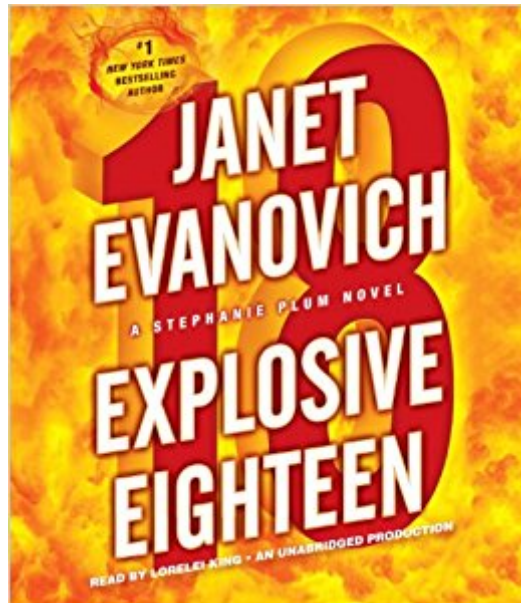




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Explosive Eighteen: A Stephanie Plum Novel (Stephanie Plum Novels)



Synopsis

Bounty hunter Stephanie Plum's life is set to blow sky high when international murder hits dangerously close to home, in this dynamite novel by Janet Evanovich. Before Stephanie can even step foot off Flight 127 Hawaii to Newark, she's knee deep in trouble. Her dream vacation turned into a nightmare, and she's flying back to New Jersey solo. Worse still, her seatmate never returned to the plane after the L.A. layover. Now he's dead, in a garbage can, waiting for curbside pickup. His killer could be anyone. And a ragtag collection of thugs and psychos, not to mention the FBI, are all looking for a photograph the dead man was supposed to be carrying. Only one other person has seen the missing photo—Stephanie Plum. Now she's the target, and she doesn't intend to end up in a garbage can. With the help of an FBI sketch artist Stephanie re-creates the person in the photo. Unfortunately the first sketch turns out to look like Tom Cruise, and the second sketch like Ashton Kutcher. Until Stephanie can improve her descriptive skills, she'll need to watch her back. Over at the bail bonds agency things are going from bad to worse. The bonds bus serving as Vinnie's temporary HQ goes up in smoke. Stephanie's wheelman, Lula, falls in love with their largest skip yet. Lifetime arch nemesis Joyce Barnhardt moves into Stephanie's apartment. And everyone wants to know what happened in Hawaii? Morelli, Trenton's hottest cop, isn't talking about Hawaii. Ranger, the man of mystery, isn't talking about Hawaii. And all Stephanie is willing to say about her Hawaiian vacation is . . . It's complicated.

Book Information

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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 – “[Evanovich’s novels are] among the great joys of contemporary crime fiction.” – GQ

Janet Evanovich is the #1 New York Times 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*.

As usual, I really enjoyed the book. It was entertaining and amusing. It’s always nice to know that when I need to read something that’s not cerebral, Stephanie Plum is there. Ranger and Morelli finally come to blows. I knew it would happen eventually and who knows, maybe it will again. Grandma Mazur was uncharacteristically well behaved considering. Stephanie gets sucked into some cloak and dagger mystery on her way home from Hawaii. It gets her some stalkers and one crazy dude that wants to “kill her good”. In this book, we find that when she feels threatened she can definitely put a hurtin’ on someone. Go Steph! I still find it amusing that so many reviewers complain about the series being stagnant, but still continue to read. Nothing is going to change. If it does, I can only imagine the series will be over. I must admit, I would like to see Stephanie become a bit more adept (i.e. lock picking, gun handling). With that perpetual black cloud hanging over her head, her apprehensions and her life in general would still be hilarious.

Like watching silly comedies, or movies, these books are meant to entertain . . . period! Of course these Stephanie Plum novels are written to a formula, and that is the whole point! I know what to expect and I know when to laugh. The characters are always who they are; from mom and her bottle and iron, to Rex and his soup can . . . we know who they are and what they do. . . . and we always get that sense of stability and familiarity that we long for in life from these books. My own life is full of stress and pain and though I love to read heavier, more thoughtful classics, I am attracted to stories like this for my emotional retreat. I will never have to get too attached to any of these characters (except for Rex) because they don’t demand it! While reading these stories, I never have to solve the world’s problems or feel guilty because I haven’t done enough, in my lifetime, to clean up ALL the messes humankind has left behind . . . instead I can rejoice in glee every time Stephanie fails at

a capture and marvel at Lula and her brand of wisdom or her latest "diet" . . . I can be secretly attracted to Ranger and adore the bizarre Grandma Mazur . . . and I always expect a spectacular vehicle explosion. There is always a bit of a mystery but not one that breaks my brain at the end of a hot day at work . . . I can read and go along with the flow of the story . . . and when the end comes all too soon, I am satisfied and ready for the next installment. I hope that Stephanie never makes a choice between one or the other of her guys . . . I think she should be free to be herself . . . never becoming like her mother . . . barefoot in the kitchen . . . eyeing the cupboard with the hidden bottle of whiskey, but remaining a character with hidden dreams of walking from one day to the next while maintaining a personal integrity of freedom. I appreciate this style of entertainment . . . simple and funny with no surprises . . . yet charged with a certain measure of hope that it will all work out in the end. . . because it always does.

It is amazing that Janet Evanovich continues to get a little more creative when she writes, Explosive Eighteen is better than some of her previous novels. Stephanie Plum is more aggressive in this funny, no hilarious book! And Lula? Well, Lula is just good ol' Lula. Whamm again and again with her. She is in heat over a new guy that is not very law abiding. As for Vinnie, once again he is on the brink of disaster. The office is being rebuilt after a fire that began how? Their temporary office, a motor home, also some how goes up in flames. Stephanie keeps up with Morelli and Ranger. There are those that want Stephanie gone but why? What is this "photo" that suddenly appears in her purse and why? Read this fun filled book and you'll find out! Rated PG. Strong language. DP. Castro Valley, CA.

I've been a reader of this series since book one and the days I lived not all that far from Trenton, New Jersey where Stephanie calls home. Another fun read full of romantic and professional fiascos, including her trip to Hawaii that did nothing to untangle her relationships with either Joe or Ranger. But a tan line that looks like a wedding band?? Hmmm. Got my attention! No car explosions in this one, but you really won't miss them - there are plenty of other "explosions" to keep you reading and laughing your way through the "burb." Not as entertaining as some of them, but still a darned good read.

It's the typical Stephanie Plum bumbling adventure, but this felt rushed at the end with strings left hanging. I don't find myself laughing as much as I used to when reading these books. But whenever I need to relax and drift into something that requires no analyzing, reasoning or logical thinking,

these books come in handy. This one was a rush job at the end. I'm a bit disappointed in that but hey....on to the next installment.

Ahhhh, Stephanie Plum rocks. Another funny, easy to read, fabulous story. I love this series and even at number 18 they still give me great entertainment and joy. Thanks Janet Evanovich!

Stephanie Plum, Grandma Mazur, Lula, Ranger, and Morello are my favorite book friends! This is my 2nd time reading this one, but it was still as enjoyable as the 1st! If you're not reading this series, you are missing out on some SERIOUS FUN!

I was a huge fan of the series up and until about Fourteen. Unfortunately, the stories are getting repetitive and boring. I'm tired of reading about how much LULA is eating FRIED CHICKEN. Not only does it border on racist, but also implies that fat people only think about food. She has become a cartoon character. Also tired of the Joe/Ranger flip flop. By this time they would have both dumped her! If Evanovich has nothing new to present, she should end the series.

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