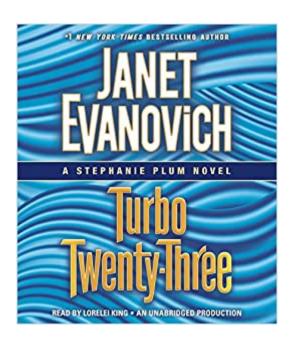


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Turbo Twenty-Three: A Stephanie Plum Novel





Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER ⠢ In the heart of Trenton, N.J., a killer is out to make sure someone gets his just desserts. Larry Virgil skipped out on his latest court date after he was arrested for hijacking an eighteen-wheeler full of premium bourbon. Fortunately for bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, Larry is just stupid enough to attempt almost the exact same crime again. Only this time he flees the scene, leaving behind a freezer truck loaded with Bogart ice cream and a dead bodyâ "frozen solid and covered in chocolate and chopped pecans. As fate would have it, Stephanieâ TMs mentor and occasional employer, Ranger, needs her to go undercover at the Bogart factory to find out whoâ TMs putting their employees on ice and sabotaging the business. Itâ TMs going to be hard for Stephanie to keep her hands off all that ice cream, and even harder for her to keep her hands off Ranger. Itâ TMs also going to be hard to explain to Trentonâ TMs hottest cop, Joe Morelli, why she is spending late nights with Ranger, late nights with Lula and Randy Briggsâ "who are naked and afraidâ "and late nights keeping tabs on Grandma Mazur and her new fella. Stephanie Plum has a lot on her plate, but for a girl who claims to have â œvirtually no marketable skills,â • these are the kinds of sweet assignments she does best.

Book Information

Series: Stephanie Plum

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Unabridged edition (November 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385366884

ISBN-13: 978-0385366885

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3,253 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #92,901 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (E) > Evanovich, Janet #10 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #51

in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

Janet Evanovich is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Stephanie Plum series, the Knight and Moon series, the Fox and Oâ ™Hare series, the Lizzy and Diesel series, the Alexandra Barnaby novels and Troublemaker graphic novel, and How I Write: Secrets of a Bestselling

One Monday Larry Virgil is a lanky, grease--stained guy in his forties. He lives alone in the back room of his auto body shop on Baker Street in north Trenton, and he hasnâ ™t cut his hair in at least ten years. For all I know that was also the last time he washed it. He has a reputation for drinking too much and abusing women, and he has a hotdog with testicles tattooed on his forehead. I suppose it might be a penis, but itâ ™s not a very good tattoo, and I prefer to think itâ ™s a hotdog. None of this would be any of my business, but a couple months ago Trentonâ ™s finest caught Virgil hijacking an eighteen--wheeler filled with cases of premium bourbon. Virgil was arrested and subsequently bonded out by my bail bondsman cousin and employer, Vincent Plum. Virgil failed to appear for his court appearance a week ago, and Vinnie isnâ ™t happy. If Virgil isnâ ™t brought back into the system in a timely fashion, Vinnie will lose his bond money. My name is Stephanie Plum. lâ ™m a college graduate with virtually no marketable skills, so for the past several years lâ TMve been tracking down Vinnieâ TMs skips. What I lack in expertise I make up for with desperation and tenacity, because I only get paid when I catch someone. It was ten oâ ™clock at night in mid--September, and cool enough for me to need a sweatshirt over my T--shirt. I was currently pulling surveillance on Larry Virgilâ ™s three--bay garage, hoping to catch him entering or exiting. I was with my wheelman, Lula. Weâ ™d been sitting across from the garage for over two hours and my eyes were crossing out of boredom. â œThis isnâ ™t going anywhere,â • I said to Lula. â œHe isnâ ™t answering his phone, and there arenâ ™t any lights on in the building.â • Lula is a former â ™ho who Vinnie hired as a file clerk a while back. When files went digital he didnâ ™t have the guts to fire her, so now Lula shows up every day for work and pretty much does whatever she wants. Mostly she hangs with me. Sheâ ™s shorter than I am. She packs a lot more bodacious voluptuousness into her clothes than I do. Her hair is currently pink. Her skin is always brown. Her attitude is â œSay what?â • lâ ™m pale in comparison to Lula. I have shoulder--length mostly unmanageable curly brown hair thatâ ™s usually pulled into a ponytail, and lâ ™ve been told I look a little like Julia Roberts when she played a hooker in Pretty Woman. I think this is mostly a compliment, right? â œMy personal opinion is that this loser skipped town,â • Lula said. â œItâ ™s not like he got family here. And weâ ™re not lookinâ ™ at someone with a active social life. Only time this man goes out is to hijack a truck, and he got a crimp put in that activity. â • Lights flashed at the cross street and an eighteen--wheeler chugged toward us and parked in front of the lot attached to the garage. The lot was enclosed by a six--foot--high chain link fence topped with razor wire. A man swung down from the cab of the truck and walked to the gate. He fiddled with the lock and the

gate swung open. â œltâ ™s him,â • Lula said, sticking her hand into her big bedazzled purse and rooting around in it looking for her gun. â œltâ ™s that punk--ass Larry Virgil. I told you heâ ™d be back. I got a gun in here somewhere. Hold on while I get my gun.â • â œWe donâ ™t need guns,â • I said. â œHeâ ™s not known for being armed. All we have to do is wait for him to get inside and then weâ ™ll sneak in and slap the cuffs on him.â • â œl got it,â • Lula said. â œl got my gun. Letâ ™s qo!â • â œNot yet,â • I said. Too late. Lula was out from behind the wheel of her Firebird, running across the road, waving her gun and yelling, â œBond enforcement!â • Virgil went deer in the headlights for a moment, then bolted for the corner with Lula in pursuit. Even in the dark of night I could see that Lula was running flat--out in her spike--heeled Via Spigas. Her spandex miniskirt was up around her waist, and one of her basketball--sized boobs had popped out of her tank top. â œStop or lâ ™II shoot you dead,â • Lula yelled at Virgil. I was running behind Lula, trying to close in on her. â œDonâ ™t you dare shoot him,â • I shouted. â œNo shooting!â • Virgil crossed the street and ran back toward the garage. He reached Lulaâ ™s red Firebird, wrenched the door open, jumped in, and took off. â ceHe got my Firebird!â • Lula shrieked. â ceHe got my baby! And my purse is in there too. I personally bedazzled that purse. It was one of a kind. And it got all my makeup in there.â • â œGuess you left the key in the ignition,â • I said, gasping for air, coming alongside Lula. â œAnd you told me not to shoot him,â • Lula said. â œThis is all your fault. If I put some holes in him this would never have happened.â • â œlâ ™ll call it in to the police,â • I said. â œlâ ™m not waiting for no police,â • Lula said. â œlâ ™m going after that punk--ass.â • â œYou wonâ ™t catch him on foot.â • â œlâ ™m not going on foot. lâ ™m taking his truck.â • â œDo you know how to drive a truck?â • â œSure I know how to drive a truck,â • Lula said. â œWhatâ ™s to know?â • She got a foot onto the first step up to the cab but couldnâ ™t get any lift. â œThis here stupid thing is too high, â • Lula said. â œGet your hand under my ass and give me a shove up. â • â œNot for all the tea in China,â ∙ I said. â œThen go around and pull me in.â ∙ I climbed into the cab from the passenger side, crawled over, and gave Lula a hand up. â ceThis is a bad idea, â • I said. â œYou havenâ TMt a clue where heâ TMs headed. Heâ TMs disappeared, and on top of that he probably stole this truck.â • â œl know where heâ ™s going,â • Lula said. â œHeâ ™s going to the chop shop on Stark. Heâ ™s gonna sell my Firebird off for pieces. Thatâ ™s what these creeps do. They got no respect for peopleâ ™s personal vehicles.â • I took my cellphone out of my pocket. â œlâ ™m calling it in.â • Lula stared at the dash. â œThereâ ™s a awful lot of doohickeys here.â • â œl thought you said you knew how to drive one of these.â • â œlâ ™m just sayinâ ™ this hereâ ™s a fancy rig. It got a cup holder and everything.â • She looked down at the floor. â œlt got a lot of pedals down there. What the heck is that big one?â • â œThatâ ™s the clutch pedal.â •

â œYeah, itâ ™s all coming back to me. I used to drive my Uncle Jimmyâ ™s dump truck before I got established as a â ™ho.â • She planted a Via Spiga on the clutch pedal and shifted. â œHere goes nothing.â • The truck lurched forward and ground through a gear. â œThat didnâ ™t sound good,â • I said. â œNo problem,â • Lula said. â œIt donâ ™t matter if we lose a gear or two on account of this baby got a lot of them.â • We slowly drove down the street. â œThis hereâ ™s a piece of cake, a • Lula said. She turned a corner and took out a trash receptacle. a œUh, you might have cut that corner a little tight, â • I said. â œYeah, but did you see how smooth this beauty rolled over that garbage can? Itâ ™s like driving a tank.â • â œThereâ ™s a red light at the cross street,â • I said. â œYou know how to stop, right?â • â œI step on the brake.â • â œYeah, but will the big trailer behind us stop at the same time?â • Lula looked down at the floor. â œl guess itâ ™s all hooked together being that I only see one brake pedal.â • â œThe light! The road!â • I yelled. Lula sailed through the intersection. â œYou just ran the light!â • I said. â œOops,â • Lula said. â œMy bad. Good thing there werenâ ™t any cars there.â • I caught flashing strobes in my side mirror. â œl think we have a cop behind us, â • I said. â œYou should pull over. â • â œNo way, â • Lula said. â œItâ ™II waste my time and I gotta get to the chop shop before they start on my Firebird. Iâ ™II outmaneuver the guy behind me.â • â œYouâ ™re driving a truck! You canâ ™t even turn a corner, much less outmaneuver someone.â • â œBoy, youâ ™re getting cranky. Anyways, this could be a good thing. What we got here is a police escort. Heâ ™II come in handy when we get to Stark Street and we confront Larry Virgil. This is our lucky day. a • The cop car zipped past us and came to a stop just before the next intersection, blocking our way. Two patrolmen got out, guns drawn. â œHit the brakes, â • I said to Lula. â œHit the brakes! â • Lula stomped on the brake pedal, and the rig slowed down but didnâ [™]t stop. The patrolmen jumped out of the way, and Lula punted the patrol car halfway down the block before bringing the semi to a stop. â œlt donâ ™t exactly stop on a dime,â • Lula said. One of the cops approached. I rolled the window down and grimaced. It was Eddie Gazarra. We went to school together, and now he was married to my cousin Shirley the Whiner. â œHey, Eddie,â • I said. â œHowâ ™s it going?â • â œOh crap,â • Eddie said. Lula leaned over and looked past me to Eddie. â œWe gotta get going. That moron Larry Virgil stole my car and I gotta get to Stark Street before my babyâ ™s nothing but spare parts. So lâ ™d appreciate it if you could get your patrol car out of my way. a • Eddie and I looked down the street at what was left of the patrol car. It wasnâ ™t going anywhere anytime soon. â œSorry about your car,â • I said to Eddie. â œLula didnâ ™t totally have the hang of driving this thing.â • Eddieâ ™s partner, Jimmy, was standing alongside him. Our paths had crossed on a couple occasions, but I didnâ ™t actually know him. He was hands on hips looking like he thought this was funny but was trying not to laugh out

loud. â œYouâ ™re supposed to ask to see her license and registration,â • Jimmy said. â œMy license is in my purse which is in my car which has been stolen, â • Lula said. â œAnd what youâ ™re doing here is impeding the progress of justice.â • â œYou know this truck was hijacked, right?â • Eddie asked me. â œNot exactly,â • I said. â œLula and I were staking out Virgilâ ™s garage, and he pulled up in this truck. One thing led to another and here we are â • â œAre we going to arrest them?â • Jimmy asked, still grinning. â œNo, we arenâ ™t going to arrest them,â • Eddie said. â œHer grandmother would make my life a living hell.â • â œWhat do you want to do about the car?â • Jimmy asked Eddie. â œGet a tow truck out here. And report the Firebird to dispatch.â • â œltâ ™s red,â • Lula told Jimmy. â œAnd itâ ™s got a one--of--a--kind bedazzled purse in it.â • I swung down out of the cab. â œlf itâ ™s okay with you lâ ™ll call for a ride.â • â œYou calling Morelli?â • Eddie asked. Joe Morelli is a Trenton cop working crimes against persons. Heâ [™]s also my boyfriend. â œNo,â • I said to Eddie. â œIâ [™]II grab a ride in one of Rangerâ ™s patrol cars. And I can get him to check with the chop shop to make sure they donâ ™t take Lulaâ ™s car apart.â • Ranger is a former Special Forces operative turned businessman and security expert. Heâ TMs six feet of perfectly toned muscle. Heâ TMs my age, but heâ TMs ages beyond me in life experience and street smarts. His coloring and heritage are Latino. Heâ ™s single and intends to stay that way. He owns Rangeman, an exclusive security firm housed in a stealth building in downtown Trenton. â &Sounds like a plan, â • Eddie said. He hitched a thumb in Lulaâ ™s direction. â œYouâ ™re taking her with you?â • â œI guess.â • â œSheâ ™s going to have to come in and file an accident report tomorrow. I imagine by then youâ ™II have come up with an explanation.â • â œYeah. I owe you.â • â œGood,â • Eddie said, â œbecause I need a babysitter next Saturday.â • I squelched a grimace. Eddieâ ™s kids were monsters. â œlâ ™ll be there,â • I told him. I made a short call to Ranger and joined Lula and Eddie at the side of the truck. â œThis is a freezer truck, â • Lula said. â œWhat do you suppose Larry Virgil was gonna do with it? You think he has a big--ass freezer in his garage? How was he gonna store all the frozen stuff until he could turn it around?â • â œMaybe itâ ™s empty,â • I said. â œMaybe he already offloaded the ice cream somewhere.â • â œThis was reported stolen by Bogart Ice Cream,â • Eddie said. â œThe compressor is running, so itâ ™s probably still full of ice cream.â • He walked to the back door. â œNo security seal. Itâ ™s just padlocked.â • â œl could shoot the padlock off,â • Lula said, â ceand then we could see what we got in here.â • Eddie cut his eyes to Lula. â ceThat would be if I had a gun,â • Lula said, thinking twice about her offer since she didnâ ™t have a permit to carry concealed. â œHey, Jimmy, â • Eddie yelled. â œLook in the cab and see if you can find the key to the padlock for the back door.â • Jimmy climbed into the cab and swung down with the key. Eddie

took the key, opened the door to the freezer truck, and a body fell out. We all jumped back. â œWhat the hell?â • Jimmy said. It was a chocolate--covered man, sprinkled with chopped pecans, totally frozen. Hard to tell if it was a real corpse or a solid chocolate novelty item. We all looked down at it. â œThat better not be a dead person, â • Lula said. â œOn account of you know how I feel about dead people. lâ ™m not in favor of them.â • â œCould just be a big popsicle,â • Jimmy said, toeing the chocolate guy. â œl donâ ™t think so,â • Lula said. â œlt donâ ™t got no stick up its hoo--hoo.â • â œCall it in,â • Eddie said to Jimmy. â œAnd tell them to get CSI out here before he melts.â • â œMaybe we should put him back in the freezer truck,â • I said to Eddie. â œYeah,â • Eddie said. â cel guess we could do that.â • No one made a move to pick up the chocolate guy. â œOr we could leave him here,â • I said. â œThat got my vote,â • Lula said. â œIâ ™m not touching him, in case he got the dead cooties.â • â œKeep your eye on him,â • Eddie said to me. â œlâ ™m going to see if I can get the trunk open on the squad car so I can get some crime scene tape and rubber gloves. a • Lula looked into the trailer. a ceThey had him jammed up next to the back door.â • Lula said. â œThe rest of the truck is filled with cartons of Bogart ice cream. Somebodyâ ™s gonna be real disappointed in the morning if they donâ ™t get their ice cream delivery. Personally lâ ™m a Mo Morris ice cream person as opposed to a Bogart ice cream person. Not that lâ ™d turn my nose up at a carton of this here ice cream if it accidentally fell out of the truck.â • â œThat would be tampering with evidence,â • Jimmy said. â œJust sayinâ ™.â • Eddie returned with some yellow tape and a box of disposable gloves. â œlâ ™d be willing to help,â • Lula said, â œbut those gloves are the wrong size for me.â • â œTheyâ ™re one--size--fits--all,â • Eddie said. â œNuh--uh,â • Lula said. â œThey wouldnâ ™t look good on me, and theyâ ™d ruin my nail varnish.â • A shiny black Porsche Cayenne drove up and eased to a stop, and Ranger got out. He was dressed in Rangeman black fatigues. Heâ ™s the boss, but he still works alongside his men if the threat level is high or if theyâ ™re short--handed. He walked over to me and looked down at the chocolate man. â œNice touch with the chopped nuts, â • Ranger said. â œWho is he? â • â œDonâ ™t know,â • Eddie said. â œl donâ ™t want to go through his pockets and ruin the chocolate. a • Eddie and Ranger pulled on rubber gloves, crammed the stiff back into the truck, and closed the door on him. I got into the front of the Porsche with Ranger, and Lula got into the back. We drove to Stark Street in silence, and Ranger parked in front of the chop shop. A shiny black Rangeman Ford Explorer idled in the driveway. Lulaâ ™s red Firebird was parked next to the Explorer. A Rangeman guy who looked like the Hulk except for the part about being green got out of the Explorer and walked over to us. â ceThe Firebird was just dropped off, â • he said to Ranger, handing him the car keys. â œlt seems to be undamaged. Thereâ ™s a purse in the backseat.â •

â œAny sign of Larry Virgil?â • Ranger asked. â œNo. I guess he left the car here and took off.â • Ranger handed the keys over to Lula. â œl got my baby back,â • Lula said, taking the keys, exiting the Porsche. â œAnything I can ever do for you, just let me know,â • she said to Ranger. She looked the Hulk over. â œYou too, big, black, and bad--ass. Anything you need, you just ask Lula.â • ⠢ Â ⠢ Â â ¢ Ranger drove away, leaving his man grinning at Lula. â œSheâ ™ll take him apart and wonâ ™t put him back together again,â • Ranger said to me. â œls your car at the office?â • â œNo. Lula picked me up at home.â • â œBabe,â • Ranger said. â œBabeâ • covers a lot of ground for Ranger, depending upon the inflection. Tonight it was said softly with an undertone of desire, as if he might take me home and stay awhile. It gave me an instant rush, and heat curled through a bunch of my internal organs. I did my best to squash the heat and ignore the rush, but in the process of ignoring the rush I inadvertently gave up a sigh. â œWhat?â • Ranger asked. â œMorelli.â • Morelli and I have had an on again, off again relationship since I was five years old. Lately when weâ ™re off again, Ranger swoops in. At first glance it might appear that lâ ™m lacking in moral character to be bouncing around between men like this, but itâ ™s only two men. I mean, itâ TMs not like lâ TMm dating a football team. And letâ TMs be honest about this. These guys are both twelve on a scale of one to ten. And I might only be a six. So how lucky am I? A couple weeks ago, in a moment of euphoria, Morelli and I agreed to become engaged to be engaged. It was a good moment, but I think itâ ™s a little like planning on winning the lottery or contemplating losing five pounds. I mean, what are the chances of it actually happening? â œUnfortunate,â • Ranger said, â œbut the night wasnâ ™t a complete loss. I got to see a dead guy dressed up like a Bogart Bar. What were you doing with the freezer truck? a • a ceLula and I were staking out Larry Virgil, and he drove up in the semi. One thing led to another. Blah blah blah. And Lula crashed the truck into Eddie Gazarraâ ™s squad car.â • â œAnd the deceased?â • â œWe opened the door to look inside and the guy fell out.â • â œAs it turns out,â • Ranger said, â œlâ ™ve been hired by Harry Bogart. He wants increased security in his factory. For years heâ ™s been engaged in an ice cream war with Mo Morris. In the past itâ TMs been confined to competitive pricing, ripping off recipes, ads that pushed the boundaries of libel, and occasionally a shouting match at a family function.â • â œTheyâ TMre related?â • â œCousins.â • â œAnd I guess they donâ TMt like each other.â • â œNot even a little. Lately bad things have been happening to Harry Bogart. Salmonella in the double chocolate. A bomb hoax that shut down production for an entire day. One of the freezers was down for the night and literally a ton of ice cream melted. Bogart is sure itâ ™s Mo Morris out to ruin him, but he canâ ™t prove anything.â • â œSo heâ ™s hired you.â • â œHis factory is old--school. No security cameras. No instant alerts when equipment goes down. Locks that can be

opened with a nail file. I guess heâ ™s never needed more. Itâ ™s not like heâ ™s doing nuclear research.â • â œYouâ ™re fixing all that.â • â œYes, but it takes time. Itâ ™s a big job. He needs new wiring. He has to approve the system design. Iâ ™d like to give him a couple men on foot patrol until we get everything up and running, but he refuses. He says ice cream is happiness and comfort and his customers would turn to birthday cake and mac and cheese if they thought his ice cream was under siege.â • â œHe sounds like a nice man.â • â œHeâ ™s ruthless and miserly. So far I havenâ ™t seen evidence of nice.â • â œHe makes good ice cream.â • Ranger nodded. â œSo lâ ™ve been told â • â œDo you think the dead guy could be Harry Bogart?â • â œNo. Wrong body type. Bogart is a big man.â • â œEats a lot of ice cream?â • â œEats a lot of everything.â • Ranger turned in to my parking lot. â cel need someone to go inside the two ice cream factories and look around. Do you have time to moonlight for me?â • â œWhat would I do?â • â œMost of the line workers are women, so you would blend in. Iâ ™d put you on the line to start. All youâ ™d have to do is keep your ears open and look around. lâ TMm told that everyone gets to take a pint of ice cream home with them at the end of the shift in Mo Morrisâ ™s plant.â • â œHard to pass that up.â • Ranger stopped in front of my apartment buildingâ ™s back door. I made a move to get out of the car, and he pulled me to him and kissed me. The kiss was light but lingering, sending a clear message of checked passion. He released me and relaxed back into his seat. â œlâ ™II make the arrangements for you to start work at Bogartâ ™s plant and be back in touch,â • Ranger said. It took me a couple beats to get myself together. â œOkay then,â • I said. â œBe careful driving home.â • ⠜Babe,⠕ Ranger said. ⠢ Â ⠢ Â â ¢ Morelli was on my couch watching television as I walked in. His big mostly golden retriever, Bob, was on the couch with him. There was a takeout pizza box on the coffee table. Morelli looked up at me and grinned. â œHave a good night?â • â œEddie Gazarra called you, didnâ ™t he?â • â œCupcake, everyone called me, including your mother and the Trenton Times.â • â œNews travels fast.â • â œNot every day someone gets dipped in chocolate and sprinkled with nuts. Usually people in Trenton just get stabbed and shot.â • I squeezed between Morelli and Bob, flipped the lid up on the pizza box, and took a piece. â œl thought you might have gotten the call on this one.â • â œl just came off a double shift so I was low in the rotation. Butch Zajak pulled it.â • â œl canâ ™t stop thinking about the dead man.â • â œYeah, me too. Eddie said he was dressed up like a Bogart Bar. I donâ ™t suppose you have any.â • â œNo, but the freezer truck was filled with cartons of them. It was like the man in the truck was part of the Bogart Bar run. â • â œAll this talk about Bogart Bars is making me feel romantic, â • Morelli said. Hereâ ™s the deal with Morelli. Everything makes him feel romantic. Morelli wrapped an arm around me and nibbled at my neck. â œlâ ™m thinking after the pizza what I need is

dessert. Like a Bogart Bar.â • â œl donâ ™t have good feelings about Bogart Bars right now.â • â œOkay, how about a hot fudge sundae?â • â œl guess that would be okay.â • â œDo you have ice cream? Chocolate sauce?â • Morelli asked. â œNo.â • â œSome of that whipped cream in a can?â • â œNo.â • â œNo problem. I can use my imagination.â • I was warming to the idea. â œAnd then you know what comes next,â • Morelli said. â œWhat?â • â œl get to be the sundae.â • Damn! I knew thereâ ™d be a catch.From the Hardcover edition.

This will likely be my last purchase in the series. Whole chunks of text are direct from earlier books. The writing quality has continually depreciated over the last several books in the series, and I suspect they are largely being written by someone else. Not worth the time or the money. Re-read an older Plum instead, you will enjoy it more.

Save your money and reread one of the earlier Plum books - this is just a redo of the last 10 + books in the series. Sorry but only the scenery changes, same plot line, same men story line etc. The idea is she is a college grad with no usable skills, does the bounty job half way & hops back & forth between 2 men. She doesn't get ahead, she doesn't change, she is definitely NOT a good example to younger girls. Sorry, this has been my last Evanovich book.

I was a bit dIsappointed with this one. I have read all the Stephanie Plum series and loved them all. My favorite character is Grandma Mazur, she is not a huge part of this story and I was more than dIsappointed, the wasn't a lot of Stephanie's bumbling and accidental captures as in the other books. This book fell short of what had been delivered in the previous books.

This is so sad for me. I LOVE this series. But after 23 books of THE SAME THING I am done. I will not purchase the next book. Stephanie has turned into a slut. She keeps going after Ranger when she's supposed to be with joe. Lula is getting redundant. It's the same book for the last 23 years. A decades long fan sadly is stopping here. I've leaned my lesson reading the end of Charlaine Harris' Sookie Stackhouse. At the end, the authors have made their money and don't care about the FANS.

After years and years of planning the next 48 hours after a book was released I just don't care. I am confident I have read the same text over and over. Don't waste your \$. In a day o two your local goodwill will have it for \$1.00.00.Also can I ask, how long are we to believe that Rex the miracle hamster has been alive for?

You just can't do it anymore. If it were a T.V. show it would have been canceled long ago. Not once did I laugh or remember why I have read all 23 books. It was garbage. You had something so special in the beginning, and now the flame has burned out. Put it to rest. Give the true fans the respect to not continue this series any longer.

So disappointed. Same old thing. Same Lula. Same Stephanie. Not sure if Evanovich even wrote it. Stephanie needs to be brought to an end. Get her pregnant and marry her off or something. (BTW, I have purchased them from the beginning and enjoyed them until the last several.)

I love the Stephanie Plum series. However this was a letdown. It felt more like a college essay or that the author was going through the motions to meet a deadline. After 23 books, I'd like to see a little more substance, more of Joe and Ranger, and maybe even a third love interest to kick Joe and or Ranger into gear. And it's ok to make the story line a little more complex; your readers are smart and can follow along.

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