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To the Nines: Stephanie Plum Novels

To the Nines Details

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From Reader Review To the Nines for online ebook

Dorothy says

Okay, I think I have now overdosed on Plums and I seriously need a break. After reading nine of these books in fairly rapid succession, I now know what will happen before it happens. Stephanie will get some quirky FTA assigned to her and will make several inept attempts to capture him/her. Lula will be along for the ride, providing even MORE INEPT assistance but what she will provide is the comic relief of the stereotypical large black woman. Stephanie will have many sessions of hot, hot, toe-curling sex with Joe Morelli and will fantasize about toe-curling sex with Ranger. Every woman who comes in contact with him will imagine Ranger naked and fantasize about toe-curling sex with him, but Ranger only has eyes for Stephanie. Oh, yes, Stephanie will be stalked by some crazy, sadistic S.O.B. who will frighten her severely and put her friends and/or family in danger, but in the end it will all end happily with Stephanie and Joe ready to fall into bed. Again.

Yep, I'm definitely ready for a break from this series. It's become too formulaic. I'll come back to it later when I've forgotten some of its twists and turns.

Jilly says

You know how it is when you are reading a "mystery" and you know who the bad guy is the moment you meet them, but the good guys can't see it - ever?! It's so frustrating, and frankly, I've had my moments of wondering about the intelligence level of all of these people.. It was so freaking obvious!! Maybe it's the New Jersey water or something.

If you're born in Jersey, you know how to rise to a challenge. Bring on the Mob. Bring on bad air. Bring on taxes and obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and macaroni at every meal. Nothing defeats us in Jersey.

Except for the most obvious serial killer in Jersey. I mean, this guy practically yelled "It's ME!" at the top of his lungs and they still didn't get it. Maybe it's all the macaroni. All those carbs will make you lethargic.

Too bad they don't help you understand how to get a clue!

So, Stephanie has to find a guy who skipped out on his bond, along with kidnapping a little dog. She also seems to have a serial killer fixated on her.

The good news is that this case takes her, Lula, and Connie to Las Vegas. Lula in Las Vegas is something I want to experience. She's good enough just being in Jersey. And, she's on a protein diet. Lula on a protein diet is *really* fun!

"This is the best diet. I can eat things on this diet that I haven't been able to eat in years."

"Like what?"

"Like bacon."

"You always eat bacon."

"Yeah, but I feel guilty. It's the guilt that puts the weight on."

Sure, that's what does it. The guilt.

Lula's protein diet means she walks around with meat in her purse. She's a dog's best friend these days.

Lula's the alpha of the pack

With the serial killer stalking Stephanie, she has both Morelli and Ranger trying to keep her safe. Ranger has his men doing 24 hour bodyguard duty, but they keep meeting with unfortunate accidents. Not serial killer accidents - Stephanie accidents.

I went outside to call Ranger.

"About Cal..." I said. "He's sort of out of commission."

"Used to be you destroyed my cars," Ranger said.

"Yeah, those were the good old days..."

Stephanie's developed quite the reputation.

It was my mother. "I heard you shot someone," she said. "You've got to stop shooting people. Elaine Minardi's daughter never shoots anyone. Lucille Rice's daughter never shoots anyone. Why do I have to be the one to have a daughter who shoots people?"

I think Stephanie is going to give her mom a coronary before this series is over. The poor woman just wants a daughter who works at the button factory and marries a nice Italian man. Is that asking too much?

So, this book was more fun than the last one and has all of the crazy antics, awesome side characters, and insane family stuff that I've come to expect from the series. I'm moving on to book 10 and I think I am starting to get a New Jersey accent at this point. I've also been thinking my hair is a bit too flat. Needs some poofing up!

Chance Lee says

Oh my god, guys, I'm doing it again. This Stephanie Plum book is even more of a five-star book from the last Stephanie Plum book I gave five stars to (Three to Get Deadly). This is pretty much the Perfect Plum.

The plot is actually interesting. A man who works for a slot-machine-part manufacturer goes missing. He is in the U.S. on a visa bond, which Vinnie wrote, so Stephanie has to get him back. She gets to learn how slot-machine parts are made AND go to Vegas, which involves Lula going through TSA screen (they confiscate

the meat in her purse) and riding on a plane. In Vegas, Lula starts a turf war between Tom Jones impersonators and Elvis impersonators, she throws her "King Kong thong" in a performers face, and Connie almost marries someone. The whole thing turns out be a red herring, and Stephanie gets involved with a creepy game-playing serial killer who leaves her flowers and threatening notes. Even though the killer is completely obvious to the reader, it's still really tense and interesting.

Plus, Stephanie actually does stuff in this book. She fights back at an assailant, and she actually kills the bad guy all by her herself. At one point, she reminisces about being a tomboy, fantasizing about G.I. Joe and Thundercats (while Mary Lou would be Smurfette), and she actually lives up to her childhood fantasies in this one.

Along the way, they really get to know this counter guy at McDonald's who lists off a bunch of ridiculous customer complaints. "Wanting an Egg McMuffin at eleven when it is a rule you cannot have an Egg McMuffin past ten-thirty." Of course, he gets shot dead and Lula freaks out over her milkshake. "I don't get hysterical. This here's transference. I read about it in a magazine. It's when you get upset about one thing only you're really upset about something else."

Lula really rocks it out in this one. After her FatBusters diet fails to bust her fat, she starts an all-meat diet to get to supermodel wait in no time. It makes her aggressive. She wrestles a woman to the ground, tackles one of Stephanie's body guards, and gets chased by dogs a lot. She always gets pursued when she's trying to impress Tank. Bob eats her purse. She throws bacon at a pack of mutts. After eating meat so much, she thinks she's growing fangs, which makes no sense, but the ridiculousness didn't keep me from laughing out loud when she asked Stephanie, "Are you looking at my fangs?"

Speaking of healthy eating, Stephanie makes a healthy breakfast choice too, she chooses a Strawberry Pop-Tart over a S'mores one. "Best to have fruit for breakfast, right?" Stephanie mentions Mary Lou, her alleged best friend whom she never ever does anything with, twice, and Mary Lou cancels on her!

There's a lot of Stephanie and Morelli, which I love. Their sex scenes are actually hot and not Charlaine Harris-style icky. Ranger is kept to a minimum, which is great because he's extra Charlaine Harris-style icky when he does appear. (Stephanie: "I thought we came here for pie." Ranger: "I don't eat the kind of pie they serve here." Steph: I felt a flash of heat go through my stomach. I knew firsthand the kind of pie Ranger liked.) Ranger mostly sends bodyguards to protect her, and they get incapacitated in a variety of ways: tackled by Lula, crushed by an FTA, Valerie's water breaks on one of them, etc.

Favorite quotes/scenes:

Stephanie is sent flowers by a serial killer:

Lula: "It's nice to come back to fresh flowers in the room."

Stephanie: "They were sent by a serial killer! THEY'RE DEATH FLOWERS."

Lula: "Well, yeah, but they're still nice."

Lula: "It's a sin to throw food away."

Stephanie: "Neither of us needs this food, so God's just going to have to understand."

Lula: "I think you might be blaspheming God."

Stephanie: "I'm not blaspheming god."

Lula: "Give me that food bag. I'm going to save your immortal soul."

Stephanie: "No! Remember the supermodel. Have some carrots."

Lula: "I hate those fucking carrots. Give me that bag!"

Stephanie: "Stop it! You're getting scary."

Lula: "I need that burger. I'm out of control."

Stephanie: No shit.

Then Stephanie RUNS for a trash can and throws the food in. Lula tackles her, dives into the dumpster, gets the food, then they split everything inside.

Lula: "Cops and dead people give me diarrhea."

Valerie worries about marrying Albert:

Stephanie: "I think he'd run into a burning building to save you." Whether he'd get her out of the building is another issue. Probably they'd both die a horrible death.

"Lula is a plus-size black woman in a size-seven white world and Lula's had a lot of practice pulling attitude."

Beth says

Originally on my book blog!

I really did not think that these books could get any funnier, but this would almost killed me. I'm not sure if I read this when I was sleep deprived (I did) or if it's really just that funny (it is) but I could not contain my laughter for very long. Every part of this book, the humor, the mystery, and the romance, came together perfectly to make a seriously fabulous book.

This book had some of the funniest material I've seen in a book. When Lula wasn't talking about her "diet" (a no carb diet, so she decided she would eat meat 24/7), she was losing her luggage on the way to Vegas.

When she wasn't doing either of these, Stephanie was going through Ranger's employees like she usually does with his cars. I didn't go a full five pages without finding something hilarious. It was the best workout I've had in months, so thank you Janet! After going from a very serious and heavy Alex Cross novel, going to a hilarious and clueless Stephanie Plum novel was just what I needed.

The mystery was a great plot and kept the book going smoothly. Most of her books don't have a seriously intense part but this one had a scene where I was on the edge of my seat and trying to breathe (and failing). It was interesting and fun and unique. There was a lot more mystery in this one than others because she actually had to search for the guy instead of just try to pick him up at home.

Ranger Ranger Ranger Ranger Ranger. Oh you didn't ask me who I like more? Well it's Ranger, in case you ever want to. I ship Ranger and Stephanie forever. If only he was "marriage type" but I digress. Stephanie is somewhat dating Joe in this book while also spending some quality time with Ranger. Nine books in and she still hasn't picked one of them. Neither of them are really marriage material at this moment, much to Stephanie's mother's dismay. Most people would get bored or plain annoyed that she's dragging both guys along for 9+ books, but I read these books in part to see what happens with Ranger or Joe.

If you want a light read with a good plot, great characters, and fabulous humor: pick up this series. Seriously, do it. I dare you.

Have you read any of these books? Are you a Babe or a Cupcake? (I stole this from Sharon @ The Book

Barbies so thank her for it)

Jerry B says

Maybe best Stephanie Plum yet in 9-book series!

We've read all the author's books about Trenton-based bounty hunter Plum, and had feared we were tired of them when in "Seven" and "Eight" the stories seemed weak and the humor forced. "Nines" corrects that with a real pleaser -- plenty of natural humor, an almost gripping plot putting Steph in real danger, and lots of sexual tension with Ranger and Morelli. The other regulars -- Bob the dog, Grandma Mazur, Vinny, the parents, sister Valerie (and father-to-be Kloughn) -- especially fellow "helper" Lulu, whose dieting efforts in the story were outrageously funny, contributed to the good humor we had come to expect from the earlier books. After an opening scene in which Stephanie captures a greased up "skipper", her hunt for a fellow named Singh, secured by a visa bond (something we learned about in this book), caught her and Ranger in a gruesome computer fantasy game gone bad: where the losers not merely failed to proceed in the game but got killed for their sub-par efforts. Soon enough, Plum herself becomes the prize in this game of hunt or be hunted. While this series is not particularly designed to create suspense, this one rated up there close to the serial killer novels of John Sandford. Evanovich even managed to work in some subtle relationship and trust commentary regarding close colleagues of the opposite gender, involving separately both Steph and her current roommate Morelli.

So -- not just a good beach book, but Plum back in her finest with an honest to goodness whodunit, with the crazy funny cast of supporting characters all in good form. Enjoy!

Brooke — brooklynreads says

This series is consistently well done, enjoyable, and humorous. I'm happy to say this installment did not disappoint.

I was hesitant to continue reading this series because it had been close to a year and a half since I read the previous novel and thought that I would have forgotten what has happened. Luckily, this book did a quick catch up in the very beginning and my memory was not as bad as I guessed. I have to say that the brief summary in the beginning alluding to what has happened in the previous novels was very helpful. It did not seem obviously repetitive or as if it meant to retell the whole novel, however, it's a good thing to have for people like me who have read many books in between.

I have to say that this was one of my favourite Stephanie Plum novels. I find as the story progresses, these novels are very character driven. I have become incredibly invested in these characters with their own unique personalities from Morelli to Ranger to Lula to even Grandma Mazur. The crimes/mystery component of these novels can become repetitive and predictable (notsomuch for this installment) so I really do read these novels for the characters.

As for the romance, in similar feelings to the previous novel, I am getting frustrated! In my opinion, I think

there is an obvious “endgame” for Stephanie but at the same time, I like both of the male characters vying for her heart. Plus, I have to feel for them because of some of her actions. C’mon girl, don’t lead them on! Anyway, I shall continue reading and hoping that all parties get their act together soon!

I have already ordered the next book in the series because I don’t want another year to go by between books. It was such a fun, quick read and I’m happy to have continued the series (finally).

CupcakeBlonde says

Although I had pretty much guessed the outcome of this book early on, it was still a great read. Any time the love triangle between Stephanie, Morelli and Ranger is focused on I am in heaven. And the more danger Stephanie is in, the better those tensions get. Plus this book had the added bonus of a trip to Vegas, which was fun to read about since I live there. Although there were no cars damaged by Steph's bad luck, Ranger's crew getting banged up by her natural ability to be in the middle of havok was highly amusing. Not as good as books 5-8 but still an excellent read. Can't wait for ten!

Dale says

I think the real stars of these books are the role players. Lula, the ex-ho turned file clerk and bounty hunting side kick comically slays in this installment. The not so dainty Lula wants to look like a supermodel so she tries an all meat diet. Doesn't sound so funny you say.... well Evanovich spins this portion of the story like a top. Literally Laugh Out Loud. Ranger hates leaving Stephanie alone on her excursions, nothing bad has ever happened on a mission, right?!? Well the group of Merry Men that Ranger sends to guard Stephanie get caught up in her collateral damage too. The big and burly Merry Men, Cal and Tank, both fall victim to Stephanie's usual run of bad luck. These books do have story lines but the everyday stuff definitely drives the car in these books. Continuing on with the series. Reading #10 as I'm writing this.

Cyndi says

I almost always figure out who the "bad guy" is early in the book. But, this one kept me guessing for quite a while.

Maybe because Clyde's character was usually written as a "good guy" or a small time criminal. But, for the doughy geek to be a master criminal was unexpected.

Reread — May 2018

Still can only find a few clues as to the Web Master along the way. But the main thing I got out of this reread (relistening?) was the new status of Steph’s apartment. Three kids, two adults...one bedroom and bathroom. Baby screaming, kid galloping? The neighbors may beg Steph to come back even with the crazed killers and fire bombs.

Tilly Slaton says

As all of the books in the Stephanie Plum series, *To the Nines* is filled with death, destruction and tingling cores.

Stephanie finds herself knee-deep in body guards, Vegas slot machines, pooping dogs and slinging around ding-dongs.

Morelli was invigorated by sex. An orgasm for Morelli was like taking a vitamin pill. The more orgasms he had, the sharper he got. I'm the opposite. For me, an orgasm is like a shot of Valium. A night with Morelli and the next morning I'm a big contented cow.

Lula goes on a special all meat diet. You can only imagine what she puts the team through when she's not fed regularly. Stephanie, Connie and Lula fly to Vegas to apprehend a man who is about to skip out on his Visa Bond. All fun and games, but when the airplane doesn't feed Lula, look out!

I didn't know where Lula's energy came from. I'd exhausted myself trying to stay calm while mentally maiming airport employees, screaming kids, and security personnel.

Having some fun and catching a show in Vegas definitely will leave you laughing! I did not find this book as funny as the others, but this scene was pretty hilarious.

All around us women were throwing room keys and panties onto the stage. And then from the corner of my eye I caught sight of Lula pitching a giant hot-pink satin thong at Tom Jones. It was the biggest thong I'd ever seen. It was a King Kong thong. It hit Tim Jones square in the face. Wap!

A list of suspects a mile long, Stephanie and the police struggle to figure out who the psychopathic stalker is. Pictures of bloody holes left in foreheads, and fresh flowers are left in an odd and disturbing way of courtship.

To be honest, it took me longer to read this book the second time around. I wasn't nearly as excited. Janet Evanovich sets high standards for laughter and suspenseful killers and love triangles. This book is amazingly brilliant and the story itself is wonderful.

To the Nines really didn't *do it* for me. I suppose I know how awesome the books following will be, and trudging through this book left little me wanting.

The relationship shared between Stephanie, Morelli and Ranger only grows more complicated. I am still on the fence on which suitor I am crossing my fingers for.

I recommend this book to those in need of an interesting mystery filled with fun female adventures. Book contains mild sexual scenes and mild to moderate violence.

Liv says

Stephanie Plum would a series that you turn to for some mindless reading and comic relief from every day stress.

This book served this purpose well. There were numerous laugh-out-loud moments for me and they were all hilarious. I must have looked like an idiot when I bursted out laughing while reading the book on the subway, but some things were just too funny to hold back. Some key moments for me:

- Stephanie and gang travelling to Las Vegas and got searched at the airport security
- Lula's supermodel diets
- Tank getting hurt while helping Stephanie with some apprehension
- Valerie giving birth and squirting water all over Cal (another one of Ranger's men assigned to bodyguard Stephanie) and then Cal getting a concussion by bumping his head on the floor when he fell

In this book, Stephanie became the target of a killer when she got involved in a missing person case. While normally Stephanie took these things lightly, this time she was truly spooked and she sought protection from both Joe Morelli and Ranger. Under the circumstances, both men were able to tolerate each other for the protection of Stephanie.

The culprit behind the killings were so obvious that I knew who it was partway through the book. If you wanted to read a true mystery book, this wouldn't be for you as you'd be disappointed by its loose plot construction. However, for simple entertainment reason, I'd recommend this book as it'd be one of those light reads that you could forget about fairly quickly.

I'd give 3 stars plainly for its comic value.

Lisa B. says

I continue to listen to the audio version. This tuned out to be my favorite so far in the series.

Heather says

Nine, I made it to Nine, but alas, I think this is where Stephanie and I must part ways, for the time being at least. Stephanie is once again, the object of some mad man's sadistic fantasies, but I must confess, I have grown tired of the crime solving scenarios. I'm in this series for three things, Morelli, Ranger, and Lula, the ex ho turned file clerk/ purse welding mo fo. On these fronts, Evanovich did not disappoint. There were some steamy lines, some oogley eyes, and Lula has decided to turn herself into a supermodel. Naturally the later spurned a lot of laughs. However, it is with a heavy heart that I confess to the fact that Joe's commitment phobic come ons no longer send heat to my doodah, rather, they send heat to my head, as I am gritting my teeth. I'm now pulling for Ranger, but as I see no future there, I feel aimless, just like the series is slowly becoming. At any rate, hi-lights include:

1. Valerie has a baby and takes out Cal via water breakage
2. Lula goes on an all meat diet (running in spandex with bacon)
3. Stephanie gets a haircut and channels Don King

CJ - It's only a Paper Moon says

I liked this book because I'm a Stephanie Plum fan but the only thing stopping me from giving my customary 4 stars is that this book seemed to be a little thin on plot. It had a good premise but to me it sort of petered out. This one of the books where I knew who dunnit before Steph did.

I also was caught between liking and getting really bored of the whole Ranger/Morelli think. I don't think she should have her cake and eat it too and I think the character is built to believe that too but it's also obvious that she's still emotionally screwed from her past marriage to Dickie. So, I get it and like I said - there are times where I completely dig the whole tension between Ranger and Steph and Steph and Morelli and Ranger and Morelli. Steph said it best when she compared Morelli's relationship with Terry Gilman to her relationship to Ranger.

I just hope Morelli hasn't (at least recently because we know his past) gotten as close to Terry as Stephanie has gotten to Ranger. Although that may shake Steph up.

Anyway, I liked the idea of the webmaster/killing game and I like how Stephanie handled herself in this book professionally. She's getting a bit better at her job. I thought that as soon as she said she felt naked without her hardware. I don't expect her to love guns but I would expect her to tolerate them enough to use them every once in awhile.

I love Grandma Bella now. She's a friggin' nutcase. Valerie is also another nutter-butter...I particularly enjoyed the scene where her water broke :P

I love Joe and Steph together but I wish that he would grow up a bit too. I understand his ire with Ranger's closeness and I thought Steph's jealousy was equally hilarious but I also think that I can't wait until matters are settled once and for all.

James says

Book Review

3 out of 5 stars for To the Nines, the 9th book in the "Stephanie Plum" cozy mystery series, written in 2002 by Janet Evanovich. And with this review, I am officially caught up on older reads for this series... and I can now pick up where I left off by reading book 19 this summer... and it will be a much more detailed and thorough review. In this one, #9, Stephanie is chasing an illegal immigrant as her bail jumper. While hilarious and funny, this one didn't feel as strong as the rest. Hard to keep up in such a prolific series, right? Still funny. Takes her all over the place. Even to the strip clubs. And you probably think she had to perform this time... you won't know unless you check it out. Rest assured, she's still working for her cousin's agency. And she still has her colleagues to keep her in check. Hopefully Joe and Ranger don't see the extents she has to go on this case. But when it turns out to be one of her scariest and biggest, she has to turn to them for help. She's still getting the hang of this job, but with each culprit, she's one step closer to perfection.

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A

LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by.
