



Turbo Twenty-Three

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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 body--frozen solid and covered in chocolate and chopped pecans.

As fate would have it, Stephanie's mentor and occasional employer, Ranger, needs her to go undercover at the Bogart factory to find out who's putting their employees on ice and sabotaging the business. It's 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. It's also going to be hard to explain to Trenton's hottest cop, Joe Morelli, why she is spending late nights with Ranger, late nights with Lula and Randy Briggs--who are naked and afraid--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 "virtually no marketable skills," these are the kinds of *sweet* assignments she does best.

Turbo Twenty-Three Details

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Adrienne says

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Sandra says

Team Ranger or Team Morelli?

This is like watching a train wreck. You want the series to stop, but still you can't look away (or add it to your wishlist for that matter). Probably repetitive like the previous one, though.

Monnie says

TGIF (or, Thank God I've Finished). My rating of 3 stars is rounded up to the generous side from a "real" 2.5, but only because a few lines made me chuckle. Alas, the rest of this one came across as just plain silly.

And I'm truly bummed. I haven't missed reading very many in this series featuring bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. And while I admit the last two or three weren't as stellar as the others - how old must Stephanie get before she grows up and stops making goo-goo eyes at possible husband and cop Joe Morelli and the hunky, mysterious Ranger, for instance - the story itself and the fairly frequent yuk-yuks were sufficient to keep them enjoyable.

Not so here. When it comes to her love life, Stephanie's stuck at 30-something going on 14 (still annoying even though I long since resigned myself to the fact that this will never change). Her offbeat agency colleague and former streetworker, Lulu, has lowered her jokes gutter level, and other attempts at humor never get much beyond something that would make a fourth-grader giggle. Passing gas? Pooping in the street? People who don't look good fully dressed going naked in public? Spare me. Even the antics of Stephanie's Grandma Mazur, who's usually a shoe-in for a few belly laughs, fell flat this time.

The plot itself doesn't fare a whole lot better. Stephanie is called in to capture Larry Virgil, who missed a court date. Then he hijacks an ice cream treat-maker's freezer truck and is stopped, after which he takes off. When the truck doors are opened, out falls a dead guy, who is frozen and (wait for it!) covered with chocolate and chopped nuts. Conveniently, Ranger has been hired by the truck company's owner; it seems someone is sabotaging the business. So, he brings Stephanie in to help. Meanwhile, Lulu and her height-challenged friend Randy are trying to break into nude reality TV (who knew?) and Grandma - when she's not crashing funeral wakes - is getting down and dirty with a new boyfriend. Ah, will the action never stop?

Finally, it did - but from where I sat behind my Kindle, not quite soon enough. I can't believe I'm saying this because it's like saying goodbye to an old friend, but I think I've had my fill of this series. Over and out.

Donna says

I have enjoyed this series. This book is the 23rd book in the Stephanie Plum series and I've read them all....in order. But unfortunately, this is my least favorite and the sad thing is, is that I was so looking forward to reading this one. I'm disappointed. Stephanie, as an MC, is lost and she is losing even more ground. There was no progression in this one for anyone. The dialogue was also trite. It felt like it was only adding to word count. I'm losing interest and I I don't know if I need to slap myself for continuing to hang on and hoping for the best, or to slap the author for letting this go stale.

Anita says

For the record, I am Team Ranger. I have no expectations that: 1) Stephanie will age; 2) Stephanie will choose Joe or Ranger and live happily ever after; 3) Stephanie will mature in any way. I do expect that this book will have a mystery to solve and that Stephanie will be right in the middle of it. That is more than enough for me.

This book fulfilled my expectations and I enjoyed it very much. I love these books for what they are and not what everyone expects them to be. You cozy fans may be offended as there is a lot of foul language and several sexual situations, but nothing explicit. Stephanie doesn't age; Stephanie doesn't choose Joe or Ranger; Stephanie does show slight signs of a tiny bit of mature growth, but nothing to be concerned about. She does wreck another car and begins and ends with Joe. But, the middle.....

Stephanie finds herself with a frozen dead body covered with chocolate and nuts which tumbles out of the back of an 18 wheeler. Ranger is overhauling the security for the ice cream factory and needs Stephanie's eye for detail to help find out who is trying to sabotage the plant. Working closely with Ranger has Stephanie in a quandary, the same one she has been in for the last 22 books: Joe or Ranger? Joe is steady and, more or less, settled. Ranger is every dark fantasy, but not at all permanent commitment material. She and Joe are engaged to be engaged, but Ranger still lights a fire for her.

Diane S ? says

Reading Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series is a little like going to McDonald's. Quick, serves a purpose and consistency, you know exactly what you are going to get. Grandma Mazur and her very funny antics, Lulu wearing clothes she has to squeeze in to, trying to help Stephanie but usually making things worse, fires, wrecked cars, and either Morelli or Ranger coming to the rescue. The cases may change but not much else does. Choosing between Morelli and Ranger been the big hook with these, well that and the humor of course. Not much changes, but I think I have. For many years these have served their purpose admirably, during times of stress, less concentration or just for a shot of ridiculousness. But now alas, I fear we must part, I have actually reached my limit, become impatient with the sameness, the lack of growth and have lost interest in the question of whom she picks, or rather no longer care. Still it was a good ride, fun while it lasted. My three rating reflects the fact that I knew exactly what I was getting., it is not the books fault that I no longer find it filling.

Ashley says

Because, apparently I hate myself.

Let us all join in on the Stephanie Plum prayer (that hasn't worked over the last five* years): Please, dear God, let this be the last book. Let her choose; or not. Just let it be over.

*possibly (probably) longer.

Edited to add 11/16/2016 (after reading):

My prayers went unanswered. In fact, any growth we've seen over the last few books (which was minimal) was completely undone. The men are just caricatures of the guys we liked so much. The feeling of frustration when Stephanie is still in her life-threatening situation that happens at the end of every single book and there are fewer than ten pages left in the whole book is such a bitter one. Because you realize there will be no resolution. Possibly ever. And you also know that you will continue to be fooled into reading one of these books every year because surely it has to end at some point, right? RIGHT?!?

Calista says

Usually, these books make me laugh. I found very few laughs in this book. Maybe it is too stale and all the same. Even Grandma Mazur is wearing thin and she is the best character. I was entertained, but I wasn't tickled pink either.

PLEASE, PLEASE Janet, please end this series. You can't keep drawing it out. It needs a decent ending. This is the worst one I've read and it's not bad, there are simply 22 others like it.

This had ice cream and all the other troupes. I'm too weak not to go on with this. I want some sort of an ending. I plead with you Janet, give us a decent ending! Focus on wicked series which is wonderful and fresh. 4 more deadly sins to go.

Kendra Hanson says

always a quick fun read

Amanda says

Another fun, laugh-out-loud installment in the series of bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. Not much has changed in Stephanie's eventful and humorous life.

Her sidekick Lula is forever hungry and there are a lot of descriptions of the foods she is craving, be it hotdogs, snickers, donuts, fried chicken - I always find myself wanting to eat when I read these books...

Stephanie is still torn between the mysterious Ranger and potential husband Joe Morelli and luckily they are both still keen to rescue her from her sometimes disastrous encounters!

Norma * Traveling Sister says

3.5 stars!

Always a fun, easy and comical read!

Dawn says

Another hilarious installment the the Stephanie Plum series. Keep them coming

Jilly says

It was fine.

Nothing has changed. It's like the Simpsons where the kids never grow up and everything goes right back to the start each week. Sure, you might smile a couple of times through it, but it isn't going to stick with you, give you strong feels, or make you think.

poor kid probably has a raging case of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome by now.

There aren't even sex scenes, and that would be fine if you could actually feel chemistry and romance between Stephanie and her two boyfriends. I mean, Ranger sends out sparks, but Stephanie seems to just go along with having sex with two men. I don't get it. Maybe it's her diet of continual junk food. Maybe she has constant indigestion or something and that's why she doesn't seem to care about the sex. She's trying not to burp the whole time or something.

Stephanie must be very hipster then. She'll be able to wear these if she keeps eating like she does

Speaking of which, doesn't it bother anyone else that she is in a committed relationship with Morelli, but is still kissing Ranger constantly and having sex with him occasionally? If Morelli was having sex with someone else on the side, we would all hate him for being a cheater. But, Stephanie is totally screwing him over and it's like it's no big deal.

poor kitty!

So, there are a few chuckles, but this series is not progressing in any way. If you've read one of these books, you will find nothing new here.

Oh, and Rex is still alive. This is the oldest hamster in history. And yet, she doesn't even get him a decent house. He lives in a soup can. I'm thinking that this magical hamster deserves better after living longer than even a sea turtle lives. He's obviously immortal. It's time to provide him with a nicer lifestyle.

Oh, okay then. Never mind.

Allie says

I saw it coming.

After reviewing her last two two books I knew another one was more than likely going to be published.

Sigh.

At least in her last book there was a **SMIDGEN** of a hope for some character development. I just hope Turbo Twenty-Three continues in this vein and does not leave the main character in an endless loop that has plagued the previous six or seven books.

Make a decision. Do something *different*.

Janet Evanovich, please, throw us long time readers a bone here!!!

I will be getting my copy from the library as I cannot make myself buy any of them after the first 15. They have just been too similar.

After reading:

Exactly as I feared. The love triangle still bothers me, even when you add in a trip to Disney world. Her "revelation" also annoyed me. I just want this series to end on a high note. Something big and awesome and unexpected. Maybe by book 25?? Or it will just go on and on and on with no character growth and similar plot lines.

Vicki Willis says

I read these knowing just what they are and I think that's why I love them so much. They are just great

entertainment for me and a fast read. I like that I know how it is going to go with Stephanie getting in the middle of a mystery, losing a handcuffed FTA, wrecking a car, something getting blown up, G-ma going to a viewing, Lula being outrageous, a little Rex and Bob and no decision being made between Morelli and Ranger (definitely Ranger for me). I had lots of laughs in this one and there were some references to pop culture. The mystery took place in an ice cream factory and was ok, but it didn't matter because it provided the opportunity for more Ranger and that can never be a bad thing. Is it a literary masterpiece? No, but it isn't supposed to be. It is what it is and to me that is a fun and hilarious read. A 5 star recommendation to any fan of the series.
