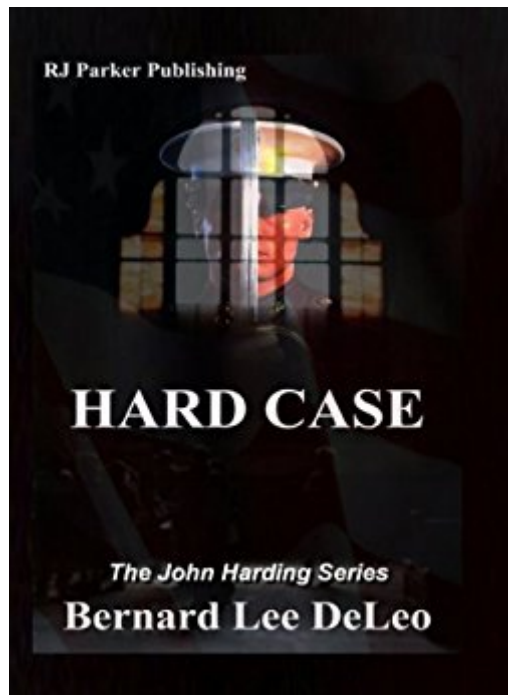


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# Hard Case 1 (John Harding Series)



## Synopsis

"Jack Reacher fans, say hello to John Harding, in a series you won't put down: He grew up mean, running away from his alcoholic father at the age of 14. With a little help in the form of a new identity, the runaway becomes John Harding. While in special ops overseas, he's recruited by CIA agent Denny Strobert, who sees something besides a knack for languages and combat skills: he knows he's found a killer." — Kindle Nation Daily

**HARD CASE** begins in a back alley warehouse in East Oakland, CA, where Harding fights for money, and to keep his skills honed, coupled with the fact he likes it. Harding does odd jobs with the only guy he trusts implicitly, his handler and manager, Tommy Sands. They bodyguard, escort tourists around the Bay Area, and do bail bond, skip trace work for a lawyer named Tess Connagher. Two events throw Harding's seamy life in the shadows out into the light. Strobert is ordered to enlist Tess Connagher's law firm to act as an intermediary with Harding in order to protect an outspoken Afghani woman whose family Harding protected long ago. The woman's father requested him, and the state department realizes they'll be off the hook if anything happens to Samira Karim while under Harding's care. Secondly, Harding fights a particularly brutal fight with a Russian mob backed fighter named Van Rankin who hates Harding. They'd had words. The YouTube video of Harding's subsequent beat-down of Rankin goes viral along with many of his prior fights. When Rankin's Russian mobster backer, Alexi Fialkov pushes for a rematch on the UFC circuit, CIA Agent Strobert sees infinite possibilities since the United Arab Emirates has part ownership in the UFC. Some matches would be taking place in Dubai, where the CIA knows targets of opportunity show up from time to time. Tess Connagher, both fascinated and repulsed by Harding, cannot stay away from him. She rapidly finds out Harding is not some East Oakland leg-breaker, and being around him can be very dangerous, whether you're his friend or his enemy. She makes a couple of serious errors in judgment - Tess thinks she can control Harding, and she uses him to help Lora, her older sister.

**The John Harding Series**

- Hard Case 1
- Hard Case 2: The Lure of Hell
- Hard Case 3: Voyage of The Damned
- Hard Case 4: A Violent Life
- Hard Case 5: Blood and Fear
- Hard Case 6: The Killer Inside
- Hard Case 7: Red Waves (Released April 13, 2016)

## Book Information

File Size: 893 KB

Print Length: 288 pages

Publisher: RJ Parker Publishing; 522 Pages edition (May 16, 2013)

Publication Date: May 16, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0083NUPY2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #3,886 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Special Forces #25 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > War #26 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Hard-Boiled

## Customer Reviews

I've read 7 books in this series, so I thought I would put my review on the first book. It might help those just starting out. Jack Reacher is a wimp. Gabrielle Allon is a sissy. John Harding is a Monster! lol. I am pretty critical in my reviews and don't give out 5 stars lightly. This one is a home run. If you see the problems the US is facing, I mean...the real problems, not the problems the media wants you to focus on. The problems you and I know are out there but the media, for the most part, downplays or ignores. You are going to love this. Not only are the problems correctly identified, but they are dealt with. The way they should be dealt with. Quickly and violently. There is no waiting around for political considerations or consensus. Identify the problem, then go take care of it...right away. Within hours even. Find out from the bad guys what else they are doing and go take care of that too...right away. How it should be done when American lives are at stake. How it's not being done now. There is violence and torture in this book. A lot of it. Be forewarned. It's done to the people wanting to hurt and kill your family. I had no problem with it. At all. And it's a great, fun book to boot...torture and all :) Harding not only works to help the country...he's a Cage Fighter in his spare time. How cool is that? Yeah, it sounds like something that could be way over-the-top and a bit ridiculous. But, it really does work. I was just as interested in his fights... as his saving the world stuff. Both aspects really did blend together well and even complimented each other. Now, there is a couple of aspects that could be annoying if you let it be. Like the dialogue sounding all the same

from all the supporting characters. Even to the point they all repeat the same catch phrases and wordings. This includes Mr. DeLeo's other books. Different characters in different situations...but, it could be the same person in all of them. Still, I like all the main and supporting characters and since I loved the book(s) so much, I was willing to overlook things that might bother others. Your mileage may vary. So, if you want to see how we should REALLY be handling issues like Terrorism, gangs, Political corruption, etc...and have an awesome time doing it you are going to love this. It's not only relevant...but, a blast to read. Tons of action and humor. Have fun!-SF

John Harding is another bad-ass fighter, killer, soldier, lover and friend - a force to be reckoned with. If you are a Jack Reacher fan, you will love this book. There is no shortage of action...from fighting in the octagon ring, finding Russian hitmen, protecting a young girl who is the target of many, battling pirates of Somalia and others. John is a normal guy to his friends and an equal opportunity employer for his new business. With the backing of the three-letter secret service groups, John and his team get additional help from the agencies and satellites overhead, which help to equal the odds against an overwhelming force. He is smart, cunning, and somebody to have on your side. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and see that the author has additional books published with other John Harding missions. I'll be sure to look into them. Highly recommended and hard to put down. Great job, Mr. DeLeo! John Podlaski, author *Cherries - A Vietnam War Novel* and *When Can I Stop Running?*

Bernard Lee DeLeo has written a 5 star winner. A live action movie could not be any better. John Harding rises from a home being raised with his abusive, alcoholic father. When he has decided he has had enough he leaves home at age 14. He joins the Marines where he excels and easily masters multi language skills. The characters are likeable while some cause fear just reading about them. This writer draws you in with the first page and keeps the story in front of you until the last page. John Harding is all American, loves country, being a Marine, a fighter who refuses to lose, will go down for family or friends rather than risk them being hurt. John is tough skinned while the women in his life sometimes encounter danger by association. John also has a funny side that had me laughing out loud. This story would make a great movie! I am so looking forward to reading more stories about John Harding! After reading approximately 6 of this author's stories I am at the point I no longer care about the title. If I see the name Bernard DeLeo on the cover I am buying!!!! His Name assures you that you are in for a great ride.

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