



Sizzling Sixteen

Janet Evanovich

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Trenton, New Jersey, bounty hunter Stephanie Plum has inherited a “lucky” bottle from her Uncle Pip. Problem is, Uncle Pip didn’t specify if the bottle brought good luck or bad luck....

BAD LUCK

Vinnie, of Vincent Plum Bail Bonds, has run up a gambling debt of \$786,000 with mobster Bobby Sunflower and is being held until the cash can be produced.

GOOD LUCK

Being in the business of tracking down people, Stephanie, office manager Connie, and file clerk Lula have an advantage in finding Vinnie.

BAD LUCK

Finding a safe place to hide Vinnie turns out to be harder than raising \$786,000. Not even local stoner Walter “Moon Man” Dunphy is up to the task.

GOOD LUCK

Between a bonds office yard sale, Mooner’s Hobbit-Con charity event, and Uncle Pip’s lucky bottle, they just might raise enough money to save the business, and Vinnie, from ruin.

BAD LUCK

Saving Vincent Plum Bail Bonds means Stephanie can keep her job as a bounty hunter—and keep hunting down a man wanted for polygamy, a turnpike toilet paper bandit, and a drug dealer with a pet alligator named Mr. Jingles.

GOOD LUCK

Being a bounty hunter comes with its perks, namely Trenton’s hottest cop, Joe Morelli, and the dark and dangerous security expert, Ranger. With any luck at all, Uncle Pip’s lucky bottle will have Stephanie getting lucky—the only question is...with whom?

Sizzling Sixteen...so hot, the pages might spontaneously combust!

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Sizzling Sixteen Details

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From Reader Review Sizzling Sixteen for online ebook

Cyndi says

The last time I read this book, I wasn't all that keen on it, but, this time, I loved it!! How many writers get the fun of saying Hobbits are related to Munchkins?

And, Connie, who gets some of the best lines in this book, "I want to rescue Vinnie so I can kick his perverted ass all the way from the bond's office to the hospital." Hilarious! Then there's Mooner back, and this time with Hobbits, add a yard sale with dynamite and pot brownies, it's one ridiculously funny thing after another. Oh, and did I mention the alligator? (Tee hee) Excuse me while I go check out some yard sales. I'm looking for 'baked' goods.

Reread May 2018 — still loving this book and still looking for a yard sale with Mooner brownies! ?

Terry Weingart says

Worse than the last book. Don't waste your time. Not that you'll spend a lot of time reading--the book was printed with large margins & big print to disguise the fact that there isn't much book. Took me 90 minutes to read it. Nor is there much of a plot. Vinnie's been kidnapped. Hard to believe anyone would want to save a sleazebag but Stephanie, Connie, & Lula do & it's the same-old, same-old. Ditto with Stephanie's relationships with Ranger & Morelli. Even the usual car crash is tired & old. After the car crash, Hal says to Stephanie, "No disrespect but you've done better."

The same can be said to Janet Evanovich about this book.

It has been suggested by other reviewers that this book was ghostwritten. I could believe it. Also it appears that the copy was not proofed before printing. Bookeeping?? Come on!

Also, one incident mentioned on the book jacket flap, where Vinnie is "running up pay-per-view porn charges in...Ranger's apartment", does not even show up in the story itself. Again, bad proofing?

Save your money--if you absolutely have to read the book because it's next in the series, borrow it from the library!

Kricket says

frankly, i don't know why i'm putting myself through this. masochistic urge to see if evanovich will finally put us out of our misery? i swear, if she goes all the way to 20 i'm going to start writing her hate mail.

**

turned out the audiobook gods didn't want me to put myself through this either, a few tracks in the 2nd disc squelched to a halt and i'm letting myself off the hook. here's what happened before i quit:

1. lula eats donuts
2. lula shoots at people for no reason
3. lula eats more donuts
4. lula shoots at someone else for no reason
4. ranger rescues stephanie & lula
5. grandma mazur causes a ruckus at a funeral

it's like she lifted paragraphs out of her other books and just kind of rearranged them. i'm so finished with this series.

Jess says

I saw another reader use this word to describe the book and it's exactly how I felt after I finished it - meh. I do realize that the Stephanie books are supposed to be fun, easy, light reads, and maybe I'm too hard on this series and expect a lot more than I should, but the past few books have been big letdowns. The "mystery" of this book lacked any depth and left me not caring at all about how it would turn out. Comedic bits and circumstances Steph finds herself in are being repeated. How many time can she fall off a fire escape and have it still be funny? Worked the first time around, not so much this time.

I enjoy her supporting characters, but there was too much Lula. This happened in 15 as well, and a little of Lula goes a long way.

I truly don't know what to think about Steph and the triangle anymore. I'm a Joe fan, have been since book 1 (doesn't mean I don't enjoy a hot Ranger scene or two or 10) and I have a hard time understanding why these 2 guys keep hanging around while Steph is her usual undecided self.

Personally, I think the series has run its course, and there seemed to be a little foreshadowing of this with Steph really thinking about how tired she is of her job. However, I've been with Steph, Morelli and the gang for 16 books, and I'll keep reading until the end.

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I will continue to love this series, silly love triangle (of sorts) or not because it never ceases to make me laugh out loud and have a good time.

Cathy says

Just awful. I didn't care for even a moment about what was going on. The story is so shallow, there's no emotion, no suspense, nothing interesting. The women wander around, describing every building, street, turn, and calorie (eaten or craved). Lula's diet covers more words in the book than the search for Vinnie. She's the real star of the book, but it's all one liners. If Evanovich has realized that Lula is the draw, write a story that showcases her in a substantive way instead of just a barrage of dumb jokes. Some were funny the first time, or the third time, but not ad nauseum.

And Stephanie is completely stalled, her life is exactly the same in every book now. It's boring, I want to read about a real woman, not a sketch of a character who never grows or changes. Her lines in this book, her encounters with Morelli, Ranger, her parents, Lula and Connie, Grandma Mazur, all could have just been copied from previous books. Nothing new happened. Fine, she can't choose between Morelli and Ranger. So be a writer and introduce a new man. Give Steph another crazy job to try for a while. Do something, anything, to make the book more than a reread of every other book, but continually more boring and insubstantial.

And don't forget the stuff that's just absurd. Running jokes from previous books are usually fun, but out of context and taken to the extreme, it's just ridiculous. By page 23 Lula had been involved in 2 incidents where she unloaded her gun, once shooting 6 bullets at guys who came on too strong, and soon after unloading the rest of the clip at a guy who stole her doughnuts. And the cops could care less; the ladies just continue on about their day. Why is that funny or interesting? Lula has been turned into a total clown. She had a lot more depth in early books, and potential to be a great long-term character. The humor wasn't always, and doesn't have to be, her entire representation. Now she's just one long joke. What a waste.

But the book is supposed to be about Stephanie, right? But there's nothing new to say, everything is completely status quo with her. Same old, same old.

Finally, once again the book is printed in large print, with double spacing, huge margins and full pages between chapters (which start half way down the page). It's a 140 page book masquerading as 309 pages. Great disguise, I bet it would have fooled Stephanie.

Julie says

Much Better than the last book! I went and re-read the Plum series before starting this book. I wanted to go back and remember why I loved this series so much. This book was so much better than #15. It had the laughs the intense scenes with Ranger, and of course Morelli. But it's the Ranger that sells this book for me. It also makes me want to throw it at a wall too. It's been since Hard Eight and I've been biting my nails and starting to hate the series. I know many are Morelli fan's but there is something there with Ranger that Steph needs to explore before she walks or in Janet's case, keeps dragging it on forever with no satisfaction. Back to the current book. This one has an interesting plot and many laughs. Steph has her usual I hate my job and I don't know what I want to do with my life, melt downs, and constantly ponders over what she should do with the two men in her life. Playing with Ranger while sleeping with Morelli, is still the way she feels is the best way to handle the problem. I had hope for the ending, but big sigh.

James says

Book Review

3 of 5 stars to Sizzling Sixteen, the 16th mystery in the Stephanie Plum series, published in 2009 and written by Janet Evanovich. I've come to expect laughs and kooky characters in these books, and this one is full of them. But other than that, it wasn't as good as the rest. I'd even say this is my least favorite of the bunch. The laughs are wonderful, but the substance is declining due to the rush to put them in the stores and on the market. That said, I won't focus on all the negatives... if you love the series, stick with it... you know what to expect. But I would like things to step up more. This one revolved around getting money in order for cousin

Vinny to stay in business. Vinny's not my favorite character either. I read one more after this one and then took a hiatus from the series around 2011. I'll go back later this year, only because they do make me laugh.

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. *Note*: All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

Vanessa Fox says

Yes, I just gave all 16 of these books 3 stars. No, I didn't just read them all in a row. I just read the 16th one while on a plane (er, I forget which one, I've been on a lot of planes this week - 8, including one transcon). It took me about an hour. I really like these books even though they all have exactly the same plot:

-Stephanie is super cute and hot (despite eating only donuts and fried chicken) and all the guys want her, even though she thinks she is mostly average

-Although she is the worst bond agent ever, keeps her gun in her cookie jar, and loses every skip she goes after, she somehow manages to always save the day and only sometimes has to call one of her two boyfriends to help her

-Her two boyfriends are both dreamy but totally different from each other. Whatever will she do?

-Lula is very sassy. And is no longer a prostitute. Grandma Plum is also very sassy. She totally wishes she had a checkered prostitute past.

When I just want a fast, escapist read, I know exactly what I'll be getting into. I won't look for some light comedy to distract me from the stress and the being 40k feet in the air and end up with a Confederacy of Dunces. Sort of like seeing a Starbucks early in the morning in a foreign country. You do in fact want to try all of the random and exotic coffees, but mostly you need some guaranteed caffeine first.

Rachel says

Why do I keep reading these? The Stephanie Plum series jumped the shark about ten years ago, after book six. Those first books are some of my favorites of all time, however, so I keep going even though I ought to know better.

It bothers me that Stephanie's never getting older, and she doesn't get wiser. And at this point, there's nothing "sizzling" about her attraction to Ranger. Ranger has weird, stilted dialogue, and all of their flirting is robotic and unnecessary. Morelli shows up just often enough to let you know he's still there. Lula is fun, but why does Stephanie listen to her? Why does Stephanie do anything she does? I keep hoping one of these years Janet Evanovich will announce the series is ending. I know Stephanie's been good to you, Janet, but move on with your life. So I can move on with mine.

Lana *Lifeinwordsandlyricscom* says

This one was a little weirder than usual. It was like we traveled to some alternate universe where Lula's Firebird somehow survived a bomb from previous book, Stephanie/Lula/Connie somehow made a decent burglars, and Lula actually had something wise to say. Weird! Not bad weird but weird all the same. Maybe it was the lucky bottle.

So, we finally found out why Stephanie and Joe broke up.

"Do you remember why we broke up?" Morelli asked.

"You needed space."

"I needed toast. You ate the last piece of bread, and you didn't get more."

"I was busy. I forgot."

"You're a woman."

"I'm supposed to remember toast?"

"Yes."

"What about you? What are you supposed to remember?"

"Condoms."

I can buy my own condoms, thankyouverymuch

Now you see why I love Ranger. You would never hear something like that from him. He takes Steph as she is and doesn't try to Stepford the heck out of her.

"You're very calm," he said.

"It's easy to be calm when I'm with you. I feel protected."

"I try," Ranger said. "You don't always cooperate."

This time it's Vinnie who needs help. He got kidnapped by very bad people who demand a very big ransom. Now, if it was me I'd let them keep Vinnie and his perv ass for themselves, but Steph is sentimental about such things, he's family and all that. Also she'd be out of job so there's that. Connie and Lula volunteer to help out, and together they devise a plan to rob the guy that got Vinnie and return the money in exchange for his safe return. Uhm, yeah. I still can't believe they pulled that off.

"I got my gun, my pepper spray, my flashlight," Lula said. "And then I got my other gun and a bread knife."

"I have an Uzi and the stink bombs," Connie said. They looked at me. I had hairspray and a nail file, but it didn't stack up next to guns and stink bombs.

As you can imagine, not everything with that plan went smoothly. That's ok, hobbits saved the day. Did I

forget to mention hobbits were there too? They had capes.

Mind boggled.

Over and out

Jake Rideout says

Haha I love how critical people are about these. They are what they are, people. Janet Evanovich is not going to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Here's what's going to happen: Stephanie is going to bungle some stuff, Lula is going to wear ridiculous outfits and get in everyone's way, Ranger is going to be sexy and mysterious, Morelli is going to be a frat boy, Grandma Mazur is going to cause a scene at a funeral home, at least one car is going to be destroyed, and a lot of Cluck-in-a-Bucket is going to be consumed. Yes, the series is very formulaic. But if you're reading it for something other than that formula, then you're an idiot. By number sixteen you probably should have figured this out on your own.

Now, back to tradition. In lieu of a review, here's one of my favorite passages, in which Lula is speculating about what Vinnie (who has been kidnapped) is up to:

"He could be in the morgue."

Connie shook her head. "All the cops know Vinnie. He'd get ID'd if he showed up dead."

"Then they must have shot Vinnie full of holes like Swiss cheese and weighted him down with cement boots and thrown him off the bridge into the Delaware. Or they could have taken him to a butcher shop and chopped him up into little pieces and put him into the meat grinder," Lula said. "I'm gonna eat this jelly doughnut next. I love jelly doughnuts."

Jilly says

I read the reviews on this before I picked it up, so I wasn't expecting much. I was thinking I would just get through it in order to know what's going on for the next book. And, I have to say that the negative reviews were right:

it was boring, with tired old jokes and a love triangle that is getting really old.

And, is Stephanie actually getting dumber? I know Lula has, but I swear that Stephanie is regressing.

But, on the good side, there were a few good moments towards the end of the book, and I made my way through it pretty quickly.

Ranger will always keep me coming back. I have to keep up hope for him.

Jane says

I don't know why I keep reading this series. I loved it when it first started, but now, at 16 books strong (they're bestsellers), I am getting tired of the SAMENESS of them all.

Stephanie Plum is crappy at her job as a bonds agent. She usually finds of her targets, often captures them with the help of Ranger, a hot security consultant, and even more regularly ends up in some kind of embarrassing escapade. She is torn between Joe Morelli, her cop boyfriend, and super-sexy mystery man Ranger. She wrecks one or two cars.

This happens in EVERY BOOK.

At some point, it would be nice if Stephanie Plum grew up and matured. Or changed. Or if her hamster even died. I'm very against animal cruelty, but come on, how long do hamsters live, anyway?

The Stephanie Plum books evidently happen in some kind of weird alternative world in which time moves, but never forward or backward. It just kind of goes, and no one ever ages. Or learns from their mistakes.

Or hires a copyeditor, I guess, given that these books are beginning to feel as though they're written in a hurry, what with all the typos and poor writing. Seriously, in every book, there are at least 5 instances of someone "cutting their eyes" at another person.

These are great books to read if there's nothing else at the library. At the very least, it will make time pass. Which is more than what happens in the actual books.

Carol says

I know I'll read this because I've read all of them, but I read the first 2 chapters online last weekend and I was not impressed. I've read so much better stuff from people who can't get published that this reheated mix from Evanovich seems especially unfair. Hopefully I'll feel differently after I've read the whole book.

Well, I didn't. Same ol' stuff. I know I used to like Stephanie and care about her. Now it just seems like nothing happens. There was a point where she was in a car, thinking that she should screw Ranger and then marry Morelli, and all I could think was "Fine! Do it! Do something! Make a decision!"

I'm sure there will be 17 but this might be my last one.
