

**REACHER'S
RULES**

LIFE LESSONS FROM
JACK REACHER

FOREWORD BY
LEE CHILD

About the Book

**My name is Jack Reacher. No middle name, no address. I've got a rule.
People mess with me at their own risk.**

RULE 1. IF IN DOUBT, DRINK COFFEE

RULE 2. NEVER VOLUNTEER FOR ANYTHING. SOLDIER'S BASIC RULE

RULE 3. DON'T BREAK THE FURNITURE

RULE 4. ONLY HAVE ONE WOMAN AT A TIME

RULE 5. BE ON YOUR FEET AND READY

RULE 6. SHOW THEM WHAT THEY'RE MESSING WITH

Please note this is not a novel, but a companion book for Reacher fans

About the Author

Jack Reacher, of no fixed address, is a former Major in the US Military Police. Since leaving the Army, the authorities have not been able to locate his whereabouts, although his name mysteriously crops up from time to time in connection with investigations into murders, terrorist threats and other breaches of the law.

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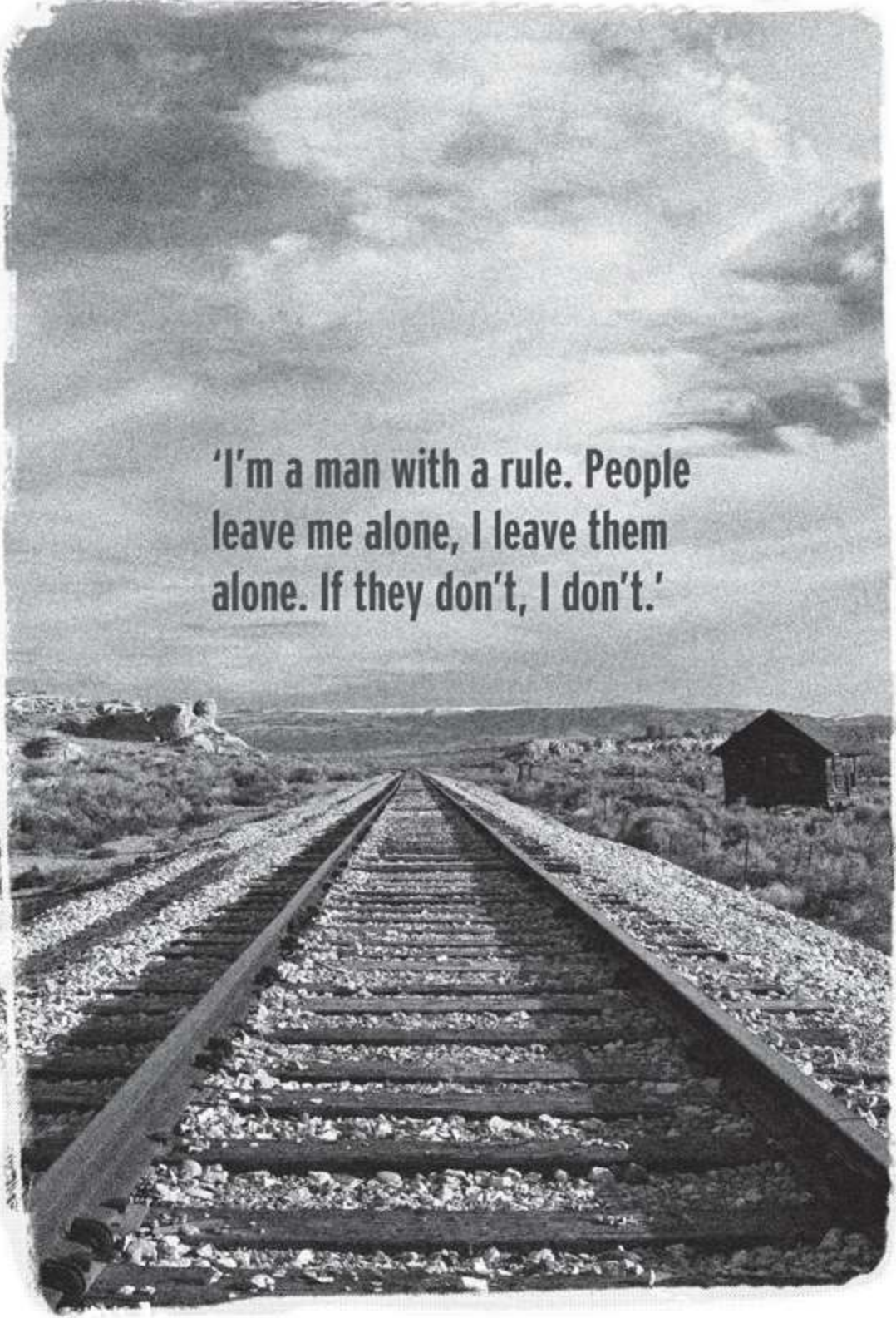
How to Leave Town

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REACHER'S **RULES**

LIFE LESSONS FROM
JACK REACHER

With a foreword by
LEE CHILD



**'I'm a man with a rule. People
leave me alone, I leave them
alone. If they don't, I don't.'**

FOREWORD

If you've been paying attention long enough, you know one thing for sure: the defining human characteristic is tribalism. We all slice and dice the world's population into ever smaller fragments until we find a group where we feel comfortable, where we feel we truly belong.

And having arrived there, we make rules governing that group's behaviour. We want a reliable guide to how to act, we want to build bulwarks against outsiders, we want to provide a secure mechanism for belonging, we want to reassure ourselves that continuing membership is guaranteed if only we conform.

Some rules are official. We form clubs and societies and associations and give them procedures and by-laws more complex than government bodies.

Some rules are only semi-official. Hit on your friend's best girl? No way. Rat out an accomplice? Not going to happen. Break a strike? You'd rather die.

Some rules are just slogans, consoling and emboldening. Maybe as a kid, your gang - part of your street in part of your city in your country in the big, bewildering world - were, like kids are, told by your parents and teachers to be scared of strangers. No, you said. Strangers should be told to be scared of us.

Reacher has always followed his own rules. He grew up in a fractured way, six months here, three months there, always moving, never stable, never belonging. Then he was a soldier, but too wise to buy into all the nonsense. He only obeyed the rules that made sense to him. Then he was cut loose and became a true outsider, profoundly comfortable with solitude. Does he have a tribe? You bet. He's human. But in his case he kept on slicing and dicing until he got all the way down to a tribe with just one member - himself. But that tribe still needed rules, to guide, and embolden, and simplify, and reassure.

What follows are some of them.

LEE CHILD

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a staircase. The stairs lead upwards and are flanked by ornate metal railings. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights. A white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "BE PREPARED" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The banner has a slightly distressed, torn edge effect.

BE PREPARED

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

- Never count on anything except surprise and unpredictability and danger
- Ring doorbells with your knuckles or elbows to avoid leaving fingerprints
- Sit in diners or bars with your back to the wall so you cannot be surprised from behind
- Keep all exits in view
- Walk up the edge of stairs to minimize the chances of loud creaks. Stairs squeak at their centres where they're weakest
- Go to bed fully clothed so you are always ready for action
- Never look through spy holes in doors. Someone could be on the other side waiting to see the glass darken and shoot you in the eye

'We're making an omelette here ... we're going to have to break some eggs.'

'Optimism is good. Blind faith is not.'

- Always lift a door handle upwards. If a door squeaks it's because it's dropped on its hinges. Upward pressure helps
- Climb through a hole feet first. If there's an axe or a bullet waiting, better to take it in the legs than the head
- If someone's likely to shoot at you, plant yourself in the middle of a restaurant full of people

'Most guys who don't check new equipment are still alive, but by no means all of them.'

- Never trust a weapon you haven't personally test-fired
- Before you use a car to commit a crime, get it cleaned thoroughly, inside and out, twice, to make sure you leave no DNA
- Always have a penny in your pocket, you never know when you're going to need it to unscrew a pair of licence plates
- If you are climbing up towards a trapdoor into an uncertain situation, catapult yourself up the last eighteen feet as fast as you can

'The less I relax, the luckier I get.'

THINGS YOU'LL NEVER HEAR REACHER SAY

Sorry, I've forgotten my watch.

BREAKING AND ENTERING

