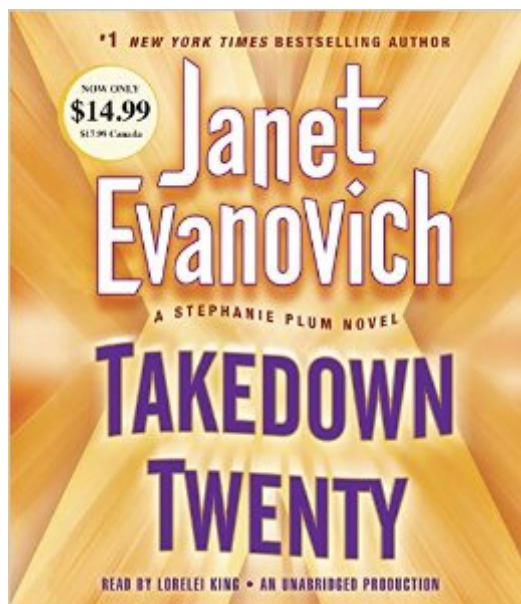


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Takedown Twenty: A Stephanie Plum Novel



Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Powerhouse author Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum novels are "as entertaining as ever" (Entertainment Weekly), "brilliantly evocative" (The Denver Post), and "making trouble and winning hearts" (USA Today). Stephanie Plum has her sights set on catching a notorious mob boss. If she doesn't take him down, he may take her out. New Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum knows better than to mess with family. But when powerful mobster Salvatore "Uncle Sunny" Sunucchi goes on the lam in Trenton, it's up to Stephanie to find him. Uncle Sunny is charged with murder for running over a guy (twice), and nobody wants to turn him in "not his poker buddies, not his bimbo girlfriend, not his two right-hand men, Shorty and Moe. Even Trenton's hottest cop, Joe Morelli, has skin in the game, because "just Stephanie's luck" the godfather is his actual godfather. And while Morelli understands that the law is the law, his old-world grandmother, Bella, is doing everything she can to throw Stephanie off the trail. It's not just Uncle Sunny giving Stephanie the run-around. Security specialist Ranger needs her help to solve the bizarre death of a top client's mother, a woman who happened to play bingo with Stephanie's Grandma Mazur. Before Stephanie knows it, she's working side by side with Ranger and Grandma at the senior center, trying to catch a killer on the loose "and the bingo balls are not rolling in their favor." With bullet holes in her car, henchmen on her tail, and a giraffe named Kevin running wild in the streets of Trenton, Stephanie will have to up her game for the ultimate takedown. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Maybe that's it with Stephanie Plum now? Evanovich does Business as usual again, and does so at least since book 16. There is always this little hope that she finally gets around to being brilliant again, but maybe she is just tired of Plum herself? Never mind, there are other funny female detectives out there, but newer and fresher, like in Heads Off (A Lisa Becker Mystery). The book feels like copy and pasted from the other 19 books, but this time a giraffe on the loose is in it. That's almost worth it, ridiculous and stupid, yes, but not predictable as the rest of the novel. Stephanie still can't decide between Ranger and Morelli - this has gone on so long it's just tedious. Even Grandma Mazur is more creepy than funny, Lula delivers her lines, the guys come in and leave again, absolutely nothing happens. The bounty hunting is nothing special and follows the beaten track. Stephanie says in the book "we've done this before". Indeed we have. If you treat this series like a sitcom with its repetitive humor, it's still enjoyable. But if there is going to be more, I would like to see some development. By which I mean: Dump Joe. Or Ranger. As long as I still care.

I was not impressed at all by this installment. Not only was nothing resolved whatsoever in the Morelli-Ranger-Stephanie triangle, Ranger and Morelli had zero depth. They essentially show up, spout tired, cookie-cutter lines and exit their scenes. Same old, same old. I could have been reading any one of the last six or seven installments. Stephanie's visit to Morelli on game day is a weak excuse for her to back off from commitment, and that's the last nod we get to the triangle. Morelli even hands Stephanie off to Ranger a few times so that he can get back to his cop work. Sure, that's realistic. I understand it's fiction, but it would be nice if the characters actually showed believable traits. The giraffe was mildly amusing, but once again, completely unbelievable. There is no way that a giraffe is going to go unnoticed or unreported in suburbia for that long in this day and age. I like a good story with a funny twist, but when it's that far out of the realm of reason, I can't even manage to hang onto the storyline. Stephanie just seems to be going through the motions at this point. It's really too bad, because I loved the earlier installments of this series.

I loved the first twelve books in this series. I liked parts of the next two. The past five, though? Total crap. I decided to give it one more shot. I don't want to give up on a series before it's over, so I hang on long after I should. Boy am I disappointed. This book is lazily written and plotted -- and I'm beyond caring about Stephanie anymore. She shows no growth. She shows no maturity. She shows no self-awareness. You can have a series and still let people grow. Evanovich refuses to do that, though. In fact, she's actually had Stephanie regress. And why? To keep up this tired love triangle. I

don't think any reader actually doubts where this triangle is going -- even if they have a dog in the fight (which most readers have long since ceded). So why not have Stephanie actually make the choice and move forward? Have her learn a thing or two? Have her take a step forward instead of a step back? I will always look back on the first twelve of these books with great fondness -- even pulling them out from time to time to revisit the world. I will, however, be dumping books fifteen through twenty (I find modest amusement in certain scenes of books thirteen and fourteen -- enough to keep them) on the nearest donation center. I know it's mean to give those in need substandard things -- and these past few books definitely qualify -- but, if nothing else, they can be used to kindle a fire during these cold winter months. Goodbye Stephanie Plum. I just no longer care.

Lost Interest!! I fell in love with this series a couple of year's ago and could not put the books down! Takedown Twenty is a huge disappointment!!! It's time to make a decision between Ranger and Morelli and give Stephanie her Happily Ever After!!!! It feels like the storylines are being recycled! Nothing new ever happens!! Even the chemistry between the guys and Stephanie is Boring!! This series is over!!!!

I really hoped JE's slump in this series would be over, she would read the last several books reviews, and personally eject some humor into each chapter, as only she can do. I agree with an earlier review that she is using a ghost writer to flesh out outlines, and it just isn't funny. I have been shushed before for laughing so hard, this time, I could have been in church reading it and no one would have known it. I am unsure how much time has passed in Stephanie's life since book one and now. Two or three years? I was actually sad to read that Lulu takes more pride in her home than Stephanie does. She shows no growth as a person at all. Being in your early 30's and buying a vacuum cleaner isn't growth, it is pathetic. All of that aside, I was disappointed in Joe the most. He has impromptu parties for the Mets games, that she knew nothing about. They play close to a 100 games a year, and she never knew about these? He doesn't go all policeman like when his grandmother is harboring a fugitive, who is trying to have the love of his life killed? Bella can brandish a gun at Stephanie, and it is all okay? Not true to character, and since when does he trust Ranger with her so much? My last observation has to do with the reviews that have been published. The 4-5 star ones are very, very short. Nothing to back them up as to why this book deserves the highest rating, other than, I really loved it. The 1-2 star ones were very descriptive in their reasons why, and disappointment. Both the high raters and the low raters express their love for the series, but the low raters were honest in their review. I don't see myself ever buying a book because a

random, to me, person writes, "Oh, I love this series so much"â |.

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