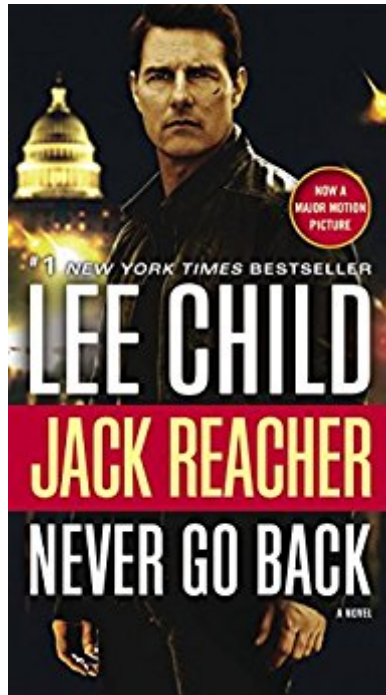




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# Never Go Back (with Bonus Novella High Heat) (Jack Reacher, Book 18)



## Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *Never Go Back* SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE  
*Never Go Back* NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY KIRKUS REVIEWS  
Never go back—but Jack Reacher does, and the past finally catches up with him. . . . *Never Go Back* is a novel of action-charged suspense starring “one of the best thriller characters at work today” (Newsweek). Former military cop Jack Reacher makes it all the way from snowbound South Dakota to his destination in northeastern Virginia, near Washington, D.C.: the headquarters of his old unit, the 110th MP. The old stone building is the closest thing to a home he ever had. Reacher is there to meet—in person—the new commanding officer, Major Susan Turner, so far just a warm, intriguing voice on the phone. But it isn’t Turner behind the CO’s desk. And Reacher is hit with two pieces of shocking news, one with serious criminal consequences, and one too personal to even think about. When threatened, you can run or fight. Reacher fights, aiming to find Turner and clear his name, barely a step ahead of the army, and the FBI, and the D.C. Metro police, and four unidentified thugs. Combining an intricate puzzle of a plot and an exciting chase for truth and justice, Lee Child puts Reacher through his paces—and makes him question who he is, what he’s done, and the very future of his untethered life on the open road. Don’t miss Lee Child’s short story “High Heat” and an excerpt from Lee Child’s *Night School* in the back of the book. Praise for *Never Go Back*: “A breathless cross-country spree . . . some of the best, wildest writing [Lee] Child has ever done . . . Child’s bodacious action hero, Jack Reacher, has already tramped through 17 novels and three e-book singles. But his latest, *Never Go Back*, may be the best desert island reading in the series. It’s exceptionally well plotted. And full of wild surprises. And wise about Reacher’s peculiar nature. And positively Bunyanesque in its admiring contributions to Reacher lore.”—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* “Welcome to the relentless world of Jack Reacher and his impressive tendency to be in the wrong place at the right time. . . . Child has created an iconic character that other thriller writers try to emulate but don’t come close to matching. He has a talent for taking material that in the hands of other authors would be stale and making it seem fresh. . . . Tight and compelling . . . *Never Go Back* is one of Child’s best novels.”—Associated Press “An adrenaline-charged, action-packed thriller . . . impossible to put down.”—Lansing State Journal “The dialogue has never been sharper. . . . The pages turn themselves.”—San Antonio Express-News “For the pure pleasure of

uncomplicated, nonstop action, no one touches Reacher. • Kirkus Reviews (starred review) “Brilliant . . . Child never, ever slips. He keeps the action cranking better than anyone, but, best of all, he keeps us guessing about Reacher. • Booklist (starred review) “One of the best in the series. • Publishers Weekly (starred review)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Albeit through a circuitous route and a couple of books later through Nebraska. We met Susan Turner, the new CO of the 110th MP in "61 Hours" after Jack called the secret number of his old Command in need of information. He spent many hours in phone conversations with her and the information she provided (along with flirtations) helped him survive his current desperate situation and made him want to meet her. I so wanted to get to this point in the series, but instead of skipping ahead to this book that has been waiting patiently in my kindle since it's release, I held off and read the 3 books in between. It was worth the wait because in 2 those books (the 3rd being a prequel taking place in 1997) his main goal was to get to Virginia to meet Susan Turner and it made getting there all the better. Only, it's not as easy as it should be. She's in trouble and so is he and the

adventure begins. It's a wild ride crisscrossing the continent in a way that only Jack Reacher can do...It's full of action as always with a woman that Jack respects and admires at his side.....I won't say any more because if you've made it this far in the series you already know you're going to love it and if you're picking up a Jack Reacher novel for the first time, there is enough background information to make it a stand alone Novel like most the the Jack Reacher books are.I will add this though. After making it this far in the series and not having seen the movie based on this book I doubt my husband or I will bother. I think seeing Tom Cruise as Jack Reacher will ruin the next ones for me. I mean, really? Last time I saw a movie with Tom Cruise he wasn't 6ft 5" and he didn't weigh 250 lbs and I can't imagine how they pulled it off.

Reacher finally makes it to Virginia to try to meet Maj. Nelson who is the current CO of the unit that Reacher was the very first CO. Except at the first entry at his old office,he thinks he is going to Maj. Nelson's office (his old office,) and there is a Lt. Col at the desk,who says he is the new CO & that Maj Nelson is in prison on a felony charge. Reacher is then told that 16 year old charge against him has surfaced, & that he is now back in the Army at his old rank. He is also,told there is another action against him which is a paternity issue. His is to report to the office at promptly 0800 hours daily and is not to go more than 5 miles away from the office. Reacher being Reacher doesn't comply with much which makes this book an easy exciting read!

I acquired this some time before I got around to reading it, in the proper sequence, for several reasons. By the time I read it, there were several reader-reviews posted, and the movie - from which it was, apparently, partially-"derived"\*\*\* - was out and had been for awhile. Fortunately, it turned out to be substantially better than the movie (no surprise there, on several counts\* - filmed versions "derived from"-even in part-this sort of "action/adventure" novel seldom-enough even closely resemble the original material, being almost-inevitably at variance in ways that make them, overall, a poor imitation [at best] of the original stories), and also than what might be expected from some of the reviewers' accounting. On balance, an intriguing, interesting and very entertaining outing for the Big Guy.Jack Reacher's, of course, that "rugged-independent" semi-hero/anti-hero that a lot of men would really love to be - and realize full-well they can never measure-up to, even if they happen to be as big and fit and perhaps even maybe as tough as he supposedly is, or could somehow find themselves in the midst of one of his storied escapades. In this outing, he stays true to type and profile, cutting-through the opposition at every encounter. It's good, hard-nosed fun. watching him deal with it all, finding out what's REALLY going-on, and managing to come out on top, once

again...which everyone of the readers just KNOWS he will, by whatever means necessary... A nice, slick, fast ride to the finish - there are some minor discrepancies, here and there, but hey...it's "adventure hero" fiction - you've simply got to give a wee bit of "slack", now and then, right? Four well-deserved Stars - not the best-of-series, but up towards the top-end, that's certain. And the series rolls on...Keep 'em coming, Lee!...You may have started-out as a Brit, but you're doing pretty dang well in the American-context with that big ol' ex-M.P. Major and his nomadic adventures. (\* The biggest problem, really, with the movie, was the actor who attempted to portray Jack Reacher - aside from the obvious size discrepancy [Tom Cruise is a fairly-decent actor, even though his essays into "tough-guy" characters don't generally play all that well, but compared to the Jack Reacher character in the stories, Cruise is a SHRIMP! I don't care who you are - if you're only 5'-7" and maybe 160 - 170 lb. tops, you simply can't "play" 6'-5" and 250 lb. Sorry, Cholly, that won't work - makeup and wardrobe and camera-angles can't make that "happen", even if you stand on a box for close-ups, like Alan Ladd supposedly did in "Shane", or play a bunch of the scenes while seated - which clearly Cruise couldn't do in the Reacher film - the size differential is just too great], Tom Cruise was SIMPLY NOT able to portray the sort of hard-core Alpha-Male "dominating presence" that is part-and-parcel of the Jack Reacher persona, fictional though it really is. For any actual reader of the novels, the additional "suspension of belief" is/was really too much to be managed. The role needed to be taken by someone with a much, MUCH greater ability to represent such a potent, hard-nosed, take-on-any-challenge character, fictional or not.)(\*\*I know, I know - they CLAIM that the movie was actually made from an earlier Reacher-starring novel, the ninth one in the series called [I believe] "One Shot", but - sorry, I don't entirely buy that; the GENERAL THEME [more-or-less] of "One Shot" runs through the film, BUT there's a pretty nice piece of "Never Go Back" tied-up in there, albeit chopped into a lot of rather small bits, here 'n there - along with bits from at least a couple of OTHER Reacher episodes...and, if you make a direct comparison, aside from most of the general story-thread of "One Shot" SORTA-KINDA wandering through there, there's very little match-up between the movie and ANY actual Reacher novel in the series - and a whole bunch of the book series were "optioned", in advance, by the movie people - and virtually ANY series-novel-to-film "translation" is always going to be a composite in some respects - so...draw your own conclusions - I've drawn mine. For what it's worth - from my recollection, "One Shot" was a very good Reacher-outing, one of the definite top-end ones.)

I have read numerous Jack Reacher novels lately and I just finished reading *Never Go Back*. (By Lee Childs) It seems that Jack never gets a break from the ghosts of

his past when he was in the Army as Commanding Officer of the criminal investigation unit. In this mystery he was going back to meet the new commanding officer of his old unit, Major Susan Turner. He had never met her in person but decided he wanted to meet her from just the sound of her voice on the phone. However, when he arrives Major Turner has been replaced and Reacher finds out he is in big trouble for something he supposedly did fourteen years ago when he was C.O of the unit. This also involves some other personal factors to further complicate the issues. Like all Jack Reacher novels there are numerous twists and turns to keep you guessing. I also like the short chapters because it makes for a more pleasant and enjoyable read. I never give away too much information when reviewing a novel, but if you are into the Jack Reacher you will probably want to read *Never Go Back*. I found it a good read. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: *The Samurai Soul: An old warrior's poetic tribute*).

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