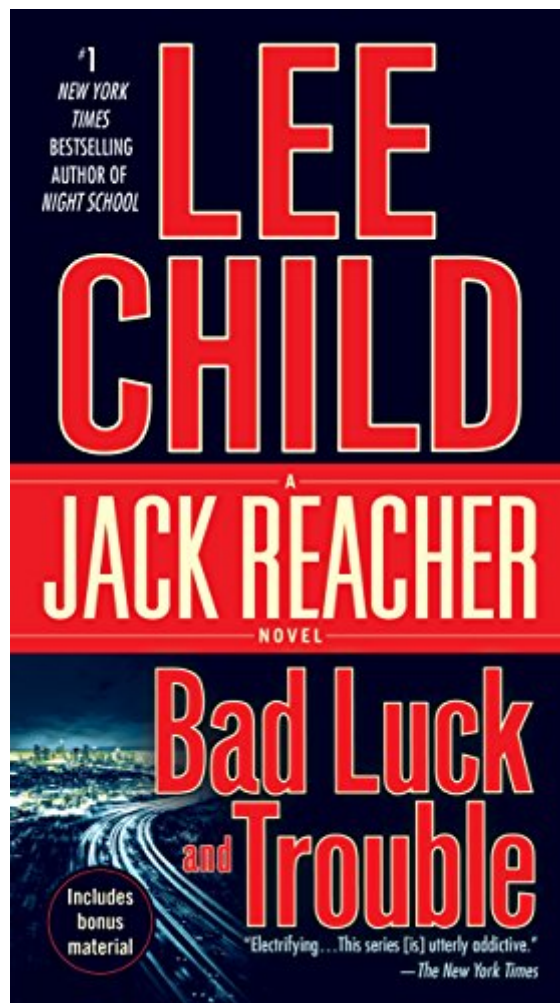




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Bad Luck And Trouble (Jack Reacher, Book 11)



Synopsis

BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Lee Child's Nothing to Lose. From a helicopter high above the empty California desert, a man is sent free-falling into the night. In Chicago, a woman learns that an elite team of ex-army investigators is being hunted down one by one.... And on the streets of Portland, Jack Reacher's soldier, cop, hero is pulled out of his wandering life by a code that few other people could understand. From the first shocking scenes in Lee Child's explosive new novel, Jack Reacher is plunged like a knife into the heart of a conspiracy that is killing old friends and is on its way to something even worse. A decade postmilitary, Reacher has an ATM card and the clothes on his back—no phone, no ties, and no address. But now a woman from his old unit has done the impossible. From Chicago, Frances Neagley finds Reacher, using a signal only the eight members of their elite team of army investigators would know. She tells him a terrifying story about the brutal death of a man they both served with. Soon Reacher is reuniting with the survivors of his old team, scrambling to raise the living, bury the dead, and connect the dots in a mystery that is growing darker by the day. The deeper they dig, the more they don't know: about two other comrades who have suddenly gone missing and a trail that leads into the neon of Vegas and the darkness of international terrorism. For now, Reacher can only react. To every sound. Every suspicion. Every scent and every moment. Then Reacher will trust the people he once trusted with his life and take this thing all the way to the end. Because in a world of bad luck and trouble, when someone targets Jack Reacher and his team, they'd better be ready for what comes right back at them.

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Customer Reviews

I know I'm going against the popular opinion here, but I found this particular Reacher episode tedious, dull, plodding and simply boring. I felt the author was treading water. I got about 40% of the way through it and the author had me so bogged down in details I lost track of the plotline. This is NOT typical of the Reacher novels, which is why this one stuck out like a sore thumb. I'm sure the next one will be better, but I finally quit reading this one.

I was recently turned on to Lee Child by a friend who is an avid reader. I was skeptical about reading a "series," but I've been pleasantly surprised from the start. I began with "Die Trying" and am currently on my fourth Reacher novel. I'd like to say that it's my guilty pleasure, but the truth is there is nothing about this author's writing style that gives the reader anything to be ashamed of. Jack Reacher is a believable action-hero; self-contained, relying solely on his wits and skills that have been honed to perfection over the course of his life. I love how with each new story, we pick up Jack with the shirt on his back and maybe a few dollars to his name. The character is quirky but completely believable; the plots are dynamic and full of surprises; and I've never found myself bored with Jack or the trouble that he can't seem to steer clear of. After the first book, I made myself switch genres so that I wouldn't get become a Lee Child junkie, but I find myself hankering for another Reacher novel. They are so entertaining, stimulating and satisfying. I'm glad it took me so long to discover this writer, for now I have plenty of unread books to look forward to. But I must say, I find it hard to imagine them being any better than "Bad Luck and Trouble." It is definitely my favorite so far.

"Bad Luck and Trouble" ranks right at the top of my favorite Reacher novels. I love it because it feels like quintessential Jack Reacher to me. He is totally badass and you get to see him in his prime. The story begins when circumstances reunites Reacher with his former military team. Everyone else on the team kicks butt and you can easily imagine them working very well together,

past and present. What I love about Lee Child is the fact that he is such a descriptive author that while reading I imagine the story unfolding in front of me like a movie. If ever there was a Jack Reacher novel that would translate well to the screen, it would be this one.

Reacher is team player in this story, and it is a reunion of sorts for some of his ex-military MP crew. They cover a lot of Los Angeles territory as the plot thickens, and there is just enough freeway traffic and grid lock to make you feel like you're really in LA. This group on a mission scenario is a nice change from the more singular protagonist story lines in this series. The group has a well developed chemistry and they are definitely pissed off about what has gone down, but killing of bad guys strictly for revenge was a bit troubling at times. I guess that's what you can expect if you 'mess with special investigations".

Reacher is in Portland, nearly broke, when he discovers that someone has deposited \$1030 into his bank account. It doesn't take him long to find out that a member of his old special investigative MP unit, Frances Neagley, has ingeniously sent him an "urgent assistance" radio code disguised as money. One of their own has been killed. Reacher meets Neagley in LA with mostly nothing but intuition about her location and they decide to put the unit, all now retired, back together. "You do not mess with the special investigators." Ominously, it is proving difficult to find the old guys and a girl. If the bad guys have gotten to more than one of them, they are indeed formidable. Reacher and his crew are about as fearsome as a police unit can get. Only the smallest shreds of evidence are found in ransacked residences, but they are worrying someone based on the surveillance. Eventually Neagley's contacts give them an opening; then it is a relentless pursuit. It is amazing to watch Reacher work. He's smart, calm, logical, in addition to his immense physical presence. Once you are in his sights, you stand no chance. It is interesting to see Reacher interact with Neagley and Karla Dixon, both stunning women, despite their lethality. All work and no play would make Reacher a dull boy.

I started reading *Bad Luck and Trouble* the second I tore into the packaging - in one day I had read 300 pages. *Bad Luck and Trouble* is, like other Reacher novels, a joy to read, even when the subject matter is serious. Child has made Jack Reacher a complete character that you look up to - a big man, tough, independent, with his own sense of justice. After 9/11, Reacher had to get on the grid because of national security - he now has a passport and an ATM card. When checking his meager funds, he notices a big deposit - the numbers in the amount correspond to a military code

for emergency contact. He finds that a member of his old special investigation unit has been murdered. He and the remaining members of his unit reunite to solve the murder. Top secret military weapon components are missing, and are at the center of this investigation. It is interesting to see Reacher interact with friends. You see another side of him - still tough, dangerous, but one sees the love and loyalty with folks that watch each others backs and form one unit - whether in the military, or in civilian life. Interesting to read Reacher's reactions to the other members' post military careers and successes. The action is nonstop, and as usual, Reacher (and company) make their own kind of justice to revenge the deaths of the lost members of their unit. Child has written a taut, exciting book that makes us like Reacher even more than before (if that's possible). Reacher is a loner, but he takes care of his own. And that's why he's such a marvelous character. A great read.

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