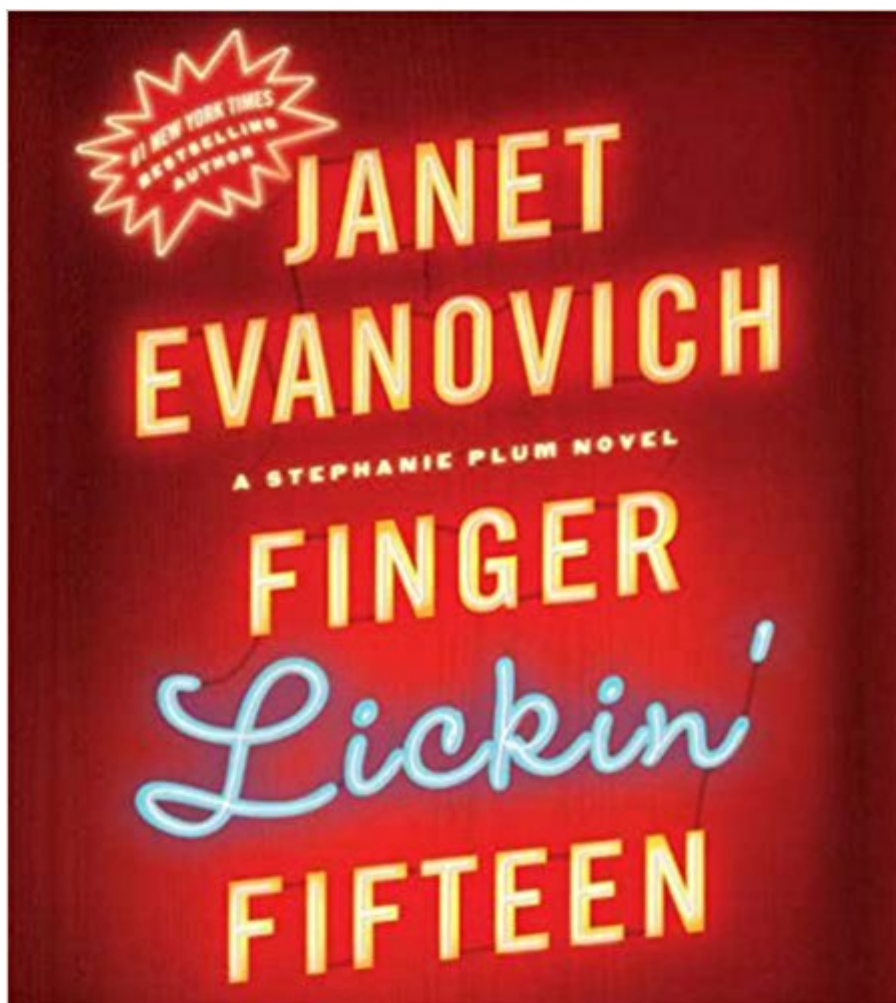




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Finger Lickin' Fifteen (Stephanie Plum Novels)



Synopsis

Recipe for disaster: Celebrity chef Stanley Chipotle comes to Trenton to participate in a barbecue cook-off and loses his head â “ literally. Throw in some spice: Bail bonds office worker Lula is witness to the crime, and the only one she'll talk to is Trenton cop, Joe Morelli. Pump up the heat: Chipotle's sponsor is offering a million-dollar reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the capture of the killers. Stir the pot: Lula recruits bounty hunter Stephanie Plum to help her find the killers and collect the moolah. Add a secret ingredient: Stephanie's Grandma Mazur. Enough said. Bring to a boil: Can Stephanie hunt down two killers, a traitor, five skips, keep her grandmother out of the sauce, solve Ranger's problems and not jump his bones? Warning: Janet Evanovich's Finger Lickin' Fifteen is habanero hot. So good you'll want seconds.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book Description SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 EVENT: The next Stephanie Plum novel, in which complications arise, loyalties are tested, cliffhangers are resolved, and donuts are eaten. WHERE: Wherever books are sold across America WHAT TO BRING: Sunglasses, insect repellent, a flotation device, suntan lotion, cheez-doodles, extra-large towel, fire extinguisher, baseball bat, lip balm, monkey leash, sixty three pieces of chewing gum, and one canister of oxygen (don't ask). Hey, it's a Stephanie Plum novel! Janet Evanovich and Michael Connelly: Author One-to-One In this exclusive, we brought together blockbuster authors Janet Evanovich and Michael Connelly and asked them to interview each other. Find out what two of the top authors of

their genres have to say about their characters, writing process, and more. Michael Connelly is the bestselling author of the Harry Bosch series of novels as well as *The Poet*, *Blood Work*, *Void Moon*, *Chasing the Dime*, and the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Lincoln Lawyer*. He is a former newspaper reporter who has won numerous awards for his journalism and his novels. Read on to see Michael Connelly's questions for Janet Evanovich, or turn the tables to see what Evanovich asked Connelly.

Connelly: Let's get the business out of the way. What's *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*, the new Stephanie Plum novel, all about and what brought you to the story?

Evanovich: I wanted to do a book that featured Stephanie's wheelman, Lula. Lula is one of my favorite characters because she's pulled herself up from hard times and now is just more of everything. *Fifteen* opens with Lula witnessing a crime, and it all gets complicated after that. We're talking about barbecue gone bad, cross-dressing firemen, dancing hot dogs, etc.

Connelly: You strike me as an author who is involved in every aspect of the publishing of her work. But the output--at least two solid novels a year--suggests otherwise, that you delegate all over the place so that you can focus on writing high-quality stuff. So which is it? (And if your answer is that you do indeed delegate, how the heck do you learn to do that?)

Evanovich: You reach a point in your career where the business side threatens to eclipse writing time and you either delegate or power back. I delegate everything but the writing. My daughter and her staff manage the website, the fan mail, the book tour, the author publicity and marketing. My son is my agent and finance officer and chief problem solver. When no one else can solve the problem it gets dumped on my son's desk! I oversee all aspects, but I've had to learn not to micro-manage.

Connelly: We have an author friend in common-- Robert Crais--who has steadfastly refused to sell or option his series character Elvis Cole to Hollywood. On the other hand, I've flogged Harry Bosch up and down the studio strip. (Interestingly enough, to the same effect--no movies made!) Where do you stand with Stephanie and will we ever see her on the big or small screen?

Evanovich: Jeez Louise, I wish I knew the answer to this one. TriStar owns the Plum franchise with Wendy Finerman attached as producer, and Wendy has been trying to get this sucker off the ground for fifteen years. Probably somewhere in the vicinity of three million people read each of my Plum books, but for whatever reason, TriStar has yet to greenlight the project.

Connelly: Speaking of that L.A. business, do you remember when we first met? Since you conveniently put numbers in your titles, it is easy for me to remember that it was fourteen years ago in L.A. I bet you don't remember the name of the restaurant, which sadly is no longer there. But, luckily, we're still here and my memory of that lunch is important to me because at the time we had probably sold a hundred books between us (not counting romance novels).

Evanovich: What I remember is that what I consider to be my graduating class (you, Crais, and Jan Burke) would get together at all the

mystery conferences, and you would be our fearless leader! Connelly: Did you know that in my most recent novel a very bad man plans to use a Janet Evanovich novel to get close to an unsuspecting, potential victim? It's scary stuff--the plan, not the Evanovich novel. Have you reached a stage where your work is part of the terrain and gets these sorts of little nods here and there? Evanovich: Every now and then my name or one of my character names pops up and it's usually in the work of a friend. I think it's fun and I always reciprocate...so live in fear. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Veteran Evanovich narrator Lorelei King seems perfectly at home when in command of bounty hunter Stephanie Plum and her colorful Garden State band of relatives and colleagues. The action here centers on the mysterious death of a prominent cable television barbecue master. As a witness to the crime, Plum's larger than life office assistant Lula lands in the center of the drama, and King delivers a deliciously over the top performance of her antics, especially the reformed prostitute's convoluted plot to solve the case by entering a barbecue cook-off. The abridgment seems a bit choppy, as the details surrounding the motives and methods of the cast of villains seem lost in the shuffle. Yet King's talent and Evanovich's beloved characters still make for an entertaining summer escape. A St. Martin's hardcover (Reviews, May 25). (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I usually borrow these books from the online library, but they don't have this one, despite having all the rest, so I had to buy it. I'm not sorry I bought it. It was funny, it had a lot of laughs, and it was true to the series. I would, however, really like it if JE would stop describing every house everyone lives in and changing a lot of details about things. Just as an example, Morelli's house came from his Aunt Rose. When he got it, the first time it was introduced, she gave all her furniture to his sister and he had to bring in his. Later in the series, some of the furniture was hers to begin with and he inherited it. HUH? I am also tired of reading how the houses are laid out. If you have read the ones leading up to 15, you've learned all that. If you haven't read 1-14, what are you doing with 15 in your hands? I do, however, always read curiously to know who lives in the house shared with the Plum family. Will it be Mrs. Ciak or Mable Markowitz? It changes. Why is that? Does no one edit these books? Does consistency not matter? Whoever she is, she always bakes and is very poor. That remains, but her name switches back and forth. Big Blue is in every book, so we already all know it steers like a refrigerator on wheels and Stephanie hates it. The thing is that I know these people. I

grew up with them. They lived in my neighborhood. They are true to life, according to my real life. I know the sexual tension between two men and one woman, and I know how difficult it is to know what to do. I know the big and beautiful black woman, although my friend was never a "ho". I know the Italian father just trying to cope with the women around him always doing something that makes no sense and him being out of the loop on everything but the fact that his dinner had better be on that table when the time comes!! laughed out loud at many of the scenes. Lula cracks me up. She is on target with a lot of what she says, she plays her race card as a trump, she plays her big and beautiful card like the ace of trump. She's got it. She's intelligent and it comes out every once in a while, but she plays dumb in a lot of things, too. Stephanie is so hopelessly confused by the men in her life that she can't do much right. Ranger gets the cars from a mysterious source, but at some point, we did learn that he gets them for providing security for someone who has a dealership somewhere, so it's not all that much of a mystery, and he says Stephanie is entertainment for his men who bet on how long a car can last with her driving it. So yeah, I can see it being that way. The rich are not like me. I can totally understand when Ranger tells Stephanie that to his men, she is his property and I can totally see why she gets extremely upset with that. Both sides of that make sense to me. Morelli is in love with Stephanie and he can't commit because he's Italian, and Italian men want total control over their women (in stereotype, not in real life) and Stephanie cannot be controlled. Even his grandmother is a typical stereotype old woman with "the eye". All the characters make me laugh, but not all the time. As a series, I love these books. This one was entertaining, although I never heard of anyone passing gas to the extent that Lula does in this book. I guess it happens. And I do know that no matter how old a man gets, a fart is funny to him. It never fails to get a smile. I'll even admit that Joyce getting shot was something I thought she deserved. When I finished this book, I moved on to 16. I kept going. I will keep going, as long as the series runs. They make me laugh. If you're looking for great literature, seek it elsewhere. If you need to laugh, read these books. It's pretty much as simple as that.

3.5 Stars. First time I ever gave a Stephanie Plum book below a 4. Not that I didn't love most of the book, because I did. Each book in the series has a unique mystery going on even when Stephanie's little black cloud follows her around and we just know things are going to happen and I'm going to laugh. Where it fell short for me was the Rangeman part. As good as the Ranger character is at what he does, I really don't think he needed Stephanie to figure out his problem. He should have been all over that. Regardless, I love the series. On to Sixteen.

All of the Stephanie Plum series is pretty good, but this is my favorite so far! Lula shines in this one, and is absolutely hilarious. The first time I read it, I was listening to an audio book and there was a chapter that was so funny, I had to pull the car over to the side of the road. I was laughing so hard, tears were muddling my vision. The Ranger/Moreli challenge is on, and the bad guy hunt is top of her game. This is a keeper.

Okay, it's not great literature, but I never tire of Stephanie Plum's hilarious escapades. # 15 ranks high on the list of outrageous adventures. This time everything's bursting into flames. Stephanie manages to torch Ranger's Porsche Cayenne not once but twice, get doused with red paint, her apartment is firebombed, Lula's Firebird explodes, and barbeque sauce seems to rain from heaven throughout the book. Lula organizes a team for a barbecue contest after she witnesses the decapitation of a famous chef. She's determined to win the cook-off prize, but the various concoctions she creates do more internal damage than palate pleasing. Although currently off men after a break-up with Morelli, the long-running battle for Stephanie's heart continues. Who will she choose, Morelli or Ranger? By book 15, it appears that Morelli is gaining ground. Lots of sexual tension, without anything really gross. I appreciate that. Evanovich's work walks the tightrope between bawdy and innocent prose, and sometimes the humor seems a bit sophomoric. Still, she manages to keep everything fun. I would recommend this book.

Fast passed, lots of action and Stephanie spending lots of time with Ranger. Love becomes complicated when there are two great men in her life, Ranger and Joe.

Normally I like Evanovich but not this book. I had trouble finishing it, it was so repetitious of what has gone before. We all know Morelli, Ranger, Lula, Connie, Tank, the Burg, on and on. Then Evanovich's trademarks, the destroyed cars, the FTA skips who keep getting away with the same evasion skips all the time. Plum never wises up in this book, it is full of been there, done that. Even this review would become nothing but repetitions if I let it, I shall try to avoid that. Lula's introduction with the beheading of a chef is the highlight of the book, it keeps going down from there. Ranger has a problem. That is different. Then Morelli is constantly busy on his job but he always has time for Plum. Eek, repetition after repetition. The same now for Ranger, Plum is always in his bed but that is all, sex is wanted but avoided, repetition. More repetition? I am trying to avoid it, so we shall skip Cluck in a Bucket. Evanovich can not find new ways to destroy cars, repetition. Plum's apartment gets fire bombed, she loses two of Ranger's cars, she can not corral her FTA's, Ranger or one of

his men will do the work for Plum but let her get the credit. Her boss, Vinnie, pops in and out, her rival, Joyce Barnhardt is brought in to make sure we get more repetitions, and Lula makes barbecue sauce continuously not repetitively, hooray! The ending is weak, almost forced, and Ranger's interlopers are hard to define, how do they accomplish all they do against such a sophisticated system? Not to worry, Evanovitch will disregard all that and end the book anyhow. Thank heavens that is not repetitious. The book is not worth reading, that is repetitious.

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