



Tricky Twenty-Two

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Stephanie Plum might not be the world's greatest bounty hunter, but she knows when she's being played. Ken Globovic (aka Gobbles), hailed as the Supreme Exalted Zookeeper of the animal house known as Zeta fraternity, has been arrested for beating up the dean of students at Kiltman College. Gobbles has missed his court date and gone into hiding. People have seen him on campus, but no one will talk. Things just aren't adding up, and Stephanie can't shake the feeling that something funny is going on at the college—and it's not just Zeta fraternity pranks.

As much as people love Gobbles, they hate Doug Linken. When Linken is gunned down in his backyard it's good riddance, and the list of possible murder suspects is long. The only people who care about finding Linken's killer are Trenton cop Joe Morelli, who has been assigned the case, security expert Ranger, who was hired to protect Linken, and Stephanie, who has her eye on a cash prize and hopefully has some tricks up her sleeve.

Tricky Twenty-Two Details

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From Reader Review Tricky Twenty-Two for online ebook

Anita says

I don't care that this book didn't resolve the Stephanie-Ranger-Joe triangle. I just wanted it to be a fast paced mystery with a lot of sarcastic humor and with a few off beat characters thrown in. Hot sex with Ranger would be a bonus. Well, no hot sex with Ranger, but the mystery, humor and off beat characters were all there. A lot of people have come to expect an awful lot from these books. Me, I just expect to be entertained and I was. Another issue that bugs a lot of people is what I call "Stephie Time". Technology and culture advance but Steph is forever stuck in her early 30's. Everyone else is also caught in this time warp too. I don't expect this series to end anytime soon and I for one would rejoice if go on forever. But I would like to see a resolution before I die.

In Tricky Twenty-Two Stephanie is after several bond jumpers and Morelli has decided that Steph is bad for his health and breaks up with her. Add to that Ranger needs her to help with a protection detail, Steph going through several vehicles and a nutty professor bent on mayhem and you have a typical Stephanie Plum book.

Berit??? says

[mom got all kick ass at the end, it

Norma * Traveling Sister says

TRICKY TWENTY-TWO is another fun, easy and fast read that had me laughing out loud quite a few times! I have read every other book in this series and I still find myself looking forward to reading the next to see what happens to my favourite bounty hunter and her men! These books can be a little bit repetitive and predictable but that doesn't really matter to me. I am invested in these characters and this series so I will see it to the end whenever JANET EVANOVICH chooses to do so.

I liked the ending.....

I am looking forward to reading the next book, Turbo Twenty-Three.

<http://www.twogirlslostinacouleereadi...>

Michael says

A comic chick-lit outing for when you need some absurd diversion from reading too much serious stuff. Stephanie, our intrepid New Jersey bounty hunter, is tasked with tracking down a frat boy at a local college who was charged with beating up the Dean of Students and skipping his bail hearing. It turns out something

nefarious is happening there, and her target is hiding out in fear for his life and that of a missing friend who was helping him with making fireworks for a big prank in a locked basement room.

She eventually learns that a faculty advisor, biology professor Pooka, was helping them and took over the project, changing the agenda for some big scheme of revenge for not getting tenure. Her investigations get her into a lot of dangerous situations, and bodies start turning up. Luckily she has her gun-toting grandmother and assistant Lula, a huge trash-talking black woman, to help out (she keeps forgetting to get bullets for her own gun). She also is playing two boyfriends with relevant competence, the cop Morelli, who has requested a pause in their live-in relationship, and the hunky and rich security dude Ranger, who she moonlights with on certain jobs and supplies her with fancy cars she keeps destroying in the mayhem.

This is pretty mindless entertainment that satisfied my need for a dose of madcap comedy and satire about our consumer culture. Sure they are formulaic and the comedy can wear thin if you read too many. This is only my third in a decade, so the slapstick and silly dialog still hits my funnybone. Could this be for you? The following samples could give you some guidance.

Here after Stephanie escaped the evil clutches of Pooka, her mother outran them all in catching and beating him up in a footrace:

She took Stanley Pooka down like a junkyard dog on a piece of rancid meat.

Roger grinned at my mom: "Never underestimate maternal rage."

Lula here shows her capacity for diversionary lying:

"What happened to him?" the cop asked.

"He tripped while he was running," Lula said. "It was these baggy pajamas he's wearing. They're good for letting your boys breathe while you're watching television, but you don't want to run in them, what with your nuts knocking around in there."

Grandmother and Lula both fire their guns off when threats appear but never hit anyone. Stephanie here tries to cool her jets:

"The truth is you're the worst shot on the planet. The chances of you hitting your target are zero."

"Boy that's hurtful, as it happens I have an eyesight problem."

"I didn't know that. What's wrong with your vision?"

"I can't see real good."

"What about glasses?"

"I got them, but they ruin my appearance."

"Aren't you supposed to wear them when you drive?"

"Only if I want to see things like signs. I can see big things like cars."

Carol says

HURRAY! When the first three pages cracked me up right off the bat, I was happy as pie, and when the laughs continued, well, let's just say **TRICKY TWENTY-TWO** is one of the better Stephanie Plum novels I've read in quite some time.

Yes, our bounty hunter still trashes a few of Ranger's fancy cars, Yes, Grandma Mazur still attends her visitations, and Yes, Lula is still her usual spandex eating machine self; **BUT** I had many more laugh-out-loud moments in **TRICKY TWENTY-TWO** than the last three books combined. Even Mrs. P gets in a

good one!

So, get ready for more laughs, some **red hot** encounters plus a "shocker" of a surprise from Morelli, and, of course, the usual *duked out in black* Ranger appearances.

Will Stephanie **ever** choose between the two hunks??? Who knows.....but I did like the way the story concluded in this one.....hint.....hint.....hint. **3.5 Stars with a round up to 4.0 for leaving me with a big smile on my face!**

Sandra says

Car blown up? **Check**

Big Blue, the Buick Roadmaster makes an appearance? **Check**

Hot Morelli? **Check**

Wacky Grandma Mazur attends a viewing? **Check**

Flashy Lula wants to eat? **Check**

Stephanie needs to be rescued by Ranger or Morelli? **Check**

Smokin' hot Ranger? **Check Check!!**

Entertaining? **Check**

Fast read? **Check**

Repetitive? **Check Check!!**

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

3.5 Stars

Obviously anyone who has already subjected themselves to TWENTY-ONE prior books in this series has a serious mental disorder

In my defense, I thought I was over my addiction. I mean, Evanovich is up to like 24 and I had stopped at 21 when NetGalley quit offering ARCs so that was good, right? But then the dang stinking library challenge had this series offered up as one of the options for a contemporary mystery and I could not resist Janet's siren song.

If you want to have any chance of enjoying all eleven trillion Stephanie Plums stories, you have to constantly remind yourself of a couple things:

1. Even though these books have been going on for 20+ years, in Plum land it's only been a couple;
2. Stephanie is DTF with either Morelli or Ranger depending on the book;
3. Stephanie has not DTR'd with either Morelli or Ranger so I don't get put off by her "cheating";
4. Lula is the best thing since Wonder Bread;
5. Despite Rex the hamster having a diet worse than Donald Trump's, he is still alive;
6. Stephanie's diet is worse than Rex's and Trump's combined, but apparently she has the metabolism of a hummingbird;
7. TastyKakes are a real thing and they are delicious. I do not have the metabolism of a hummingbird so I gain Stephanie's weight for her

Okay, so obviously these books are made for days when you're feeling a little like this

They are pure brain candy and only take a couple of hours to read. They follow the same formula of Stephanie tries to get bad guy, Stephanie sucks at getting bad guy, Stephanie's car (or multiple cars) gets totaled, Stephanie borrows Uncle Sandor's giant Buick, Stephanie makes out with either Ranger or Morelli, Stephanie's grandma makes a scene at a funeral home, Lula and/or Grandma shoot stuff with their giant handguns, Stephanie gets kidnapped, Ranger saves the day, they catch the bad guy, on to the next. At this point the same ol' shtick had become a little tired – hence me not reading the last few. But somehow *Twenty-Two* was better than the other recent releases. Stephanie was a little more competent than usual, Grandma had found a new hobby

And some of the slapsticky humor actually had me laughing out loud. All in all this was a fun little spin with Stephanie and the gang

Book #3 in the Winter Reading Challenge

Darth J says

MRW people ask me how many books are in this series (including the Between the Numbers ones):

Deanna Zigray says

PLEASE, PLEASE, PUUUULLLEEEAASEE for the love of all things holy, let this be the last one. I truly believe that I might be the biggest Stephanie Plum/Janet Evanovich fan in all of the world. I have read and re-read the entire, Stephanie Plum series fourteen times. Let that sink in a bit... That's the same as reading 294 books. Not only did I read them and then read them again, but I was also like a salesman recommending them to others and supplying them with the books. I did this so frequently that I acquired two complete sets of the series, in both paperback and hardcover, that I would lend out to new recruits. It was fun having so many friends to discuss the books with and to decide which of my friends had good taste and who didn't, this of course revealed itself to us as soon as the picked their team.... Team Morreli or Team Ranger. I was always head over heals in love with this series and I always felt so empty after reading a new release knowing that I'd have to wait an entire year to be part of the craziness of her family/friends, her love/lust life, her calamity of a job, the always intriguing mysterious messes that she continues to find herself in.... I was so enthralled with this series that I sat outside of the stores waiting for them to open on the dates that they were released because I just couldn't wait until a normal time of day to go back and get one. One year I bought the book at midnight, returned to my car and sat in the parking lot reading for the next three hours until my husband called to see if I was okay and I felt bad and I went home. But that's when the books were still really really really good. They were the "I can't put this book down because it's just so good that.....I might just have to miss that job interview, coffee date, I don't need to sleep tonight, how many kids do I have, type of page turners. Around book fifteen is when I started to fall out of love because it started feeling like it was the same old book over and over again with a few character name changes and different dead people. Janet Evanovich is a talented writer and I'd love to see her do something TOTALLY different. All of her series are the same books with different names but the EXACT same formula that is so predictable that you can interchange characters from other books and no one would even notice that Jami was driving Big Blue because she had wrecked her car while she was on her way to pickup Diesel from Pino's.

I want it to be the last so she can go on and write another addictive series that I'm unable to put down but I seriously would LOVE for her to do something COMPLETELY different. To answer the question that I'm sure you're asking yourself and I ask myself every year, "Why do you keep reading this series of books if you think that they are boring predictable cut and paste repeats of her previous books in the series?" The answer is simple, "What if I miss something and what if this book is written like Stephanie Plum novels use to be and it is full of excitement, drama, suspense, love, intrigue, romance, and what if it's the final one in which we learn that Grandma Mazur is driving home from Morreli and Stephanie's wedding with that weasel, Uncle Vinny and Gma Bella, when they are run off the road by, a rat fink drug Lord. He had mistakenly thought that Stephanie was driving Old Blue, since he had blown up the rust bucket of a car that she had been driving, assuming that Stephanie would be carrying the purse (his girlfriend's purse) that Stephanie has accidentally acquired after Lulu picked up the wrong bag at the funeral home while attending Joyce Barnhart's visitation. Unbeknownst to Stephanie, she was now carrying a purse with eight million

dollars in diamonds and sapphires sewn into the lining and he wanted it back. At the hospital Gma Mazur was happy to be alive, she wasn't wasting anymore time and she announced to anyone and everyone that would listen, "I'm marrying that guy over there, the side of the road guy, and we're moving to Hawaii!" That guy happens to be Tank's Dad and per usual, Ranger had LoJacked the car so when it was hit, Tank, who was having dinner with his dad, went to the crash site and his dad happened to be the one who had rescued Gma from the crash. Stephanie's Mom will most likely move to Hawaii with Gma since her, giddy with excitement Husband, had a heart attack b/c he was so happy to be free of his MIL that he jumped for joy right up to heaven? He won't be alone there since Vinnie and Gma Bella both died in the crash. Since Ranger moved to Ireland to protect his daughter while she is doing a few years of her studying abroad, he has turned over the management of his security firm to Tank and his wife Lula. They'll need all that extra space that the building provides to chase after the triplets that she's carrying. With Vinnie gone Connie and Stephanie will sell the bonds office and start a new business that is both a regular daycare for kids and a doggy daycare. Val and Albert are back in the area now, they'll move into the family home that's now ready to be filled with kids again which is good because they've been blessed with five more kids. Since Val manages his wildly successful law office, they'll be Stephanie and Connie's best new client filling up half of the open daycare spots. They only have one question, do their three pet sloths qualify for the doggie daycare side? This will be good for Stephanie to be able to watch Bob and all of her and Morelli's kids.

See!!!! If I don't read every book, I could have missed that ending and I would've never forgiven myself had I missed that ending.

Allie says

Before Reading

Ok... Janet Evanovich... let me level with you here.

Make this the last book. Make it good. Make it not be like books 15-21 and end this played out series. Please. Do not reuse all your old material. For the love of God let Stephanie choose between Ranger and Morelli or neither. Permanently. Let her not be the same person who has not grown or changed **at all...** give her *something*. More than a hamster.

PLEASE.

After Reading

Ok. Better than the last two books in my opinion.

Still a little predictable, but Stephanie actually (briefly) considered other career options and made a step in A DIRECTION romantically. Hallelujah! Yes, some parts were still predictable as all can be, and naturally (view spoiler) but it could have been worse!

And (view spoiler) Character relationship developmental growth! I'll take it!

So, it wasn't amazing, but it could have been so much worse. At least this time I wasn't rolling my eyes every other page and dreading actually having to finish reading this one!

Jilly says

This series has the longest running love triangle in fiction. I think when they are old, it's going to look something like this:

Ranger and Morelli think that's Stephanie in the middle. They have cataracts. (Steph died years ago from clogged arteries.)

Most fans of this series are thinking that there is no way to resolve this triangle unless the author decides to kill one of them off. And, hey, I'm down with that! Kill Morelli! I'll even help! But, I don't see it ever happening. The author has kept Stephanie's hamster alive for at least 10 years, book time, I can't see her killing off a human if she hasn't got the heart to kill Rex.

this is Rex's 21st birthday party. They went to the bar later.

So, since this triangle is unsolvable, the author has to figure out ways to allow Stephanie to carry on a relationship with both guys. She usually has Morelli break up with Stephanie for some stupid reason (one time it was because she didn't buy bread at the store which he called 'the woman's job'). In this book, he breaks up with her for no reason. And, to make it better, he does so right after sex, while they are naked in bed. Typical man!! Oh, I'm gonna go out on a limb here and say that he knew he was breaking up with her **before** they had sex, but figured he'd get that one last freebie in.

If there is a meme for it, it is a common occurrence. Fucking men!

But, the thing is that Morelli breaks up with her and then proceeds to tell her that she can't date Ranger, and then he continues to come over, call, and kiss her. Ummmm, NO. Just no.

If some asshat breaks up with you after sex, you break his car windshield on the way out the door, tell all his friends that you caught him fooling around with a transvestite hooker, unfriend him on Facebook, and start a Twitter hashtag #MicropenisMorelli.... Not that I've ever done anything like that. That would be wrong. And going too far. And, calling Homeland Security to anonymously report him heading up a terrorist sleeper cell would be really wrong.

So, I was pissed off at Stephanie for not putting her foot down - or up Morelli's ass. She just carried on as usual and acted like it was no big deal. Bitch, please!

On the other hand, Ranger was magic. As usual. Go TeamRanger!

Meg says

I haven't always enjoyed many of the later books in this series but I found myself really liking this one. It was a good visit with old friends. There was more action, with even mom getting into the thick of things. Easy, quick read. I think what bugs me most is the way she can't be allowed to finally, finally keep one good

car. The car wrecks are really getting old. I do believe, however, that I will be giving the next book a shot.

Jen says

This is one of my most favorite series to listen to on audiobooks. Lorelei King is the narrator and she does a fantastic job each and every time. This is the 22nd book in the series. Yes, 22nd! It's my go-to read when I want something funny.

Quick background: Stephanie Plum is a bounty hunter for her cousin who is a bail bondsman. Her companion is Lula, who is an ex-prostitute. Neither have any experience in bounty hunting, so it's like the blind leading the blind. Stephanie has been in an on again off again relationship with a cop named Joe Morelli. Sometimes she helps Ranger with some detective work. There is a Joe-Stephanie-Ranger triangle. I wouldn't call it a love triangle really. Joe is the serious relationship type and Ranger is the hot on night stand sex type. Stephanie is attracted to both and they are attracted to her.

No matter who Stephanie and Lula are trying to track down there is always drama and it is hilarious. Stephanie usually borrows a car from Ranger and always wrecks them somehow. Stephanie usually gets into some type of trouble and needs saving, usually by Ranger. That was true with this book too. As they were attempting to find one of their bonds, they try to "blend in."

"I thought our chances of going unnoticed were slim. I was with a 200 pound black woman wearing a size two knock your eyes out tube of red spandex that barely covered her ass. Her hair was blonde. Her cleavage was comparable to the Grand Canyon. Her nipples were practically punching holes in the spandex fabric."

See what I mean! This series is laugh out loud funny! Lula is my favorite. The things that come out of her mouth are the best. And then of course there's Grandma Mazur who loves to tag along with Stephanie and Lula when she can. Other times she's trying to get someone to take her to the funeral home to see who is out for viewing. These almost always end in disaster.

And who doesn't love the "**Babe**" comments from Ranger. As sexy as he is and as much as I love his character I am Team Morelli. I think that's where Stephanie will find her HEA.

I know this series seems like it never ends and the stories are very similar from one book to the next, but I rather like the familiarity of it all. I know what I'm going to get and what to expect with each read. For all of the die hard Janet Evanovich fans like myself, you will love this book. I can't recommend the audiobooks for this series enough. The narrator does such an excellent job bringing the characters to life. I absolutely love it.

Patti says

Poor Stephanie. Her life has gotten so complicated that she's considering changing professions. Her FTA'S aren't coming along quietly, she keeps forgetting to buy bullets for her gun, she still can't keep a car intact for any period of time, she's getting pranked by the college fraternity from hell, and something is up with Morelli. His post coital suggestion that they break up and that Steph should see other people (just not Ranger) has totally thrown her for a loop. But Stephanie isn't short on suitors - Grandma Mazur has been catfishing, and she's used Steph's picture and personal info as bait! Adding to the migraine of her life is a series of murders linked to the frat from hell, and a mad scientist with weaponized fleas. What's a girl to do? Maybe become a hairdresser.

Fun, fast paced, and utterly satisfying, this installment delivers. I recommend it!

Lo9man88 says

As always seriously funny, very light and entertaining , the funniest characters ever .I do some very dark reads and in order to decompress and lighten the fuck up : i need places like the Burg and characters like grandma Mazure and ex ho Lola and of course the incorrigible Stephanie Plum and all the hilarious situations they get themselves into....Thank you dear Janet.
