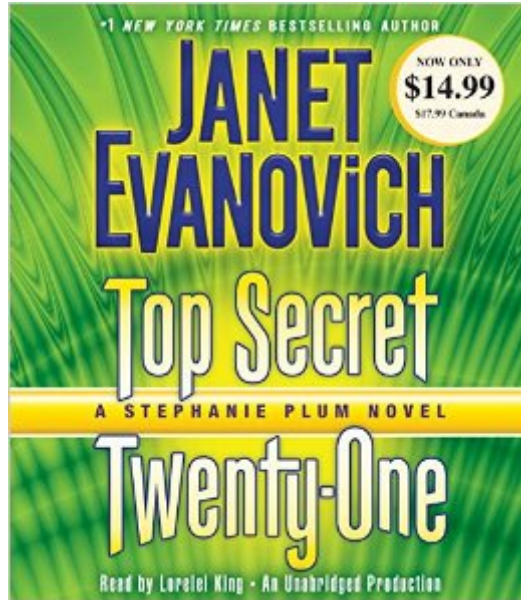


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Top Secret Twenty-One: A Stephanie Plum Novel



Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
Catch a professional assassin: top priority. Find a failure-to-appear and collect big bucks: top score. How she'll pull it all off: top secret. Trenton, New Jersey's favorite used-car dealer, Jimmy Poletti, was caught selling a lot more than used cars out of his dealerships. Now he's out on bail and has missed his date in court, and bounty hunter Stephanie Plum is looking to bring him in. Leads are quickly turning into dead ends, and all too frequently into dead bodies. Even Joe Morelli, the city's hottest cop, is struggling to find a clue to the suspected killer's whereabouts. These are desperate times, and they call for desperate measures. So Stephanie is going to have to do something she really doesn't want to do: protect former hospital security guard and general pain in her behind Randy Briggs. Briggs was picking up quick cash as Poletti's bookkeeper and knows all his boss's dirty secrets. Now Briggs is next on Poletti's list of people to put six feet under. To top things off, Ranger's resident security expert and Stephanie's greatest temptation has been the target of an assassination plot. He's dodged the bullet this time, but if Ranger wants to survive the next attempt on his life, he'll have to enlist Stephanie's help and reveal a bit more of his mysterious past. Death threats, highly trained assassins, highly untrained assassins, and Stark Street being overrun by a pack of feral Chihuahuas are all in a day's work for Stephanie Plum. The real challenge is dealing with her Grandma Mazur's wild bucket list. A boob job and getting revenge on Joe Morelli's Grandma Bella can barely hold a candle to what's number one on the list—but that's top secret. Praise for Top Secret Twenty-One "The combination of biting dialogue, outrageous characters and intense story lines are consistent throughout. And [Janet Evanovich] novels are the true definition of a guilty pleasure." Associated Press "Evanovich doesn't disappoint. . . . [She] weaves setting, family, romance and crime to pull the plot of Top Secret Twenty-One forward." Bookreporter From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Series: Stephanie Plum

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5,033 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #350,099 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (E) > Evanovich, Janet #209 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #512 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

Janet Evanovich has been writing best-selling books for so many years I forget when I started reading them. The antics of Stephanie and her crew have made me laugh so hard I had tears running down my legs. The sexual tension between the characters has always had me coming back for more, and, more. Ms. Evanovich was a master of the craft and we all profited from it. She's done now. The legend of Stephanie Plum is over. I don't know how it happened. I don't know when it all started to go wrong. But alas, the ride is over. Maybe it started when the author started to write other series with other authors. Maybe she just had no more left for Stephanie to do. But since about book 11, I think we all started getting tired of it. How many more times is someone going to say "babe"? Are we expected to read a book where someone usually dies, the dog eats something and pukes, grandma does something kooky, and the heroine waffles back and forth between two men. We all give thanks for the years of enjoyment but we are officially done. For the last ten books (translate ten years and about \$300.00, not to mention the shelf space we have lost) you can take off the dust jackets, mix them around and put them in any order you want. It makes no difference, THE'RE ALL THE SAME BOOK!!!! I gave it ten good years and except for the fact that the books are getting thinner, they haven't changed a bit. I actually SKIMMED through this book. Can you believe it? SKIMMED!!! I'm sorry Janet, I have loved your books since I was a teenager, but I can't read one more repetitious word. I WILL miss you. But I really need the shelf space.

Anymore, I look forward to reading the Stephanie Plum book reviews much more than I actually enjoy the books. Let me summarize: Lula is fat, beautiful and funny; Grandma Mazur is whacky; Vinnie is creepy; Connie is competent; Rex is a . well my goodness he's STILL ALIVE and still pretty much a work free pet; Joe is hardworking, decent, needs a hair cut, and likes sex; Ranger is hardworking, dark, mysterious, wealthy and just an almost irresistible temptation; Stephanie is cute, has curly hair that she wears in a ponytail, utterly incompetent and lucky as all heck; Well, and Randy Briggs is back. Still short. Still obnoxious. And this year's weird animal is a pack of red-eyed killer chihuahuas. Do you people know how hard it is to correctly spell chihuahua? I think getting that right numerous

times was probably the biggest effort that was put into writing this book.

I have been a loyal fan for the entire series. But when you have 21 volumes to 1 Series, unless you're very good the stories continue to repeat themselves. This book was nothing new, same stories different book. I'm really disappointed in Janet, after all these years you think if the story wasn't going to go anywhere she would end rather than letting it bad. This was my last Stephanie Plum book, I will not continue to waste my money to reread one of the other many volumes of the series. Spoiler alert - Stephanie's in danger, the boys fight over her, and she ends up in a ridiculous situation where she has one of her felons living with her. No decision on Joe or Ranger, no movement on either relationship, and at the end of the book I'm no further invested than I was at the end of the last.

I downloaded and read this book in about 3 hours on my Kindle Fire HD. It was SO predictable. Nothing new was added, nothing old disappeared. If I had to do it over again, I would never have touched one of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum books. Never. Not in a million years. But, like Steph and donuts, I'm kinda hooked. I figure the series has to come to some conclusion eventually.... This book, however, was such a formulation of all the last few years' of Plum number series books that it was impossible to find anything much to smile about, be interested in, or even be grossed out about even though Janet amped up the gross factor quite a lot to make up for the lack of sex. This was a first I think. Usually there's not much grossness or sex. Just a girl who is always described by her hair, her mascara, her lip gloss and her lack of markmanship. This has to end, Janet. Please. Use a nice even number like " 22" and put Steph. with one of the two men, make it final, and maybe shuffle the formula writing off to someone else- someone who will then write gooey romance novels about Stephanie and either Joe or Ranger. I'd actually read more if Ranger was the leading man. This action adventure is stale and trite and the gore in this novel was " shock jock". I believe an adolescent is writing under Evanovich's famed name now. Really.

A few things: 1. As others have mentioned, this is the same book as the last 10 or so. At this point, just boring. I stopped buying them after Eighteen, thank goodness. My power was out for 2 hours this morning and I couldn't read this book. 2. I read an article about or interview with Ms. Evanovich a while ago and she indicated that the passage of time within the series is not the same as the passage of time between the books. Fine. But Sue Grafton's alphabet series does the same thing (6 months pass in Kinsey Milhone's life between each book) and I still find more character

development. And, it's still been several years within the timeframe of the series.³ To shake things up, Ranger should meet a woman to whom he can actually commit. That would at least give the potential for some drama and comedy. After all this time, even within the timeframe of the series, it's not going to happen with Stephanie.⁴ Who is paying for all of these 5-star reviews?

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