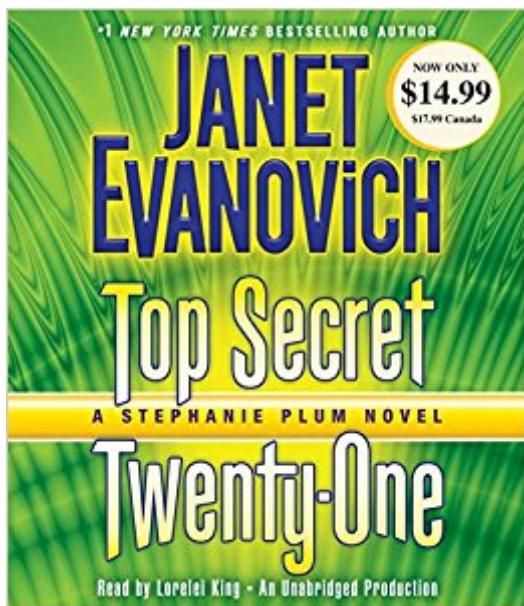


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Top Secret Twenty-One: A Stephanie Plum Novel



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. A 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, 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.

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Customer Reviews

“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.” •BookreporterFrom the Hardcover edition.

Janet Evanovich is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Stephanie Plum series, the Lizzy and Diesel series, twelve romance novels, the Alexandra Barnaby novels and Trouble Maker graphic novel, and *How I Write: Secrets of a Bestselling Author*, as well as the Fox and O’Hare series with co-author Lee Goldberg.

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 jerk; 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 await the publication of a Stephanie Plum novel with great anticipation! Eleven dollars? No problem. The value of some good laughter is priceless. Unfortunately, this novel just didn't have me laughing like I usually do. There was too much of Ranger and Stephanie spying on Russians and not enough "crazy." Stephanie continues her attraction to two men (which I was over a long time ago), and so she has sex with Joe one night and is drooling over Ranger the next day. It's the one aspect of this series that I find pretty disgusting. Still, the rest of the looney characters keep me coming back for more because they really tickle my funny bone! However, in this novel, the laughs were few and far between. So, while I found Top Secret Twenty-One to be mildly entertaining, it certainly wasn't what I was hoping for. Next time Janet, forget the Mission Impossible stuff. Keep the crime "home grown" and greasy, just like the food at Cluck-in-a-Bucket. Don't skimp on the Lula, and please let Stephanie fall in love instead of just lust!

I have been reading the Plum books from the beginning and they began to feel pretty stale and predictable at #20 so I stopped for a few years. I was running out of things to read, and after some pretty bad authors, I decided to try the Plum books again where I left off. You know, predictable isn't so bad after all. The writing is still good, it was nice to already know the characters and locations. It was like coming back to your home town after a long absence where little has changed, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. I'm glad I read this one and now have a few more to catch up on.

I feel like the author has lost her touch. I liked this book a lot more than the last 2 in the series but it was just ok. The mystery was entertaining. Sexually frustrating....and I'm ready for more romance and excitement. Pregnancy scare.....another women to catch her guy(s) attention to make her jealous.....I don't know....BUT SOMETHING NEEDS TO HAPPEN. The early books were so funny. The last several books have been boring. Too many detail about meals, grocery shopping....boring interactions with bad guys. I don't know but I think I'm done with this series. Maybe I'll start checking them out from the library for free. Not waste any more money on this series. Bummer.

This past year, I have read all of Janet Evanovich's books. I have to say I like her style. There is humor, imagination, great characters and situations, and almost no grammatical errors. Her books are fun to read, and generally leave me feeling good. I consider them like I would a favorite TV show -- more episodes along a formulaic line. This one left me feeling like Stephanie was finally giving Ranger pause to consider her a likely mate. Joe is still in the running if Stephanie's biological clock should suddenly go off. And grandma and Lula are still hamming up the scenes. Overall, I think this is a pretty satisfying Stephanie Plum episode.

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