



## Make Me

*Lee Child*

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“*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.

## Make Me Details

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Author : Lee Child

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## From Reader Review Make Me for online ebook

### Trish says

My first foray into the Jack Reacher series by Lee Child began with this novel. Reacher is traveling by train to Chicago when he notices something that makes him exit the train in a small town called Mother's Rest. The former FBI agent he meets there convinces him that putting his military policeman skills to work would be a worthwhile way to spend his time.

Of course I'd heard about Jack Reacher for years, and knew he was high on the list of worthwhile crime avengers, but I'd never been tempted until hearing David Remnick's interview with Child broadcast on *The New Yorker Radio Hour* podcast. I'd never known Child had a previous successful career as a filmmaker/producer for the Masterpiece Theatre until age 40, but even this book shows us how that personal history fits in with his fiction.

As a second career, we'd have to say Child succeeded admirably. I do not have a good sense of what Jack Reacher looks like, except that he is large, and of the immovable variety of heavy. He is lousy at defensive driving, but he shoots pretty well, if a little high. He appears to have no disqualifying prejudices, and like cops everywhere, he eats (and makes love) when opportunity presents. Otherwise, he is focused on stopping bad guys.

This particular mystery has a degree of information about the Deep Web, as opposed to the Dark Web. The Dark Web is an intentionally anonymous but intentionally reachable portion of the Deep Web, while the Deep Web is often meant to obscure all it does. I first learned about the Deep Web from Thomas Pynchon's novel, *Bleeding Edge*.

And so finally, I discover that I have less and less desire to hear about, read about, learn about really creepy crimes committed by creeps. I think for awhile I found it amusing and harmless entertainment, but the more writers try to make it logical and realistic, which it needs to be to hold our interest, the more I find I am unwilling to go there. Look, there may be people wandering about in the shadows, actually seeking the worst we can do to one another. I find the more common manifestations of cruelty quite bad enough.

But I give Child all kinds of kudos for managing to carry on as long as he has. Hopefully he has enjoyed it as much as his legion of fans.

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### Donald Grant says

When Lee Child first introduced Jack Reacher, I, along with so many, enjoyed each novel and anxiously waited for the next one to arrive. Reacher was a character that stood for what was right and no matter in what situation he found himself, he triumphed. His handling of each situation was believable and the novels were fun to read. The last few have become formulaic and somewhat unbelievable. Child, like Louis L'Amour, has written one story over and over. In *Make Me*, I knew what was going to happen before I cracked open the book and in that regard was not let down. But unlike, L'Amour, Child treats readers as if we have an IQ of 60. For that reason alone, this will be my last Reacher novel. But as if that was not enough, I have a few more.

Reacher was career military and, while intelligent, we are to believe that he would say this in describing how another character was shaking hands: "Deferential, but not obsequious." The irony of this statement is that "obsequious" was removed from college SAT exams as one of the obscure words they wanted to drop. It is hard to imagine anyone using this phrase and Reacher's use jarred me out of the story.. Maybe Child stuck it in as a tribute to columnist Eric Zorn of the Chicago Tribune who defended its use in the SATs.

In describing the characters in the town of Mother's Rest, Child takes a full paragraph to tell us how old one of them is, without telling us how old he is. This paragraph reads like a nonsense riddle and the next sentence states, "He got straight to the point." This could have been meant as humor but just seemed stupid.

Throughout the book Child uses repetition as a device to illuminate the story. This worked some of the time but got old after the first three. How many times do we need to know that the town has "a store that did Western Union and Money-Gram and faxing and photocopying and FedEx and UPS and DHL. I guess if you need word count this device works as well as any.

The biggest flaw is one that Child even points out. When the man who has been told to get rid of Reacher and Chang confronts them, he doesn't kill them right off. Instead, we have an improbable encounter in a foyer where, naturally, Reacher disarms the guy. If this wasn't bad enough, Child later describes how "in tall tales told by firelight" there is a conversation between the good guy and bad guy but this is the real world. Then Reacher simply shoots the bad guy, no words exchanged. We are left to believe Reacher is the only smart one. This idiocy is repeated when three more bad guys are sent to take Reacher and Chang out. Instead of killing everybody, there is a discussion of who to kill which, again, gives Reacher the chance to kill them. In reading this scene, I had to laugh as six foot five Reacher shoots over the heads of everyone else to kill the three bad guys. I don't think Tom Cruise will be making this into a movie.

This one gets one star and will be my last Lee Child novel. As for the next Reacher movie, I may go see it, after all, I do enjoy a good comedy.

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### **Karin Slaughter says**

Holy crap. I am running away with Jack Reacher. I don't care if I never get to wash my clothes or eat regular meals.

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### **Phryne says**

Number 20 in the Jack Reacher series and one of the best out of all of them! This Jack is slightly different from the usual and I wonder if Lee Child is planning on letting him have a relationship and stay in one place a while in the next book. I very much enjoyed his interactions with Chang and laughed aloud several times at his humour. I also liked his intelligence. Sure he still takes on three thugs at a time and wins but he also plans and strategises and works things out. I thought this book was an excellent read, practically unputdownable and action packed. Loved it:)

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## **Craig says**

Yes! Now this is a Jack Reacher book. Everything the last book wasn't. It starts with Reacher getting off a train in the small town of Mother's Rest. He's curious about the name and thinks he might spend a day or so there, checking out any local museum, getting the story from the locals, etc. But this simple decision has him stepping into one of the darkest mysteries in this entire series, one that doesn't become entirely clear until 30 or so pages from the end. The book is filled with the minutiae of tracking down some very bad people from only the tiniest of known facts. Some might think it farfetched that Reacher would become involved with something this complex and complicated on such a bare minimum of interest, but this is classic Reacher and the book is a strong one. You might need to steel yourself for those closing chapters, but this is a Reacher to remember and one of the strongest recent books in this series.

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## **Mackey says**

Perhaps I have grown past Lee Child in this genre but I suspect it has more to do with the fact that once I loved Jack Reacher as described by Lee Child. I loved that he was a vagabond, someone who disliked the military for what it had done to him, someone who hated guns and didn't look for trouble but it always seemed to find him anyway. Now all I see is Tom Cruise, runt. The direction of Child's books seem to be leaning toward a character that would fit Cruise rather than Reacher's persona and I find that very boring. Sadly this will be my last Lee Child book and I didn't even bother to finish it. I will miss him but we have grown apart.

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## **Alan says**

Jack Reacher hooks up with a private investigator to locate a missing person. Actually three missing people. No. I take that back. There are four missing people. In the search, Reacher and the PI must venture into the Deep Web, the hidden part of the Internet where criminals and hackers abound. It's a very nasty place.

As for the plot, it's gripping, completely novel, and loaded with plenty of plausible twists. And I guarantee you'll never guess the ending. The writing is engaging and tight. The pacing will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Characterwise, Reacher's role in this book is multidimensional. He's a lover, and he's a fighter, but most of all he's a relentless investigator.

I'm a long time Reacher fan, and, in my opinion, this tense, high-octane story is the best in the series.

Highly recommended for fans of thrillers.

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## **James Thane says**

Pity poor Jack Reacher. It's like the guy can never get even ten minutes to himself to relax and enjoy life before he stumbles into some grave crisis that only someone as talented as Jack Reacher could ever hope to

sort out and set right.

In this case, Reacher is riding in a train through the vast heartland of America, on his way to Chicago. He wants to get to the city before it gets too cold to enjoy it. Out in the middle of nowhere, though, the train stops in a little town called Mother's Rest. Reacher is a curious kind of guy and he wants to know how the town got its name. So he gets off the train, expecting to spend a day or two unraveling the mystery, before continuing on to the Windy City.

As he gets off the train, he's approached by a woman who's obviously expecting to meet someone from the train and who, in the dark, initially mistakes Reacher for her party. She backs off when she realizes her mistake, but Reacher assures her that no other man of his size was even riding on the train, let alone getting off of it. The woman's name is Michelle Chang, and Reacher walks her back to her motel where he takes a room for himself.

But creepy things are afoot in the tiny town and some seriously bad guys are watching Chang's every move. When Reacher accompanies her back to the motel, they automatically assume that Chang was meeting him and that the two are working together. The next day, as Reacher is walking through the town, looking for a monument or something that would explain how the town got its name, the bad guys have a spy dogging Reacher's every step and become convinced that he is assisting Chang in investigating the town's dark secret.

Chang has no clue what that secret might be. She's simply there to meet a fellow investigator who asked for her assistance without explaining the case he was on. Now he's disappeared and Reacher agrees to help Chang look for him. Before long the two are up to their necks in trouble, with the Bad Guys hot on their trail. The search takes them to Chicago, to Arizona and to California and the more they pursue the case, the murkier and the more dangerous it becomes.

Inevitably, there is a lot of action and some great fight scenes. A lesser man would have never made it out of Mother's Rest to begin with, but as every fan of this series understands, Jack Reacher is not a lesser man. It's fun watching Reacher and Chang dig into this ever-expanding conspiracy, and by the time they finally return to Mother's Rest, you know that all hell is about to break loose.

I would argue that the book drags a bit in the second half and it maybe takes a bit too long for the reader to realize the full nature--and the horror--of the problem that Reacher and Chang confront here. But it's a pretty gruesome one, and when push comes to shove, we can all be thankful that Jack Reacher is on the job. This is another very good entry in this popular series.

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## **Gary says**

The 20th book in the Jack Reacher series by Lee Child. Having read and enjoyed the previous 19 in the series it was inevitable that I would read this one. All the books in this series have lots of action and this was no exception. A decent story and the book kept me interested throughout but never quite hit the heights of some of the previous ones. I think these books are my guilty pleasure, they are not that well written but good fun.

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### **Brenda says**

I proudly admit, right up front, that I am a genuine, card-carrying Reacher Creature. I will follow Reacher wherever he goes. I will read all future books and see all future movies. This book did not disappoint. Right from Chapter One, Reacher is in trouble, even though he doesn't know it yet. The story and the characters are meticulously rolled out, and the full final explanation of what was really going on just blew my mind.

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### **Andrew Smith says**

I like this series. Jack Reacher was a army cop, until he left under dubious circumstances – he's not a man to get on the wrong side of – and now he travels America with no more than a credit card, some id and a toothbrush. When he needs a change of clothes he ditches what he's currently wearing and buys new. And he's big, very big. If he sees a wrong he rights it. To the uninitiated that's about all you need to know.

In this, the twentieth book, Reacher exits the train at a small town in the middle of nowhere, called Mother's Rest. He wonders around, drinks coffee and tries (in vain) to elicit the origin of the town's name from everyone he meets. Then, in a case of mistaken identity, he meets a woman and we start to get a whiff of the 'wrong' that'll stop Reacher getting the next train out of this godforsaken place.

One of the things I find attractive about these stories is the tempo of the prose; sentences are short and sharp, facts are often repeated and logical conclusions flow at a constant pace. At times it feels like reading a bizarre extended poem, and I like that. Picking up one of these books is like returning to a favourite holiday spot: it's comfortable and familiar and relaxing. The trouble is, these feelings can wear off and if nothing interesting happens for a while your favourite spot can start to feel... well, a little dull.

There is a mystery here and we know enough early on to know that's there's something very off about this town. But it does take a long time to warm up and I was beginning to think that I'd strolled lazily to my normal place on the beach just once too often. However, rather belatedly the story did pick up and the mystery surrounding the town turned out to be disturbing and not at all what I expected - and then Reacher does his stuff, as you know he will.

It's not the best book in the series but it's not the worst either. There is enough here to satisfy hardened fans but it's not the book to kick off with if you're a first timer. In the final reckoning I do know I'll be back – he's a good man, that Reacher.

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### **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

Make Me is the 20th novel in Lee Child's iconic Jack Reacher Series. Having been slightly disappointed with the last couple of books in one of my favorite series, I was looking forward to this latest addition.

I have grown to love Jack Reacher since I read the 1st book in the series..... a military cop-turned-drifter, who travels around America, the only possessions he has with him are a toothbrush and his ATM bank card....owns no house, no car....no material possessions expect as mentioned the two above...not even clothes..he buys new ones when required whilst throwing old ones in the garbage. He's a man totally off the

grid!!!! He goes anywhere he wants, when he wants and answers to no one!!! And along his travels, he meets characters and gets involved with situations that are of interest to him.....and this latest story is exactly that.....

First page.....

**Twenty miles north the train slowed, and slowed, and then eased to a hissing stop, and the doors sucked open, and Jack Reacher stepped down to a concrete ramp in front of a grain elevator as big as an apartment house**

**But on a sign board running its whole length was written the reason Reacher was there: Mother's Rest. Which he had seen on a map, and which he thought was a great name for a railroad stop.**

**Either way Reacher figured he might as well find out**

He's just passing through Mother's Rest because ...well just because!!!

But within minutes, he gets involved in something that gives him a reason to stay more than just one night in this small and obscure town.

He meets Michelle Chang, a PI looking for her missing partner who disappeared in Mother's Rest, after his last call to her.

This town has secrets that just wet Reacher's appetite. Dodgy and secretive characters who know more about the town's history. Teaming up with Michelle, they are soon on a dangerous mission that takes them to Oklahoma City, Los Angles and Chicago and back to Mother's Rest to finally discover the terrible and horrifying secrets of the town.

Wow, the writer certainly kept me guessing....never did I even think that the secrets of the town were what they were.

I enjoyed this book even though there was a bit too much information on guns and other things.

All in all, a good addition to the series.

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### **Kamilla says**

The only way I can think of doing this review is by writing it in two parts. Here is the first:

What was good about the book:

Well... Reacher of course. He is his old self, although he seems a bit older, and a bit more sexual. Which wasn't bad in itself. His reacherisms made me smile (I have collected a few at the end of this review). So typically Reacher. Also, his way of lateral thinking, his observational skills and deductions were all as we have come to expect and love. His sidekick, Michelle Chang, was also a nice touch. A tough ex-FBI agent, equally smart chic, who gives as much as Reacher does.

The story itself was also well developed and multi-layered. Once you think you know what's going on, but then it turns out to be something even more horrible and twisted and sick. And because of it, I have learnt something about the internet. How scary.

And it was all there, expertly hidden in plain sight, in the writing. The trick was in the details. And this is what Lee Child does best. Every word is important, or might be important. You can't afford to miss paragraphs in order to skip ahead, because you'll miss something vital. And because I'm an impatient reader, I had to backtrack many times to re-read sentences, even paragraphs, as I missed something without which the pages further on did not make sense.

Now for the things I had a problem with:

Everyone seemed to speak the same as Reacher. Even the narrative was like this, and that really annoyed me. Not only Reacher had a particular way of using clipped, short, to the point sentences, all the bad guys did as well, even the most dumbass thugs. Which is highly improbable. And really annoying. It made them sound equally as smart as Reacher is, like they are in the same league as him. And clearly they are not.

The other thing that bothered me was that Reacher is becoming such a softy. Maybe this was done because all the female fans have been demanding more action between the sheets, but surely we don't need to go there. We love Reacher as the independent guy, who gets the girl, then they both move on upon mutual agreement. I didn't like him going all mushy for the chick, his sidekick, and analysing their constant lovemaking on a scale in his head - even though he gave better marks the more times they did it. I felt as though he was starting to fall for her. And this was even highlighted by the ending. Reacher going off into the sunset with a chick??? Really? Noooooo. What will become of him? Should we now expect him to announce an engagement in the next book? OMG! Surely not!

Also, as we expect Reacher to be a tough guy, who always wins, who is always better in hand-to-hand combat than his counterparts, now we get to see him weakened. And it's not a good sight. It really bothered me. With all his knowledge and brainpower, and calculations in his head, he still gets injured - which hinders him throughout the book. See... this is what I meant about becoming mushy and soft. WTF? I want my tough-ass Reacher back. The one with the hard head, and the hard hits. The one who takes on thirty guys with ease, not back out of a fight.

I don't understand the direction Child is taking with Reacher's character. What? He is getting older? Starting to have thinner hair? Who gets seriously injured? Aaaand gets all gooey-eyed over a girl? If I wanted someone like this, I would read a romance novel with middle aged people. Gross...

So, there you have it. In conclusion? I couldn't wait to get my hands on the new Reacher book, I couldn't wait for his smarts and brain and brawling and bulldozing as he takes on a myriad of bad guys all on his own, because he feels so strongly about right and wrong. Instead, I got a good plot, which was well developed, but I got a middle aged, sexed up, injured softy and a book where every sentence (the dialogues, the good guys, the bad guys, even the narrative) was written in the same style. I felt like I was reading an analytical observation report, which until only Reacher was doing it in the previous books was fun, but now became really bothersome and annoying.

So a mixed review. I can't decide if I liked it. I liked it because I was waiting for it so much, but I didn't like it due to the above mentioned new developments. It's a shame. I hope the direction Child seems to be taking with Reacher is only temporary, because if this is going to continue, it is highly probable that he will lose one big fan... It feels like I'm losing my best friend. I want my Reacher back!

Reacherisms:

"The only fights you truly win are the ones you don't have."

"Hope for the best, plan for the worst."

"Admit nothing, even on your deathbed. You might suddenly get better."

"Reacher was built for bulldozing, not for gymnastics."

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## **Manuel Antão says**

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

Extreme Awfulness: "Make Me" by Lee Child

I'm going to write a pastiche à la Lee Child. It's going to be fun:

He looked at her.

She looked at him.

They both climbed up the stairs without saying a word to each other.

He said nothing.

He tried unlocking the door, but the key didn't fit.

She looked at him again wondering what the hell was going on.

He said nothing.

He tried to force the door open with his huge and capable hands.

She looked at him with admiration.

He was finally able to open the door using a tooth pick he had picked up during dinner.

Without looking at him she walked through the door ahead of him.

He said nothing.

The hotel room was stuffy.

He hanged his immaculate shirt on a chair so as to be able to show off his chiseled body complete with bulging biceps and ripped abs.

She looked at him with an uncertain look.

If you want to know what happens next, read on elsewhere.

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## **Michael says**

Child is a guilty pleasure for me. How to account for my spouting pacifism and bemoaning our violent human nature and at the same time being enthralled with Reacher's vigilante spirit and no qualms about killing people he finds deserve killing? The formula takes a man who drifts around the country in "off-the-grid" mode, lets you get drawn with him into helping someone in trouble, in the process slowly uncovering a major criminal conspiracy from the smallest of clues, and then after some dangerous interludes finally ending with a massive showdown involving him going up against them almost single-handedly.

Here, in the process of checking out the history behind why a tiny town in Oklahoma is called Mother's Rest, he encounters a female private detective checking out the disappearance there of her colleague. The problem is that she doesn't know any details of his case and is not privy to the reader's knowledge of his being buried under a pigsty at a nearby farm. Their only clue is a scrap of paper in his motel room with an L.A. journalist's phone number and the phrase "200 deaths." All the ordinary shopkeepers, workers, and the police in the town are not very friendly or forthcoming to their questions, and the journalist in L.A. racks his brain about whether there was a crank call from the town about one of his stories. Could it have been the one on GMO agriculture, an exposé on human trafficking, or a story on the Dark Web? As they work through the red herrings at various locales in the country, Reacher finds his usual nirvana in good cups of coffee and a

rare romantic entanglement with his no-nonsense partner, an inscrutable Chinese-American who previously served as an analyst with the FBI. The bad guys tips their hand by putting danger in their way. As usual Reacher relishes the chance to beat up oafs too stupid to come after him in groups of less than ten.

Usually I like the formula just fine, appreciating the variations on the theme, savoring the cumulative revelations on Reacher's past as clues into his paradoxical character. Always we wonder why does someone with such empathy for ordinary people and apparent emotional health end up never seeking the bonds of a family and community or achievement of meaningful work? I didn't learn much more about Reacher's elusive soul this time, and I was disappointed that the bad guys had no personalities and were so baroque in the extent of their evil enterprise. The running mystery of the origin of the town's name was underwhelming. Still, the narrative and snappy dialog kept me turning the pages with pleasure and anticipation.

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