happened in the prior books, I had no issues understanding the characters, their relationships, and their background. This one

reads fine as a stand-alone.

\*I received an advance copy from the publisher, via Amazon Vine, in exchange for my honest review.\*

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## **Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says**

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life in Books.

I enjoyed this book! This book reads like an action movie in a lot of ways. It was exciting and there are so many adrenaline filled scenes that keep the excitement level high. This is the third book in the Peter Ash series but I do think that it could be read as a stand alone since it tells its own story. I had such a good time reading this book and found it to be quite the page turner.

Peter is such a great character. I almost think that he can do anything after reading this book. He is smart, resourceful, and incredibly tough. I am not sure that a real man could do all the things that Peter was able to accomplish in this book but I don't care since it was such a fun read. Peter must deal PTSD as a result of some of the things he has seen and done as a Marine. For Peter, this manifests as claustrophobia and he cannot stand to be inside for long which adds an interesting twist to things. Most of this book happens outside so it didn't come up quite as much in this installment but there were a few scenes where it did come up.

The mystery in this book was interesting and fairly complex. I can tell you that I had no idea how things would work out. There were some people that I didn't trust as much as others but I had no idea how they might be involved. This was a multiple layered mystery and as soon as one puzzle was closer to being solved another would begin. The legal cannabis industry was a big part of the story which thought provoking. It was really nice to read such an original and unique story.

I enjoyed seeing a couple of characters from previous books play a role in this story. Lewis has been around since the first book and he is back for some action again in this story. I really enjoy seeing Lewis and Peter work together and think that they make a really great team. June played a big role in the last book and plays a key role once again. I really liked seeing the development in their relationship in this installment. There were some new characters in this book as well. The chapters that were from told from the point of view of the culprits were my least favorite parts of the book simply because I didn't enjoy spending time in their heads.

I would recommend this book to others. This is a great installment to an exciting and action packed series. Once I got started reading, I didn't want to set the book aside because I had to know how Peter would save the day. I can't wait to read more from Nick Petrie!

*I received an advance reader edition of this book from Penguin Group - Putnam G.P. Putnam's Sons via NetGalley.*

### **Initial Thoughts**

This was a pretty exciting read. Lots of action and great characters. Peter proves himself to be very resourceful and tough in this story. The mystery was pretty complex and kept me guessing. The fact that the mystery is connected to the business of selling cannabis legally made everything a little more interesting since it is a topic that I have really given no thought to before.

## Laura Rash says

I've enjoyed all 3 of this series but I think this one is my favorite! Peter Ash is a unique character who's stubborn & quirky, maybe more likable than Jack Reacher. The details in this book make for a fascinating storyline & colorful characters round it up.

Thanks to the author for this signed early copy!:)

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## Scott says

The first book in this new, exciting, and fresh series – "The Drifter" – introduced Peter Ash, an ex-military man who suffers greatly from post-traumatic claustrophobia from tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. A promotional blurb on the cover from Lee Child certainly didn't hurt either. The second book – "Burning Bright" – continued Peter's attempt at re-integrating himself into society, provided a tighter and more intricate plot line, and introduced June Cassidy, a strong potential love interest.

Like those outings, the third book "Light It Up" kicks off with serious action and pulls you into plot immediately. Peter is helping his good friend Henry Nygaard and his daughter, who runs a security company providing protection to legalized cannabis companies in Denver, Colorado. A week previous, Henry's son-in-law and the operations manager vanished while transporting a large cash collection. When the story begins a week later, Peter, Henry and two other employees are performing another cash run when they are ambushed by a professional team. Peter narrowly escapes with Henry during an exciting downhill stretcher chase after the other two are viciously killed, only to have Henry pass away when he gets to the hospital.

Peter is interrogated by the police who sense he is holding back on the full story (he is), and after leaving the hospital, he is chased down and shot at. Someone involved in the crime does not want Peter to live. It doesn't take long for him to call for help, and before you know it, Miranda Howe, a sexy and forceful lawyer, shows up to defend him; followed shortly by Lewis, his old mobster gone-good compadre, and June Cassidy, his personal research and growing love interest.

As the plot deepens, the police use Peter as bait for the professional crime team, while he has his plan to get them first as revenge for Henry and his daughter. Peter shifts from defense to offense and uses his own team to investigate how and why the robberies are taking place. The action then quickly builds into a boiling pot of shoot-outs, chases, and fight scenes spanning the last 100 pages.

Petrie does a superb job with revealing the mystery and characters in strong fashion, like peeling an onion one layer at a time. His fast paced, fluid prose pulls you in and makes you actively involved in the story. You care about solving the mystery; you care about the characters; you care about the relationships; and you certainly care about the outcomes.

There was a lot of good things in this book. One of the most surprising and well delivered was how June's training and determination played a key role in the outcome of the book. It was refreshing to see her personal strength match those of the testosterone driven men and raise the bar higher. There was a moment when I started to worry she might be a goner, but her last conversation with Ashe in the cabin left an indelible impression and emotional climax to the story.

In addition, Petrie delved a little more into Ashe's background and character formation. In this one, we learn

about how far Ashe will go to seek justice, regardless of the ramifications. We also learn more about Lewis and the influences during his early years that led into his outlaw lifestyle. I enjoy hearing more about their history and character defining moments because it provides depth to their authenticity.

Let's also address the other reason as to why this series is so good only three books in. At first look, Ash is a copy of Jack Reacher, the main character in Lee Child's very popular action series. There are definite similarities between the two characters. Let's not downplay that. And there's Lee Child is providing a promotional blurb on the book cover promising "Peter Ash is the real deal." Having read all the Reacher books and being a fan, of course I will be interested in looking at another version of Reacher. At least a small look...

However, because Ash suffers from such a serious post-war syndrome, he causes you to look at him in a different light. After only three books, I see how he is developing into his own character with his own defined strengths and weaknesses. He is not Reacher incarnate; Nick Petrie has created his own-antihero that stands on his own. Maybe that is why both Lee Child and David Baldacci wrote uplifting blurbs for the covers of the books, which is a pretty cool thing to have happen. That is respect.

But it truly works because Nick Petrie has done his homework and delivered. He has taken the foundation that prior great mystery and adventure writers have established and is moving the work another step forward. Although it is early in his career, he is making a significant impact in this genre by taking that foundation and laying a second floor that is beautiful and a joy to read. I promise that I am not related to him, nor do I know him personally. But I have become an avid fan who has no problem recommending him to others with a confident smile.

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### **David N says**

Excellent yet again! Peter Ash is a fantastic character and his cohort of regular accomplices are just as fun. Another winning romp!

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### **Dick Reynolds says**

The setting for this novel involves the cannabis market centered in Denver, just up the road a bit from my home in Colorado Springs. Lots of cash collected by dealers, looking for a secure place to hide, a lucrative target for someone to hit.

Protagonist Peter Ash, a Marine combat vet, is on the right side of the law in this novel when his good friend's daughter needs help. She's a cannabis dealer and her operation has been hijacked. On the opposite side of the law is Daniel Dixon, also a Marine who had once served as Ash's battalion executive officer. Dixon is in bad shape and is looking for a big financial score along with some quality "seeds."

There's no shortage of action in the story although it gets a bit confusing at times with various characters having different priorities. Ash's attorney, an attractive woman, tries to seduce him but he brushes her off. He's in love with June who lives in Oregon. And when June learns that Peter is in trouble, she hops the first plane to Denver.

There are a few inaccuracies regarding the Marine Corps but only a former Marine would notice them. More troubling is the author's copious use of "F Bombs" throughout the book, both in male and female dialogues and narrative comment. A little of that stuff goes a long way and should be used sparingly.

Late in the book we are treated to a chase scene as Ash heads up a Rocky Mountain road in a snowstorm. It reminded me of a similar scene with Sheriff Walt Longmire in one of Craig Johnson's novels, only Johnson

handled it much better.

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## **Janet Newport says**

Well this one was exhausting.

Thank you Netgalley, Penguin Group/Putnam and Nick Petrie for the ARC.

Do not ask me why I adore Nick Petrie's Peter Ash and Lee Child's Jack Reacher as much as I do. I am a 60 plus year old female, sedentary, semi-retired accountant who spends more time reading instead of doing housework.....and have the dirt, dog hair and dust all over the house to prove it. My main problems for the past 30 something years have been lack of time and lack of closet space. I've learned to live with both.

Maybe that's what I find so appealing about Peter Ash & Jack Reacher..... neither has a closet.

I have adored Peter since *The Drifter*. Gotta love a guy that runs a stinking dog through a carwash! What a creative solution!

*Light It Up* was a real roller coaster for me. It was a very fast read for me. Also, I felt cold and wet through most of it. Glad to see more of Lewis in this book and June as well. Tough an resourceful, the both of them and well matched with Peter.

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## **Art says**

Peter Ash is the new Reacher, but with a truck and a change of clothes. And this is the best entry yet in this great new series.

Peter is working in the Oregon forests and seeing a psychologist about his static-filled PTSD and inability to stay indoors for very long. He's working on improving himself because he wants to have a life with June Cassidy, the journalist he met hiding high in the California redwoods in book two.

But when one of his co-workers repairing the Pacific Crest trail asks for Peter's help, it leads him to Colorado and the world of legal marijuana, a cash business in need of lots of security. Peter's new friend asks him to help with his daughter's security company, which has just been hit by a major theft.

The highly organized bandits now have Peter and his friend in their cross-hairs, which means the static will be ratcheting skyward and Peter's combat experience will come in quite handy. Look for Lewis (Peter's version of Hawk) and June to come to his aid as this series continues to develop into something very good.

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## **Melanie says**

*Light It Up* was an excellent addition to the *Peter Ash* series that was action-packed with a thrilling plot that didn't let up from start to finish.

Peter Ash has spent the past few months living a simple life rebuilding hiking trails in Oregon when his

friend Henry asks him to come help him for a week in Denver. Henry's daughter runs a security company that provides protection for the cash heavy cannabis industry and two of her men have gone missing leaving her in a bind. While Peter is helping out on a cash run for a client, their vehicle comes under attack and only Peter narrowly escapes. Peter knows the amount of money they were moving couldn't be worth all this, so what were the hijackers really after?

*Light It Up* picks up about six months after the events in book two of the series, *Burning Bright*. The plot of this book was really interesting and quite relevant with the recent legalization of marijuana in several states. I definitely found the plot believable as marijuana stores are mainly cash businesses as federal law still prohibits the sale of marijuana making it difficult for the owners of the stores to use banks. The book was full of action-packed scenes with a lot of tension and the book moves at a quick pace with little down time. There were a few scenes I was surprised by for their brutality, but overall I liked the choices the author made for the story.

In the months since *Burning Bright*, Peter has been working with a therapist on his claustrophobia and the "white static" that goes with it. He can now tolerate being indoors for longer periods of time, but his condition is in no way fixed and he still spends most of his time outside. During the cash run he is on that gets hijacked, we see Peter display more of his skills as he deals with the men who intercepted them. His physical strength combined with his quick thinking are certainly what saved his life. Despite his friendship with Henry being only a few months old, Peter was instantly willing to help him and was determined to find out who came after them.

My favorite character of the series, Lewis, returned in *Light It Up* which made me very happy. Lewis is such a mystery, I enjoy learning little bits about him in each successive book. His friendship with Peter is excellent and I enjoy their conversations. June also returns in this book and I enjoy her relationship with Peter as it's done well for this not being a romance book (which is something as a romance reader I appreciate since that's not always the case). I love that June is able to handle herself and doesn't need saving as she's perfectly capable of saving herself.

*Light It Up* has been my favorite book in the series thus far and I look forward to reading more from the author in the future.

*\*\*I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher via the First to Read program in exchange for an honest review.\*\**

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