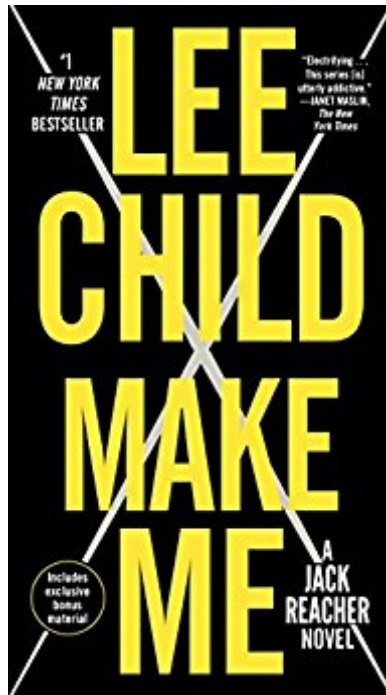


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Make Me (with Bonus Short Story Small Wars): A Jack Reacher Novel



Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY LOS ANGELES TIMES, THE GUARDIAN, AND SUSPENSE MAGAZINE • Stephen King calls Jack Reacher "the coolest continuing series character" and now he's back in this masterly new thriller from Lee Child. Why is this town called Mother's Rest? That's all Reacher wants to know. But no one will tell him. It's a tiny place hidden in a thousand square miles of wheat fields, with a railroad stop, and sullen and watchful people, and a worried woman named Michelle Chang, who mistakes him for someone else: her missing partner in a private investigation she thinks must have started small and then turned lethal. Reacher has no particular place to go, and all the time in the world to get there, and there's something about Chang . . . so he teams up with her and starts to ask around. He thinks: How bad can this thing be? But before long he's plunged into a desperate race through LA, Chicago, Phoenix, and San Francisco, and through the hidden parts of the internet, up against thugs and assassins every step of the way—right back to where he started, in Mother's Rest, where he must confront the worst nightmare he could imagine. Walking away would have been easier. But as always, Reacher's rule is: If you want me to stop, you're going to have to make me. Praise for Make Me

• Child's Reacher series has hit Book No. 20 with a resounding peal of wisecracking glee. Everything about it, starting with Reacher's nose for bad news, is as strong as ever. . . . The big guy's definitely on the upswing. The guy who writes about him is too. • Janet Maslin, The New York Times • Another winner! . . . There's a reason why Child is considered the best of the best in the thriller genre: He can take all these strange elements and clichés and make them compelling and original. • Associated Press • A superb thriller. • New York Daily News • Child's complete command of the story makes this thriller work brilliantly. • Publishers Weekly (starred review) • I've read all twenty of Lee Child's novels. Maybe there's something wrong with me. But I can't wait for the twenty-first. • Malcolm Gladwell, The New Yorker • [The Reacher series] is the current gold standard in the genre. . . . In Make Me Lee Child delivers another Jack Reacher specialty; the total knockout. • Dayton Daily News • Child serves up wingding plots, pithy dialogue, extraordinary background on intriguing topics, and cunningly constructed suspense. But what keeps us coming back "by the millions" is the chance to walk around in the skin of that big guy in the middle of everything. • The Oregonian • A dark thriller . . . Lee Child's Make Me, the twentieth in his wildly popular Jack Reacher series, delivers exactly what readers have come to expect from the perennial bestselling author: interesting characters, tight plots and page-turning action. . . . Readers won't be

disappointed.â •â "Minneapolis Star Tribune â œJack Reacher is back. . . . Readers new to this series will find this book a good starting point, and fans will be pleased to see Jack again.â •â "LibraryReads (Top Ten Pick) â œThe reigning champ ups the ante.â •â "Booklist (starred review)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My life is pretty much like this: I spend 11 months and 28 days of every year looking forward to the new Lee Child book and then 2-3 days devouring it. He is the master of the opening paragraph. Immediate hooks. Short sentences. You don't even notice his writing style after the first page or two but it's effortless to read. And there are many things about this book which make it a strong addition to the series. I read it in two days and it definitely gave me the "Reacher fix" I wanted. It starts in the usual way with Reacher turning up in a small town and immediately running into a woman in need of assistance (in this case Michelle Chang, a former FBI agent turned private investigator who is looking for her missing colleague), but it turns into a cross-country investigation that touches on issues that are current and very nasty. And that is one of the issues that I had with the book: it's dark. It goes places that are unpleasant and disturbing. The majority of the book is like a regular

Jack Reacher novel, but it changes tone towards the end when it becomes evident what it is that Reacher and Chang are investigating. The villains in this instance aren't just bad guys - they are evil. And I can honestly say that this is one Lee Child book I will never re-read. I didn't like putting those images in my head. Another thing. It struck me halfway through this book that every woman that Reacher teams up with is exactly the same. Even as I write that it occurs to me that Lee Child would probably protest that it's not true because Chang is in her 40s and Chinese American, but that kind of proves my point: only the superficialities change.

Over the last several years the Reacher canon has been in a downward spiral and this latest entry in the series is plumbing new and disgusting lows, not only in the antagonists, but in protagonist Jack Reacher, too. After reading it, I felt completely disgusted, and felt as if I needed a scalding hot shower to wash off the filth. When the series started, Reacher was the knight in slightly tarnished armor who found himself helping out some poor soul who'd found themselves embroiled in some kind of sticky situation they couldn't handle themselves, and Reacher would step in, like the Lone Ranger, and save the day. But as time has gone on, and particularly of late, author Child seems to have tired of the formula that made his success, and instead has created these utterly unbelievable situations that border on the surreal, if not outright insane, and the result has been to turn a formerly entertaining and enjoyable series into something beyond dark, almost absurdly gothic. In this case, a very small town in the middle of nowhere - literally, a place surrounded by flat wheat fields to the visible horizon, so far out that it's hours to the nearest area with cell phone service - named Mother's Rest is the locus of events, starting with the disappearance and murder of a former FBI agent cum private investigator. Reacher gets off the daily train out of curiosity about the town's name and meets Michelle Chang, a colleague of the missing PI who's trying to locate him. Without revealing details that would contain spoilers, I can say that their investigation leads them to a deadly conspiracy based in the Dark Web - that underbelly of the internet that most of us never even access - that's located in Mother's Rest, leading to a final and very deadly confrontation.

This is #20 in the Jack Reacher series and this time Lee Child has gone back to basics and used the very successful formula where Jack Reacher (ex military) roams the US aimlessly and finds trouble most places he goes. Diehard Reacher fans may be delighted but more discerning readers, especially those who have read many books in the series, will find much of the action a bit repetitious. IMHO it certainly isn't one of the best in the series. Reacher is fascinated to find out why

a very small town in remote prairie region of Oklahoma is named "Mother's Rest". Maybe it tells a tale of pioneer times when the wagon trains travelled this part of the prairie. The small town is basically centred around some huge wheat silos that cater for thousands of acres of wheat for miles around the town. The other main feature is a rail line with a train at 7am and 7pm each day. When Reacher steps off the evening train he spots a trim Asian woman, Michelle Chan, apparently waiting for someone who might have been on the train. He soon learns that Michelle is ex FBI working with a security company and her colleague from Oklahoma City appears to have disappeared during an investigation involving Mother's Rest. They soon gain a rapport with one another and as he has nothing else to do before heading for Chicago before it gets too cold Reacher teams up with Chan to help her find her friend. Walking away would have been easier as Mother's Rest is a strange place which doesn't make either of them very welcome. Reacher knows something is wrong when the General Store refuses to sell him a change of clothing and the Motel tells him they don't have a room for the next night as they are full - but they are not.

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