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Twelve Sharp (Stephanie Plum, No. 12)



Synopsis

Welcome to Trenton, New Jersey, where bounty hunter Stephanie Plum's life is about to implode in Janet Evanovich's wildest, hottest novel yet! **FIRST A STRANGER APPEARS** While chasing down the usual cast of miscreants and weirdos Stephanie discovers that a crazed woman is stalking her. **THEN THE STRANGER REVEALS HER SECRETS** The woman dresses in black, carries a 9mm Glock, and has a bad attitude and a mysterious connection to dark and dangerous Carlos Manoso — street name, Ranger. **NEXT, SOMEBODY DIES** The action turns deadly serious, and Stephanie goes from hunting skips to hunting a murderer. **SOON, THE CHASE IS ON** Ranger needs Stephanie for more reasons than he can say. And now, the two are working together to find a killer, rescue a missing child, and stop a lunatic from raising the body count. When Stephanie Plum and Ranger get too close for comfort, vice cop Joe Morelli (her on-again, off-again boyfriend) steps in. Will the ticking clock stop at the stroke of twelve, or will a stranger in the wind find a way to stop Stephanie Plum — forever? Filled with Janet Evanovich's trademark action, nonstop adventure, and sharp humor, *Twelve Sharp* shows why her audiobooks have been called "hot stuff" (The New York Times), and Evanovich herself "the master" (San Francisco Examiner).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The mixture of slapstick and gunplay that has put Evanovich's series about a sassy, less than competent New Jersey bounty hunter at the top of bestseller lists once again works its magic in Stephanie Plum's latest caper (after 2005's *Eleven on Top*). Stephanie, who freely admits her failings as a hunter of fugitives, faces a growing work backlog that threatens the continued existence

of her job. Her clumsy efforts to clear some cases, along with the help of her outrageous colleague, Lula, result only in their adding another sad sack to the office payroll— a forlorn shoe salesman who's talked off a ledge by Stephanie's offer of a position as file clerk. Stephanie's ambivalence toward the two men in her life becomes harder to maintain when one of them, the mysterious Ranger, is accused of kidnapping his own daughter. Countless over-the-top scenes, including one at a funeral parlor, will delight longtime fans. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Starred Review In a manner almost elegant in its offhandedness, Stephanie Plum gets us up to speed on her life as a bounty hunter in Trenton, NJ; her ever-eccentric family; and her fellows in her cousin's bail-bond office. It doesn't take more than a few pages. Then someone who is mistaken for Ranger--one of the two men in and out of Stephanie's life (the other is Morelli the cop)--is accused of kidnapping his daughter. Evanovich uses all of her considerable arsenal here: wisecracking humor and set pieces about cars, neighborhoods, family matters, and the funeral parlor (now with new directors straight out of *Queer Eye for the Burg Guy*). Then, at one point, both Morelli and Ranger are living out of Stephanie's apartment (she flees to her childhood bedroom). Evanovich also deftly uses celebrity stalking and identity theft to sketch a quite scary bad guy, and she creates in Ranger's daughter, Julie, a spirited 10-year-old version of her mesmerizing father. The ending is downright terrifying, but the coda is soothing and features a cake with icing roses. Kids? Cupcakes? What could possibly be next? GraceAnne DeCandido Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Stephanie seems to be getting better at the bounty hunter thing, but still has enough issues to make her takedowns humorous. She actually kicks in a couple doors. I do kind of wish she would learn how to pick locks though. All the usual folks are here also to add to the fun and a few new ones show up. Janet Evanovich uses this book to flesh out the Ranger character. He's not just a batman like personality that simply pops up when he's needed. I definitely enjoyed that part of the novel. Poor Stephanie has a problem now. She realizes that she actually loves both Joe and Ranger, she's not just in lust. Oh, to have such a dilemma. I still love the series. The books are cute, funny, and light. As long as the books keep coming, I'll keep reading.

Having read these first twelve books in order, this seems to be the funniest book so far. Stephanie

has returned to work for Vinnie, but finds that Ranger needs her to help track down a man who is posing as Ranger and has kidnapped Ranger's daughter. The "Fake Ranger" wants to kill Ranger, make Stephanie his girlfriend, and live Ranger's life. Good story, funny book, very interesting.

If there is one thing you can count on with the Stephanie Plum series, it is that you are going to have a laugh until your stomach hurts, good time. I adore this series. It has it all, tension filled romance, yummy and hilarious side characters that are every bit as hilarious as they are swoon worthy, action, humor, and most of all, it is just freaking fun and one I turn to time and time again. While this twelve installment is just as funny, just as good as all the others, it is also a little more serious than what we are use to but in a really good way. The stakes are higher, lives are on the line and this time, those lives, are people we know and love. I can't even begin to tell you how wonderful this was and how it gave me exactly what I needed (a reading pick me up) just when I needed it. Between crazy Grandma M and Lula who I adore (oh my gosh the rock n' roll band and thongs! Seriously enough said, just read it already!) , and the sexy Ranger and Morelli, this series really does deliver on all counts of fun. If you haven't tried this series yet and need a lighter but still mystery filled, action packed, humor ridden, heart pounding good time, try this series. I don't think you will be disappointed, at. All.

I only just started reading the Plum novels, and not in order, but of the six or so I've finished, this is by far the best one. Instead of a cardboard horny gang member with an attitude, Ranger turns out to be a real - and really unusual - person. He's still got his hard-ass Special Forces persona, but we see way under it. We find out he gave his child up for adoption so she would have a better life than he could give her, that Julie resembles him in important ways, that even he can be overwhelmed by circumstances, and that he loves Stephanie (OK, so he says "emotionally involved"...but in the context of that paragraph, that's what he means). Yes, he keeps crawling into bed with her, but mostly because he needs someone to hold for comfort. I thought the whole book was genuinely suspenseful, which in turn made the slapstick interludes even funnier. And wow, is the slapstick funny! Some of the other books try too hard - there's too much, it's too silly, and the narrative doesn't hold together. This one, though, avoids those problems - the humor builds around Sally's band as the tension builds in the increasingly desperate search for the little girl. The dinner scene with Steph trying to get her Dad out of the house before the band starts rehearsing - particularly Grandma Mazur imitating Mick Jagger - is priceless. (I just love Grandma Mazur, and it was interesting to see her contrasted with Ranger's Cuban grandmother - presumably the one who

raised him through high school). We get less character development with Joe, but still some: Morelli doesn't do his usual Maalox routine when Steph decides to meet Scrog - he's quietly supportive and asks her what she wants him to do. Stephanie's scenes with little Julie are very warm and sweet, despite the violence around them. I do wish Stephanie had been developed a little more, though - she does comfort Ranger in a couple spots, and finally tells Morelli she loves him, but given what Evanovich managed to do with Ranger's character, it could be better. The one problem with the book (in fact all of them) is that Stephanie never seems to learn anything - Evanovich develops male characters better than female ones. Can't be earnest or serious - that would kill the fun - but there ought to be something. I do disagree with the voices claiming that Steph should just make up her mind between Morelli and Ranger - it is entirely possible to love more than one person at a time, particularly when both of them have wonderful qualities mixed with serious drawbacks. Morelli is dependable, responsible, and family oriented, but he's usually trying to get Steph to be quieter and more civilized. She'd hate that. Ranger, on the other hand, notices and tries to help develop her talent, but he apparently has some awful secret in his past that makes him unable to promise her anything more than sex. It's a good setup for a lot more story, and I'll be disappointed if Evanovich eventually wraps this up with some trite, Hallmark card-style solution. A three-cornered outcome of some sort would be much more interesting, particularly since Ranger and Morelli have become, well, not close friends, but complementary. Anyway, still not Dorothy Sayers (if you're not familiar with her Lord Peter Wimsey crime novels, you're missing out), but hilarious, suspenseful, and worth a repeat reading.

I have loved all of the eleven Stephanie Plum books I have read and number twelve doesn't disappoint! I like that the Stephanie, Ranger, Morelli triangle still exists and that the author has kept around some really great characters. She has also added some new characters in this book that I hope we see more of in future books. Seeing as how I have only just finished the twelfth installment, I only have to wait just as long as it takes me to download number thirteen to see if they stick around. If you're a Stephanie Plum fan, I think you'll enjoy this one. It is a little predictable in places, but the fact that it reads at a nice pace, and that there is plenty of humor intermingled, you really don't get bored even if you've figured out what was coming next. Janet Evanovich keeps her readers entertained with this one like she has in all eleven of the previous books. I believe she stays loyal to the characters she has created and I look forward to starting number Thirteen. I just hope she continues to put out the Stephanie Plum series until I'm reviewing number 50 or more !

I literally read this book in a few days. Janet has a way of keeping you on edge. Just when you think you know the routine, she shakes the box. Love, love, love. Ready for #13!!!

Another great read. I'm on team Ranger with a side of Morrelli. I hope she picks one of them soon. Anxious to find out

I am totally hooked on this series. Not sleeping much, laughing a lot.

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