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Smokin' Seventeen: A Stephanie Plum Novel (Stephanie Plum Novels)



Synopsis

Where there's smoke there's fire, and no one knows this better than New Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. Dead bodies are showing up in shallow graves on the empty construction lot of Vincent Plum Bail Bonds. No one is sure who the killer is, or why the victims have been offed, but what is clear is that Stephanie's name is on the killer's list. Short on time to find the murderer, Stephanie is also under pressure from family and friends to choose between her on-again-off-again boyfriend, Trenton cop Joe Morelli, and the bad boy in her life, security expert Ranger. Stephanie's mom wants her to dump them both for a former high school football star who's just returned to town. Stephanie's sidekick, Lula, suggests a red-hot boudoir bake-off. And Joe's old-world grandmother gives Stephanie the eye, which may mean that it's time to get out of town. With a cold-blooded killer after her, a handful of hot men, and a capture list that includes a dancing bear and a senior citizen vampire, Stephanie's life looks like it's about to go up in smoke. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Series: Stephanie Plum Novels (Book 17)

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio (June 12, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 044900953X

ISBN-13: 978-0449009536

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 1,474 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Janet Evanovich: "No less than her plotting, Evanovich's characterizations are models of screwball artistry. . . . The intricate plot machinery of her comic capers is fueled by inventive twists." "The New York Times" "Chutzpah and sheer comic inventiveness . . . The Evanovich/Plum books [are] good fun." "The Washington Post" From the Trade Paperback edition.

Janet Evanovich is the #1 bestselling author of the Stephanie Plum novels, twelve romance novels, the Alexandra Barnaby novels and graphic novels, *Wicked Appetite* (the first book in the Lizzy and Diesel series), and *How I Write: Secrets of a Bestselling Author*.

Posted at [...]You don't know me. I'm a fan of your work, have been for years. I have gotten many friends and family hooked on Stephanie, Joe, Ranger and Lula. I had every one of your books. I love your work with Charlotte Hughes and the Full Series. I have laughed and teared up, I have giggled and gasped for years, but it's time I stand up and shout. Your last three Stephanie Plum Novels have left me feeling cheated. With each new installment I hope for more. But I get the same old antics. I read a recent interview with you, in which you say that when an author finds a winning formula, to stick with it and milk it for all it's worth. I take issue with this. How can an author expect their fans to keep buying a novel with the same plots, same games, same lines, same everything? The books seem to be getting shorter, the font larger, and the quality poorer, all with a hardcover price. I used to recommend your books to all who would listen, but now? I shy away and that sucks! In your latest installment of the Stephanie Plum Series, Stephanie turns into a Hoochie. I'm sorry to say it. I don't like the word, I don't like the meaning, but it's what you turned her into. I didn't mind so much previously when she would steal a few kisses here and there between Ranger and Joe (and hell Diesel) but having her sleep with both men, in the same book, on back to back nights is just shameful. Gramma Bella SHOULD put the eye on her! Joe SHOULD dump her, so should Ranger. So what, now that Joe and Stephanie have an 'open' relationship they can sleep with whomever they want, whenever they want, and each other? Yuck. I was a Joe fan in the beginning of the series, but then he turned rather chauvinistic, spouting how she should be barefoot and pregnant and not working, and that got my feminist hackles all up and pissy. I've always been a Ranger girl, but I can't understand how he can still be around playing for scraps. Is her vagina magic? Are you gearing up to make her like Anita Blake? Because if So, please for the love of books don't!!! Characters need growth in a series. Stephanie has not grown, in fact I could argue that she has regressed. After seventeen books, she STILL can't shoot her gun, she can't use handcuffs, she blows up cars, and has no desire to learn self defense. I'm sorry, but she's an idiot. And not a funny one anymore. To me, and I know that I am not alone, Stephanie used to be a source of comic relief. She made me laugh and took me out of the seriousness of my life or other more suspenseful books I was reading at the time. But she's no longer funny, she's a joke. If you are tired of writing her, then please stop. If you think your fans will stop reading if she chooses to stay with ONE of the men, they won't. If you are doing this for the money, I'm sorry. I won't be buying anymore of your

novels. If this alienates me in the book blogging world, so be it. I can't stand it anymore. I've held my council for the last three books and I can't do it anymore. It's my opinion, but I am not alone. I implore you to see reason. Please go back to writing meaningfully. Make Stephanie grow up a bit. Make her see that she has to learn. I hate to see her the way she is. I hope you have a plan. I pray to the editors that you have a plan. Please don't string us along. Don't make us hate her. We fans, and Stephanie as well, deserve better than what you are giving us.

I've purchased all seventeen Stephanie Plum novels. The last 3 or 4 I debated, but in the end though, heck, yeah, I love Stephanie, so I forked over the money. But each time since about number 13, I regretted it. I cannot remember the plots of those last few books. I just finished Smokin Seventeen a couple weeks ago and I can't even remember ITS plot, though I know the plot itself has always been secondary to the antics. But still. A couple SPOILERS**** I love the car bombings, Lula and the family. So SOME of the formula works for me, though those things are not written as well as the first 10 novels. And was glad there was no monkeys or hobbits, but, a BEAR? Geesh. It seemed to be something thrown in. I know Janet wants to keep things "interesting", but interesting was Grandma shooting a chicken at dinner. Unusual, and hilarious, but not over the top ridiculous. I HATE Joe and Ranger both now. WOW, I can't believe I said it, but I do. This is all so old and tired I don't care how "hot" they are I don't want Stephanie with either of them. I was excited when "Dave" was introduced thinking, YAY, a new guy! Then, well, that didn't turn out. I am no prude but ... wow.... really? Doing the deed with BOTH Ranger and Joe is borderline sluthood. Heck, it just IS. Joe can't be THAT DUMB to think she is not sleeping with Ranger. And doesn't seem to care. ICK. I could whine some more but the thing is - look at us all whining saying the last few books were bad - but yet we still bought this one, didn't we. I will read Explosive Eighteen. I guess I just always have this hope that the magic will return. BUT, for the first time ever - I have it pre-requested at the library. I do have to say that after seeing the "One for the Money" trailer, I'm looking forward to it. I'm not a Katherine Heigl fan - she seems to rub a lot of people the wrong way, but I do seem to think she'll fit the bill. For those that were gunning for Sandra Bullock - what part of "She's too OLD" are you not getting!!

I almost decided to let other reviews run unchallenged since I agreed so highly with them but then I thought they did not make their point hard enough. That point is the books are not Evanovitch writing, it must be some one else. The most obvious change is the way Plum regards sex, it is almost pornographic and received a lot of attention. This was not true of the better Plum books, up

to the lower teens before they began to shift to bad. I bought them, now I hate myself for so doing. A lot of the reviews make this point, I shall not belabor it. The books are no longer any good, the characters have lost their redeeming features, the plots stink if there are any plots, there seems a lot of reruns here, noted by many others, originality has beat a hasty retreat. I looked forward to destroyed cars, hard to lock up FTA's, mysterious and hidden Ranger, and Morelli's strong sex appeal, not the attempt to keep the men around and keep Plum guessing, instead of making her such a willing bed partner, she has taken over from Lula. Who wants to keep reading this dirty brown word stuff? I don't know how hard it is to convince me an author has lost her stuff, that is why I believe in ghost writers, I can't believe Evanovitch wrote such stuff. I admit I am complaining, I am not reviewing the book, it is too obvious, too poorly written, and I think I am giving it two stars more out of my remembrance of how Evanovitch used to write than present value. I finally got a Kindle for Christmas, I may save some money now and will not mind not completely reading the next Plum books hoping we will get the real author back

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