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Women are being murdered nationwide by a killer who leaves no trace of evidence, no fatal wounds, no signs of struggle, and no clues to an apparent motive. All the victims have one thing in common: they each knew Jack Reacher.

Running Blind Details

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Author : Lee Child

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From Reader Review Running Blind for online ebook

Krbo says

sasvim solidan Reacher

Neke navedene "jedinice" drugih recenzenata nikako ne stoje, ovo je ?etvrta Jackova knjiga - nastavak prošle što se ti?e njegove socijalizacije (cura, stalno prebivalište...) s dobrim rješenjima (znaju?i kako postoji još hrpa "luralica" knjiga), OK twistovi, ma baš sasvim solidno.

Kad se ?ita "bezmozgovna" literatura treba biti i svjestan toga te se osloboditi nekih ve?ih o?ekivanja i samo se opustiti.

Sino? sam gledao zadnji "Tomojle Krstaš" film - puno, puno slabije od knjige.

Ako je ovo podžanr koji vas opušta, samo nastavite redom - Child je ispekao zanat.

Izme?u 3 i 4

Mike (the Paladin) says

I always "feel" that I should like the Jack Reacher books better. I mean these are very popular books...everyone seems to love them...Tom Cruise even agreed to play Jack in the film. Must be great, right?

Still, mostly I like these. I can go a good solid 4 stars here. As the books go along there always seems to be (to me anyway) times where Jack just doesn't make a lot of sense within his own story/plot/personality. I mean (I say that a lot don't I?) I get the "freedom" of being a rootless drifter (in many ways Jack could be seen as the modern equivalent of the iconic "wandering" or "drifting" Gunfighter from the American West. he shows up. handles the trouble and then rides off into the sunset...albeit in a Greyhound rather than on horseback.). Still we're getting to the point where some of it is getting a bit hard to swallow. Anyone who's ever been in a place with nowhere to sleep and nothing to eat while broke will tell you it's not quite as easy to function as Jack makes it look. The guy needs to have ...the books need to show... a more reliable way for jack to live now that his savings are gone. It's the same kind of thing that ruined The Rockford Files for me. I like James Garner, but he'd have to get paid once in a while to keep going not get stiffed on ever single job as he seems to on that program.

Okay, that said what we get here is a good well crafted story with Jack being strong armed into working with the FBI (if you're like me you'll grit your teeth at the pushy feds...I'm not a big government person anyway). The plot is well crafted and the story telling/plot holds together and develops well. No clueless plot coming from left field here. It's all thought out. (view spoiler)

All in all better than some Reacher novels I've read. Good one, nice solid 4 star read, Enjoy.

Abram says

My rating: 4/5

The novel is great as the first two. I have to read the third one but I just couldn't get it in a lower price in amazon. So I bought the fourth one which is running blind or visitor. But when I jumped into the story I found out that the third book and the fourth are connected in a way (not by story, so no problem) But You can read the third after four. There will be no problem in it. A character is present in both the books.

Just like the first two ones the phasing of the novel is really fast. It's a thrill ride. Jack Reacher is always badass.

Tom says

I'm afraid I'm going to have give Jack reacher a rest for a while. This book was ridiculous. I had this thing figured out very early on and was dreading being right. You will not be impressed by the method of murder. It is a huge stretch to think that this could be remotely possible. Plus, the investigators are morons! Lee Child makes the FBI no more tha stupid thugs that can't get anything done without resorting to threats of everything from framing someone from murder to actually having them, or their loved ones, killed. Just stupid.

And another thing since I'm on a roll, I am really upset about Lee Child's understanding of military investigatory services. The MPs don't investigate more than petty crime. Just changing the service to Army CID would give a lot more credence to the backstory of Reacher.

Ian Mapp says

I am afraid that this is a complete load of pants.

Lee child has been my guilty pleasure, but this book does not have reacher doing what he does best (killing people!) or the epic scale of the other books. And there are some serious flaws with the logic in the book.

Flaw One - Reacher is pulled in by the FBI because the results of a serial killer profiling exercise have resulted in the fact that it is Reacher. Despite going through his personal history, the FBI never once question him on his involvement with counterfeiting, armed militias, vietnam hoaxes and the rest.

Reacher convincing them he is not their man, but embarassingly for the story line, the FBI threaten his girlfriend if he doesnt help.

Reacher gets involved with the case as a special advisor - and its in more of a private detective mode investigating the case, rather than gung ho and smashing people up.

Then there is the story - several women who have filed complaints against the military for sexual harassment are found dead in a bath of paint. The FBI cannot determine how this is being completed

The answer is the second major flaw but is easily determined. They are being hypnotised into killing themselves by the woman who is heading up the case.

And why is she doing this - because of an inheritance scam with her sister - one of the casualties. The other murders are simply to cover her tracks. Please don't insult the readers intelligence.

On a personal level - Reacher lets himself down by having a liaison with another investigator before he closes things down with his previous dream woman, who he leaves because he doesn't want to settle down.

By far and away, the weakest in the series to date.

I will persevere with the next one however.

Laci says

****SPOILERS BE HERE!****

Oh, where to begin? First, I'm now convinced Child is paid per word--nothing else excuses the descriptions: "He did this, and this other thing, and this other thing, and then this other thing. She felt one way, and another way, and another way that's actually the same thing as the first two ways, but phrased a little differently. He went into the bedroom, and he saw a bedspread, a lamp, a bedside table, a window, a cat, a rug." Come on.

But really, I have no problem generally with the Jack Reacher series. It's simple and pulpy, but usually good fun. And his vigilante-style justice and the fact that he always gets the girl are conventions I can usually go along with. But THIS book... Well, here's what I learned from it:

1. Never trust an unattractive woman.
2. A rambling man can't have a woman tying him down.
3. You should "play along" and help out a woman who claims sexual harassment, even if you know (and will then tell everyone else) that you think she was just being a big ho.
4. The only kind of relationship you can have with someone who has been sexually assaulted is a paternalistic sort, because they're damaged forever and will never want anything more than friendship and protection ever ever ever.
5. When you meet a pretty girl, she's required to give you her vital stats, because what else would you want to know about her? Age, height, relationship status, whether or not she wants to join you for dinner.
6. When said pretty girl tells you that she feels like she's continually harassed and objectified, go ahead and objectify her as well, because hey, you're Jack Reacher.
7. No one can resist Jack Reacher.

So.... yeah. Quality read.

Jane Stewart says

2 ½ stars. Long, drawn out process investigating murders. Not enough action. The ending was frustrating.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

The story starts off in an exciting way with thugs demanding payoffs from a new restaurant owner. Reacher likes the restaurant and takes action. That was fun. But after that there was very little action, not enough. It was a long, drawn out process trying to solve the murders, but no one figured anything out until the very end. I'm reminded of the Michael Connelly books which have interesting discoveries along the way. That was missing here. For maybe the last third of the book, I had a good guess as to who and how, but Jack and others appeared kind of dumb because they never considered this. Sure, the author gave the reader more hints than Jack got, but I felt the characters should have been more open minded. Instead, I kept hearing it's impossible. The first third of the book was pretty good due to anticipation, but the end was a letdown.

I really like the Reacher character and the series. Although I had problems with this book, it still kept my interest, and I plan to read the next one.

The FBI does really bad things to force Reacher to work on the case. At the end, the FBI does more really bad things. I hated the FBI's actions and threats almost more than what the killer was doing. So I didn't feel good at the end of the book.

I wanted the killer to suffer. So far in all four books, the bad guy is quickly killed at the end. I wanted to see them get caught, see them suffer, hear their words after they realized it was over. Especially in this book, I wanted to hear what the killer would have said about motive and methods. Without those insights and feelings, the ending was empty.

I did not like the author throwing in one character as a red herring. The purpose was to confuse the reader. It wasn't explained, justified, or done well.

One thing odd about Reacher is that he doesn't travel with clothes. He only has what he is wearing. He sometimes showers, but then he puts on the same clothes. He doesn't do laundry. I'm sure his clothes smell. In previous books he would buy cheap new clothes and throw away the old. He wasn't buying any new clothes in this book. This is one of those suspend disbelief items. Just don't think about it.

STORY BRIEF:

A serial killer is killing women who were raped or sexually harassed while in the military. The men who hurt them were put in jail or lost their jobs. The women left the military. The FBI profilers think the killer is someone like Reacher. Since the first two victims knew him, the FBI have Reacher under surveillance. They learn Reacher is innocent when a 3rd victim is killed while they were watching him. Now the FBI forces Reacher to help them solve the case. They believe his military contacts and experiences will be useful. They threaten Reacher's girlfriend to keep him in line.

THE SERIES:

If you haven't read any Reacher before, start with books 1 and 2. You do not need to read them in order. There are at least sixteen books so far. My ratings and order of the first four books are:

4 ½ stars. Killing Floor

4 stars. Die Trying

4 stars. Tripwire

2 ½ stars. Running Blind.

NARRATOR:

The narrator Dick Hill was very good.

DATA:

Unabridged audiobook reading time: 13 hrs and 5 mins. Swearing language: I don't recall any. Sexual language: none. Number of sex scenes: one referred to not shown. Setting: 1999 various other U.S. locations. Book copyright: 2000. Genre: mystery suspense thriller. Ending: Bad guy is caught, but there is no good feeling because other things are frustrating.

(view spoiler)

Lyn says

A batter steps into the box and looks out at the tall, hulking pitcher on top of the mound. He's got the book on this guy, knows the formula. All heat, nothing but fastballs. Starts inside to back the hitter off the plate and then works the corners.

So he's surprised when the first pitch is a loping change up, a slower pitch that comes across the outer edge of the plate for a strike. The next few pitches are all over the place – high, low, fast, slow, balls and another strike. The hitter is completely flustered, none of this has gone according to plan and he's confused and disoriented and on a three two full count he is completely devastated when he's struck out on a big 12-6 curve ball.

Lee Child's fourth Jack Reacher is just that – a curve ball that has the reader tied up to the very end. The first three books held to a pretty simple formula centered around the implacable and stoic hero. This 2000 publication is more of a murder mystery than an action thriller and damned if Child doesn't spend some time with character development and plot.

Sure there are some gaping holes and some inconsistencies and some preposterous twists but this is altogether a good book and a page turner. Fun, entertaining and the best one yet.

Jeremiah says

Ugh, where to begin. Another iteration of Lee Child's pattern: We have an inside man, a pointless subplot, and an improbable romance.

Again, I'm irritated at the lack of continuity here. In the 2nd book, Jack Reacher had exposed corrupt FBI agents, saved a cherished FBI agent (and daughter of a high-ranking general), and stopped a terrorist attack, but this doesn't even merit a mention when he's picked up by the FBI again? Not a line? Not a phone call from the friends/allies he made in the 2nd book? People whose lives he saved, careers he protected? These FBI agents are allowed to lock him up in Quantico and put a camera on him? Try to get a sexy FBI agent to bang him? Not to mention all of the other blackmailing that went on. Not a mention of "that ugly business in

Montana" or anything like that? Utterly ridiculous.

At least the relationship he established in the last book is still here, but that's about it for continuity.

The whole plot hinges on hypnotism?!? Really? You can hypnotize people into killing themselves? Right.

Oh, and there's a point-of-view character sprinkled throughout who is carefully manipulated to make you think he's the killer. (the killer's POV's are full of non gender-specific pronouns or in 2nd persos, but this is obviously a male). Eventually this guy shows up as a harmless distraction, but it's a cheap way to try to lead the reader away from the real killer. (Who was obvious because of the "inside man" part of the pattern).

What a mess.

Dave says

Reacher and the FBI

Running Blind offers the reader an impossible puzzle, sort of like the locked-room murder puzzle. There's a serial killer out there and it's a complete puzzle how the murders are being committed. In fact, it's such a puzzle that the FBI has to bring in Jack Reacher to solve it. As long as you don't get hung up on the unlikelihood of that playing out, you'll enjoy a pretty good mystery with few clues and a lot of dead ends to bang into.

This is the fourth Reacher novel and, if like me you skipped the second and third books, you'll be shocked at the new Reacher, no longer a drifter, a stranger without a home. He is now a homeowner with property taxes to pay and a high powered Manhattan lawyer as his girlfriend. But, he's still this odd duck who has to do things his own way.

Quite an enjoyable read, fastmoving, and definitely worth a read.

Kris says

I think this is the first book I've ever rated "one star." Normally, I don't finish books that I don't like, so I don't have a reason to assign a low rating. I did finish this one, unrealistically hoping it would get better. First of all, I normally love the Jack Reacher books for what they are: guilty pleasures and a fun way to spend an afternoon. This book just left me feeling guilty for wasting my time, with no pleasure to balance it. I've read several other bad reviews and agree with them, but didn't see one that mentioned the biggest problem of the book, in my opinion: Hypnotism is not brain-washing! You cannot compel someone to do something under hypnosis that is inconsistent with his/her core values. These women were defined as mentally tough - and then they became robots through hypnosis? Absurd. And it is impossible to think that they all swallowed their tongues on command! The will to live, in a non-suicidal person, is paramount. Even if the person wanted to kill herself I don't think she could physically do it that way. Drinking poisoned Kool-Aid is a far cry from voluntarily swallowing your tongue.

Other problems: Lamarr volunteered early on that she and her stepsister would inherit money when Lamarr's stepfather died. Then he dies and so does the stepsister. Reacher's first rule is to consider the obvious and

follow the money. He fails miserably, as does the FBI.

Then there's Harper. The braless thing is stupid. I can imagine that being a young female FBI agent is tough enough without walking around braless with a tight white shirt on.

The problems with the book are too numerous to recount. I hated that I knew who the killer was so early in the book. And there was no true resolution. The bad guys (police & FBI) aren't held accountable and Reacher seems ok with it. He was jerked around by all of them and seems to take it in stride. Perhaps Reacher was "hypnotised," too?

I'm not giving up on the rest of the series, though. I hope the next one will live up to the standard set in the first three books.

Alp says

“But you are kind of arrogant, you know?” she said. “Prosecutor, judge, jury, executioner, all in one? What about the rules?”

He smiled.

“Those are the rules,” he said. “People mess with me, they find that out pretty damn quick.”

FIVE SOLID STARS, YES!!!

Once again, Lee Child has delivered another winner with this smashing mystery/suspense/thriller story. Normally I'm a bit leery about picking up a book that is over 500 pages long. I would say most of the novels I've read are between 250 and 350 pages. However, I know I can count on this author, and *Running Blind* (or *The Visitor*) didn't disappoint me one bit. I enjoyed every single page of it, and of course, there was never a dull moment. I was drawn into the story within the first few pages and it kept me wondering and guessing who the hell this killer was throughout the entire book!

I could feel the tension starting to ramp up when I reached the beginning of chapter 2, and it became more and more intense as I read further into the story. Every twist and turn made me even more curious about the killer's motive. And by the end, I was surprised at the turn of events. I must admit, I never thought it would end this way, but well, it didn't really matter because I was pleased anyway!

Even though there were only a few action scenes in this book, they were good and I enjoyed them all. The story mostly focused on an investigation which held my attention and kept me engrossed all the way through.

Due to plenty twists and turns in this book, it's difficult for me to write a review without giving the story all away. So, I think I'd better stop right here and let you find out for yourself how brilliant it is.

By the way, this is a gripping crime thriller with an ingenious plot, appealing characters, and stunning twists. Fans of the genre shouldn't miss out on this one.

On to the next book!

Adrian says

[

I must admit that I really wanted him to get off with Harper but hey ho (hide spoil

Stuart says

"I am the one and only..." - Chesney Hawkes

"Vodka helped create some of the greatest fiction we've ever read" - some quote by someone, somewhere, after a bottle.

To give Lee Childs his due, he is excellent writer of popcorn fiction - you know, the tough-guy-with-his-own-rules character. I'm a big fan of Jack Reacher and his on goings. *The Visitor* is slightly different to the other three *Reacher* novels in the sense Jack isn't smashing people's faces up so much, it's more a direct murder/mystery story. He gets thrown in the deep end and offered a chance to work with the FBI, where they are investigating a serial killer who isn't a fan of women in the military. Or after a dust up with a few New York mobsters, he gets to go down for potential murder. Manipulated? Yes. Decisions decisions.

In Jack's fourth outing in the series *Reacher* gets to flex his brainstrings and not his muscles - so given this, it does (for me) lead towards a ponderous read. After two hundred and fifty pages I'd already guessed who was committing the murders - it was plainly obvious. So despite the author showing Jack is much more than just brawn (which is welcome) there wasn't much for me to enjoy. The ending finished how I guessed it would, leaving me thinking - despite all the murders and running around going on, it was all too obvious.

Transparent is the word of the day here. Don't do that as a writer, don't go hinting who could potentially be the killer - the story was killed fairly quickly once a few hints were there. Possibly didn't help as by the end of the first few hundred pages we're getting the killers thoughts on page. That's not a bad thing in itself, but it is a bad thing when you let slip something that reveals the identity of the antagonist.

So let's talk characters, Jodie is still here playing the not-so-happy love of *Reachers* life - she wants to make partner at a law firm. You can guess the problems their having with Jack continually taking the law into his own hands. Then there is Harper, a 'vanilla' FBI agent, assigned to shadow Jack's every movement. She is rather great in a tomboy-with-gun sorta way. Other members of the FBI investigative team include Blake, a doughnut eating agent (it's not water weight, that's FAT mate). Then there's Julia Lamaar, who's sister is on the list of potential targets. She is the head analyst of the FBI's psychologically criminology unit. There are many more characters who make a appearance, none that really stuck with me.

Another out of character nugget was Jack's tedious moaning and whining about his life, what's going on between him and Jodie. Throw in a third and you've got a triangle! See I went to school! When I was reading this I was thinking, perhaps the writer wants to show a more caring softer side. That's fine, tough guys can be sensitive. NOT WHEN THEY MOAN LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A SOAP!! Was I shouting? Sorry about that. The balance of Jack was being ripped apart in my mind. It doesn't help that the pacing is slow, as. The only time Jack get's to kick some booty is at the start of the novel. Then we're left with a mystery to solve, that isn't so mysterious after all. In my opinion, if you're going to have a moment of feeling (when you're the tough guy) he needs to then go and do what he does best, be tough.

The worst so far in my humble opinion. Hopefully the next novel in the series will be a stunner! Maybe? Possibly? Hey, I'm not a cynic.

To finish up I'd like to say what a dirty slutter Jack Reacher is! Seriously, he's always eyeing up the ladies, a bit of mouth-to-mouth in this one. James Bond best move over, there's a real (sensitive) tough guy in town.

Stephen says

A Reacher novel is kinda' like pizza: Even when it's not great, it's still usually pretty good. HOWEVER, have you ever had one of those pizzas that was so bad that you cannot help but to tell others to avoid that particular pizzeria? That's what Running Blind was like. Avoid it at all costs!

Seriously, THIS IS THE ONE TO AVOID IN THE SERIES! It's OMG stupid! If I told the heart of the mystery you wouldn't believe it, thinking it's the plot from some 3rd-rate Karloff movie from the 1930s, but once you realized I was serious and that that really was the crux of the issue here, you'd agree and say, "OMG, that IS stupid!" I won't give a spoiler because I don't want to be blocked, but it's a stinker.

There is some good characterization going on here. I liked the literary techniques Child used to mask the killer. And I liked the way Reacher (in some cases) was running circles around the authority figures who thought they had him under their thumbs.

Child might want to do a bit more study into forensics and transference before he makes claims about multiple trace free crime scenes.

One last comment: I listened to this on Books on Disk, and this particular voice artist was bad...distractingly bad.
