



# Reacher Said Nothing: Lee Child and the Making of Make Me

Andy Martin

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Fans of Lee Child know well that the muscular star of his bestselling novels, Jack Reacher, is a man of few words—and a lot of action. In *Reacher Said Nothing*, Andy Martin shadows Child like a literary private eye in a yearlong investigation of what it takes to make fiction's hottest hero hit the page running. The result is a fascinating, up-close-and-personal look into the world and ways of an expert storyteller's creative process as he undertakes the writing of the much anticipated twentieth Jack Reacher novel, *Make Me*.

Fueled by copious mugs of black coffee, Lee Child squares off against the blank page (or, rather, computer screen), eager to follow his wandering imagination in search of a plot worthy of the rough and ready Reacher. While working in fits and starts, fine-tuning sentences, characters, twists and turns, Child plies Martin with anecdotes and insights about the life and times that shaped the man and his methods: from schoolyard scraps and dismal factory jobs to a successful TV production career and the life-changing decision to put pencil to paper. Then there's the chance encounter that transformed aspiring author James Grant into household name "Lee Child." And between bouts at the keyboard in an office high above Manhattan, there are jaunts to writers' conventions, book signings, publishing powwows, chat shows, the Prado in Madrid, American diners, and English pubs.

"Can I—the storyteller—get away with this?" Lee Child ponders, as he hones and hammers his latest nailbiter into fighting trim. Numerous bestsellers and near worldwide fame say he can. Jack Reacher may be a man of few words, but Reacher Said Nothing says it all about a certain tall man with a talent for coming out on top.

#### Advance praise for Reacher Said Nothing

"Andy Martin is no mere 'Reacher Creature,' as fans of Lee Child's Jack Reacher are known. He's something of a Reacher Teacher. Martin's book is the perfect accompaniment to all things Reacher. It explores, it explains, and it entertains. Like a detective novel, *Reacher Said Nothing* takes you down alleys and lanes and streets cast in shadow—but the journey isn't urban, it's in the boulevards and byways between your own ears. Andy's writing is a brainiac's delight."—Sam Fussell, author of *Muscle* 

"One-of-a-kind . . . It's funny, serious, a kind of mock-heroic and heroic together. It's quizzical and respectful, sophisticated and self-deprecating."—Dame Gillian Beer



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