

Hero

'Yesterday, I was him, for a few minutes.'

'What you on about Rog?'

'My literary hero!'

'You been on the Chardonnay already?'

'No, I reached down an Easter treat for a lady in Sainsbury's Local, Wordsley Green.'

'So, what!'

'Didn't you hear Lee Child on Desert Island Discs?'

John shook his head. 'Is that on the wireless?'

After a long sigh, I continued. 'When he was on DIDs he explained how his protagonist's name came about. Lee had been made redundant and decided he would try writing, he had an idea involving a retired American Army MP, that's Military Policeman by the way.'

'Yes, I know, I'm not stupid.'

'Lee and his wife were doing the weekly shop and a lady asked him to reach down an item for her. He's six feet four. While they were waiting to check out, his wife joked, "If you can't get a job, you can always be a reacher in a supermarket.'

'That's it, Lee exclaimed, Jack Reacher.' As he hugged Jane he heard a cough.

'Are you going to unload that trolley or what?'

As they say in the movies, based on true events although I'm only 6 ft 1 in tall.