



Persuader

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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 agent 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.

Persuader Details

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From Reader Review Persuader for online ebook

Cameron Mitchell says

I would have to rank this as one of my favourite Lee Child books, even if I thought the start was dubious. For the first chapter or two, I worried this might even be a Reacher novel of a standard to rival the disaster that was *Nothing to Lose*. Then, of course, we got a little farther into the book and I was able to reassure myself that no book could be as bad as *Nothing to Lose*. I think if Lee Child were to write another book as bad as *Nothing to Lose*, I'd have to give up on him. Anyway, *Persuader* was a terrific novel, definitely up there with the best of Reacher.

The book begins with Reacher witnessing and intervening in a kidnapping. Immediately, we know something about the situation is not quite right. Reacher is acting in ways that we know are not congruent with his character. For instance, Reacher doesn't stroll around with two huge revolvers in his pants on any normal day, and (this was the most alarming) he most definitely does not drive a van. Also, without giving anything away, his reactions to certain events do not fit with what we know of the character.

For these reasons, I feared that Child may have, for some unknown reason, decided to disregard everything we know about the character, just so events would fit the story. But I should have known better than to doubt Child. Soon enough, we were back to the Reacher we know and love.

Soon after the chaotic events of the first two chapters, Reacher is working undercover, infiltrating a heavily guarded mansion in an attempt to rescue a DEA agent held hostage by a ruthless criminal. Reacher's motives in taking part in this operation are slowly revealed throughout the book, as we learn that he is trying to settle an old score with an old enemy figure from his past, one long thought dead.

One of the main reasons I found this book to be one of my favourite in the series was that this role had good deal of character building for Reacher. His desire for justice and the lengths he will go to achieve it play a huge part of the story, particularly in the final chapters.

The other reason I like it is that Reacher comes up against a situation we very rarely (if ever) see. In most instances, Reacher is the biggest and strongest guy in the room. He's able to knock down enemies with only one or two blows, easily defeating those who get in his way. However, in *Persuader*, there is (get ready for it) someone bigger than Reacher! Our hero comes up against a huge mountain of a man, a four-hundred-pound, seven foot tall, steroid using thug with arms that look as though they've had basketballs stuffed inside of them. This is a guy who makes Reacher feel as Reacher makes most other people feel. This scenario reveals a completely new side of the character. Not many people could take one of Reacher's kicks and stay standing.

However much I enjoyed this book, there is one or two little problems I had with it. First of all, the romance seemed rather pointless. I didn't like the character Duffy in the first place (she seemed rather dim witted) and it appeared to me that the romance between her and Reacher was placed only so Child could have a sex scene in the book. It didn't really seem to mean anything, and both characters acted as though it had never happened afterwards. Saying this, I did, however, enjoy the scenes between Reacher and Kohl (a character I liked much better than Duffy). This romance was actually relevant to the plot, and it seemed more meaningful than the Duffy-Reacher romance.

My second minor problem was that there was a sequence of scenes towards the end of the book that seemed drawn out and pointless. Basically, it involved a few of the characters running around looking for the bad guys only to end up back where they started. This just seemed dumb, and served only to set up the next

sequence of scenes (which I admittedly loved; I just think Child could have found a far better way to get to them).

Overall, Persuader was an excellent edition to a series I love and a great development to a character I love. There were a few minor things that annoyed me, but not enough to drop my rating from five stars to four. Overall, a great read for any thriller fans.

smetchie says

This bad-ass walks around with an anaconda in his pants (apparently, that's a type of revolver but it's still pretty impressive)

He has an AOL device hidden in his shoe. He says nothing a lot. So does everyone else in this novel.

I'm not cut out for crime fiction. It bugs me.

Julie says

I am totally loving this series. (Although I think it must be best NOT to read them back to back because then the formula wears through.) This is a good one -- tense, claustrophobic, and non-stop action. Two quibbles -- the romance between Reacher and Duffy seems...unmotivated. Like the author says to himself, "And this is the place where I start the romance," and proceeded to have Reacher make out with the nearest available female character. Also, the last 20 percent of the novel seems unduly long...and a bit confusing. Some tighter editing would have sharpened it up nicely.

I love it when a plan comes together.

Rob says

Number 7 in the Jack Reacher series.

Jack Reacher at his best, heart pumping thrills and spills from page one to the very end.

Jack can't believe who he has just seen, someone that he killed ten years ago. Jack is quick enough to get the number plate of the car that the dead man just got into. He phones a friend that he knows in the military police to see if a trace can be put on the number plate. Not long after the FBI are knocking on Jack's door.

Jack explains his interest in the number plate and the FBI explain to Jack their interest in same plate. Not to give too much away Jack and the FBI team up for the common good.

A scenario is set in motion that gets Jack inside working for the criminals as a security guard.

From this point on Jack is dancing with death for the next 400 pages.

The tension is unrelenting and will, at times, leave you breathless.

Whilst this number 7 in the series it can be read as a stand alone.

Highly recommended.

Alp says

People were depending on me. I had been beaten many times. But I had never just quit. Not once. Not ever.

This book! OMG, my heart is still beating so fast as though it's going to jump out of my chest! What an adrenaline-pumping ride!

Ok, take a deep breath...

Alright, I will keep this short as I know that there's no way I can write this review without going into detail, in which will ultimately give the story all away. So, no spoilers here.

Once again, Lee Child dazzles me with this top-notch story, filled with the thrill of the unforeseeable events and dangerous situations that Reacher had to face. This installment contains strong elements of mystery, suspense, and thriller, all rolled into one. The book started off great, with a heart-pounding abduction scene, which had me hooked right off the bat. As the story went on, there were so many thoughts and questions racing through my mind and every exciting turn of events made my head spin. I can tell you that this book kept me on the edge of my seat for almost the entire story.

And as always, Jack Reacher has yet to fail me. With his intelligence, fearlessness, confidence, toughness, determination, and competence, he's definitely made himself one of the most kick-ass alpha heroes I've ever read. And the best part of this book was the scene where he finished the unfinished task, which should have been done ten years ago. It was one hell of an execution! Quick and certain. No room for mercy here!

I stood up. Water sluiced off me. I staggered a couple of steps. Heard Leon Garber in my head: What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger.

All in all, this was an engaging read that gripped me and didn't let go until the very last page. I enjoyed it immensely.

**Persuader is the seventh installment in Jack Reacher series. It can be read as a standalone.

Krycek says

Gigantic hobo detective Jack Reacher once again wanders into more trouble than any happy-go-lucky wanderer would reasonably expect. This time, after encountering a ghost from his past, a man named Quinn who should be dead, Reacher gets involved in an undercover DEA operation to take the man and his smuggling operation down. Reacher poses as a gun-for-hire in order to infiltrate Quinn's operation. The DEA wants him to go in and recover an agent who went missing and is presumably held captive. Reacher is going in for personal reasons. Quinn was supposed to be dead and Reacher is going to make sure he stays that way.

Child's *Reacher* series is fairly reliable. After reading a couple, you pretty much know what you're going to get, and you keep reading more because what you want is what Child delivers. That is, action, thrills, a little sex, despicable villains and a big-ass juggernaut of justice willing to crack skulls and shoot people until all the bad guys are dead. *Persuader* is no different, and that's a good thing. Replace any of the items above with Reacher learning to crochet or taking a yoga class and...no I would not want to read that. The Reacher novels are, as Zwolf says over in *The Mighty Blow Hole*, the literary equivalent of a BDAM, or "Big Dumb Action Movie. I have to agree (and, by the way, he also thinks that Dolph Lundgren would be an awesome film Reacher). *Persuader* is a BDAM, that's for BDAM sure, and it's a heck of a lot of fun.

You do have to be able to overlook a certain amount of goofiness, however. This goofiness is stuff that's pretty consistent with Child's other Reacher books. For example, dialogues often have that rapid-fire back-and-forth *Dragnet* quality that is sometimes unintentionally hilarious. Child doesn't write convincingly about army life, cop life or guns. During his investigations, Reacher often seems to just stumble through it pulling some of the most far-fetched subterfuges, like (view spoiler) and his investigative methods often include such subtle "techniques" as breaking a guy's neck and shooting a guy in the head. I often wonder if Reacher really thinks thing through first.

So if you're looking for a clever, delicately nuanced thriller with a plot as tangled a spider's web, *Persuader* ain't it. *Persuader* is about as subtle as a six-foot-five, two-hundred-and-fifty pound ex-military policeman can be. It does, however, offer a good amount of effective suspense thrown in with the action, and Child is quite good at pacing his novels.

Ultimately, the most satisfying aspect of *Persuader* (and the Reacher novels overall) is the fact that Child has a talent for creating some of the most evil, repulsive, despicably vile bad guys, all who receive suitably brutal comeuppances courtesy of Jack Reacher. It may be a bit of wish-fulfillment on my part but I like seeing bullies put in their place, and so does Reacher:

I don't really care about the little guy. I just hate the big guy. I hate big smug people who think they can get away with things.

Persuader's an effective thriller and as long as you don't take the minor gaffes too seriously it's a lot of fun. 3.5 stars, rounded to 4.

Freda Malone says

As always Lee Child is an exceptional writer. I think this one is going to be tabbed a favorite of mine. Reacher has met his match with the character, Paulie, who is just a lowly bodyguard, or so it seems. Finally, my hero (Reacher) isn't so tough and perfect. I love the thinking process in the writing as Reacher tries to solve yet another mystery, but this time, he's a bit slower figuring out the clues. There was more suspense and a little more wit, I had to laugh at the reasoning behind tipping the car over onto the coats. HUH? I said to myself? What the hell is he thinking? Well, you'll find out soon enough when you read this.

I really enjoy how Reacher's past is written and incorporated into some of these books. Experiences and crimes he recalls in his past as an MP puts Reacher in situations that have me yelling "Go get him Reacher and make him hurt!". The butchering of the women is enough to make you cringe, but not so bad that you regret this read. Reacher has come across a nemesis 10 years after he supposedly killed him, but this bad dude didn't die. Reacher, no longer an MP, pulled out his superman suit and said "Time for round two" and I

was hooked.

William says

4-stars, perhaps a bit more.

This and "Echo Burning" are by far Child's best books in the series (so far). The pacing is terrific, mostly. The dialogue and action are very good, mostly. The climax is good, but too drawn-out in parts. The plot is very, very clever. This would have been 5-stars if not for Child's momentary returns to excessive detail and repetitive prose.

As usual with my reviews, please first read the publisher's blurb/summary of the book. Thank you.

Lots and lots of guns in this one.

The book opens with Reacher wearing a *Colt Anaconda*, which is a huge stainless steel revolver chambered for the .44 Magnum cartridge. It was thirteen and a half inches long and weighed almost four pounds.

Full size image

Agent Duffy to Reacher:

"You're going to be my very own long-rod penetrator."

Duke's machine pistol, Steyr SPP

Full size image

Angel Doll's old Soviet PSM, with the rare ammo

Full size image

Paulie, the gatehouse guard, is like this guy

An NSV is more than five feet long and weighs more than fifty-five pounds. It uses cartridges four and a half inches long and a half-inch wide. It can fire twelve of them in a second. It has no safety mechanism. The combination of [the giant] Paulie and an NSV would be nobody's idea of fun.

Full size image

Zachary's gun, Heckler & Koch MP5K

Full size image

Nice quote. True for politicians, today, too.

*... the British Army in India, during the Raj, at the height of their empire. Young subalterns trapped in junior ranks had their own mess. They would dine together in splendid dress uniforms and talk about their chances of promotion. But they had none, unless a superior officer died. Dead men's shoes was the rule. So they would raise their crystal glasses of fine French wine and **toast bloody wars and dread diseases**, because a casualty further up the chain of command was their only way to get ahead.*

Zachary's gift to Reacher, Beretta M9 Special Edition

Full size image

An English expression I'd never heard before I moved to the UK. Reacher says it to goad Paulie:

- - "You're a big girl's blouse," I said.

It means you're a coward, a weakling, a wimp, etc

The title character, the Mossberg M500 Persuader

Full size image

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Manuel Antão says

If you're into stuff like this, you can read the full review.

Shit, This Thing Is Selling Millions: "Persuader" by Lee Child

I'm taking two risks here by writing this review. The first risk sounds repetitive. I have the distinct impression that I've written about this in several of my previous texts. The second risk might be because you might incur a waste of my (and your) time by reading this diatribe. After reading one more Reacher book, I just had to write (again) about this.

Imagine the following dialogue with the author of this text: "Shit, this thing is selling millions. Anyone of us could have written it. I don't believe we can put Lee Child on the same shelf along with some of Mervyn Peake's books, sadly being eaten away by moths."

I agree that Peake's prose is much more enticing than Child's or Meyer's. Peake's reflections have much more inner depth. This would tempt us to say that Peake "has" more inherent quality than Child or Stephanie Meyer.

The rest of this diatribe can be found elsewhere.

Abram says

An awesome Novel.
My RATING: 4.4/5

The Novel is in full throttle. The flashback story line is awesome and the twist in the flashback is great. The novel is fun and intriguing. Back to awesomeness !
See u guys at next, Thank you.

Nate says

I thought *Killing Floor* was a fun novel that showed a lot of promise. Its sequel, *Die Trying*, had very genuinely good shit but also bloated horribly and killed the momentum with the FBI agent plotline. *Tripwire* had a shamefully obvious mystery and a glacial plot with flashes of true suspense. So I was not really jazzed on the Reacher series. But ever since I started them, I liked Child's overall style, pacing, and prose. But I gotta admit, when I saw *Make Me* on the shelf, I thought to myself *That's some real shit*. I took it home and had a blast with it. I knew I had finally gelled with Child. None of the early bloated, pointless sub-plots and minutiae were there. The probably-legally-obligated-to-existence cool, tough, smart and ruthless professional female interest was there, but she is, truly unfortunately, just one in a sea of many. But I did really enjoy it.

So I went out to the store and found the most over-the-top sounding Reacher novel I could find. And that was *Persuader*. Essentially, Reacher hooks up with some, uh, you know, FBI, CIA or the standard Unidentified G-Men over a single enemy: Quinn. Suffice it to say that Reacher and Quinn were not bros, and good people died. However, Reacher spots this ancient (and long thought dead) enemy in a completely random event. The g-woman picks up Reacher's calling in old favors on Quinn's car, and asks him what the hell his interest is. Frankly, Reacher, of course being a 6'5, 250-pound modern day hedge knight on a quest to right wrongs, agrees to go on an undercover mission in Zachary Beck's fortress mansion to recover an agent who was sent in before before losing contact, but Beck is connected to Quinn and is involved in a mysterious illicit trade of some kind. Just to make it more epic, dude lives on a peninsula guarded by a huge wall and a giant, steroid-addled disgusting fuck named Paulie, so physically intimidating that Reacher admits Paulie's outsizing him "put him squarely in the freak category."

This is the perfect Reacher book: truly vile villains that deserve Reacher's own brand of justice, several criminal conspiracies going on to be revealed, Child's stylistic, utilitarian elegance, and a fantastic and liberal deployment of true tension, as well as mysteries: Where's the missing agent? What really is Beck into? What happened with Reacher and Quinn back in the day? Sure, you know Reacher's gonna make it, but who else isn't? The action in the book is sharp, well choreographed, and visceral as hell. Not sure if there was a typically cookie cutter Reacher love story in this book (which I fucking hate, as it'd probably shave 50-100 pages from these typically 500-page books.) but I was very pleased with it, so I'm pretty sure there wasn't, or at least was super ignorable. I recommend those who consider this series to be vapid trash possibly give this book a shot. It's much better and tightly focused than the earlier Child books, and does even possess a bit of educational value (even if most of it's on lots of tough guy shit and gun-porn.)

James says

My name is James, and it's been seven months since my last Jack Reacher. The seventh in the series,

Persuader should follow the same, increasingly predictable formula. Except, something feels wrong; it doesn't feel like Reacher – from the unusual eagerness to get involved, and the carrying of two guns, to the shooting of a cop. These things are totally out of character for the man we've spent six novels getting to barely know. Then I realised, the biggest thing that feels wrong about this Reacher is the narrative. This first-person just isn't Jack Reacher. Yes the first one, *Killing Floor*, was also written as first-person, but the last five books have all been solidly third-person. And, to be honest, Reacher feels more of a third-person personality. His detachment and taciturnity almost requires third-person – once we get in his head we'll get to know far too much about him, and that will just destroy the mystique.

The book itself? Rescuing a child about to be kidnapped, Reacher is slowly taken into their family protection unit. In true Reacher style, that generally means he's replacing people who just weren't good enough. Oh, and of course, the family is far from normal – they're clearly into some bad schtuff. Reacher obviously has his reasons for getting involved, getting stuck into other people's business is rarely something that Reacher volunteers for. In lieu of spoilers, anybody who saw the BBC spy series *Hunted* will pretty much know exactly what's going on here.

While I kinda think I understand why Child went with the first-person here, in that it allows a much more tightly controlled narrative – we aren't aware of anything going on outside of Reacher's direct experience, and that leaves the other characters motives much less well defined and cranks up the suspense. Ultimately I don't think it was necessary and it just feels too 'personal' to be in Reacher's head like that. Plus it allows Child to get a little carried away with his exaggerations in the fight scenes. I was running out of patience with the continual running commentary in Reacher's head during his fight with Paulie where every punch or kick would have killed a lesser man – really?

Michael says

To me this was the best of the series after *Killing Floor*.

Maureen DeLuca says

A 4 star read - but I just had to throw in another star for such a great series - and of course- a great character!!! I know I'm behind in this series- I started with book 1 and I am reading them all in order- looking forward to book number 8 !!

Jeff says

This is the first Jack Reacher book I've read. Maybe I should have started with the first one in the series, but I picked up this one used. For fifty cents. Reading some of the Goodreads comments about the varied quality of the Reacher series, I was probably better off starting with this one.

The tricky misdirection at the beginning of the book aside, this was a decent read. Reacher, reminded me of Robert B. Parker's Spenser, big, tough, smart, can handle himself in any situation. But he's not a private investigator and he has fewer scruples than Spenser.

Plot summary: Things go awry, people die. Usually the bad guys. In creative ways.

I should read something cheery and positive next.

I probably won't.
