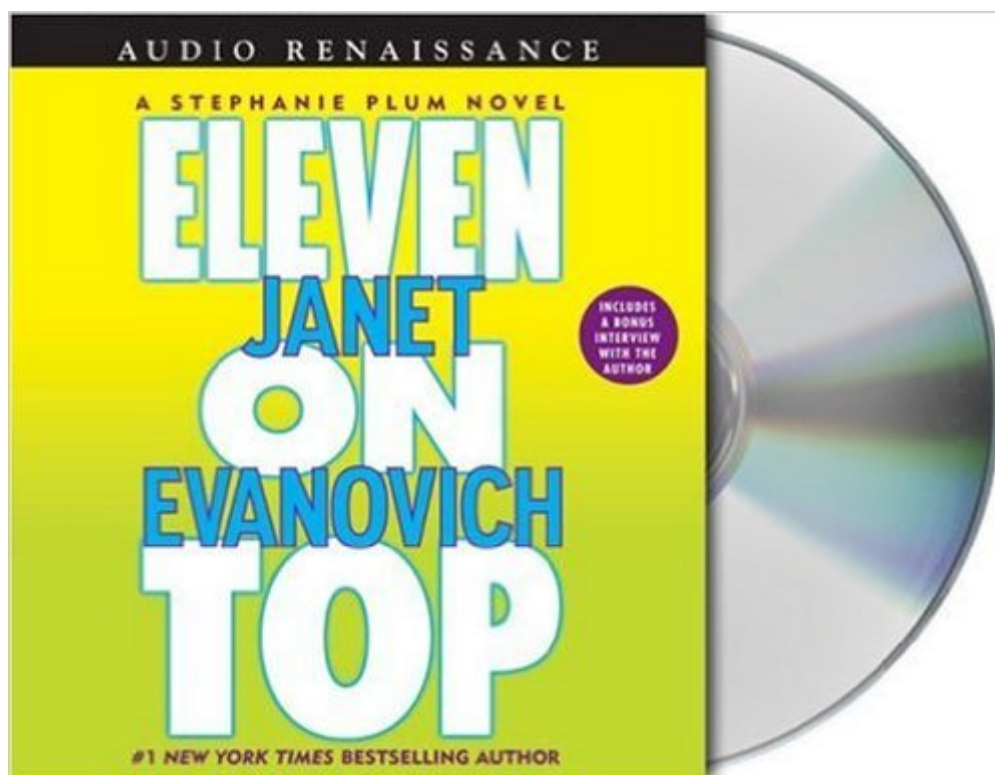


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Eleven On Top (Stephanie Plum, No. 11)



Synopsis

#1 New York Times#1 Wall Street Journal#1 Los Angeles Times#1 Entertainment Weekly#1 Publishers Weekly

Stephanie Plum is thinking her career as a fugitive apprehension agent has run its course. She's been shot at, spat at, cussed at, fire-bombed, mooned, and attacked by dogs. Time for a change, Stephanie thinks. Time to find the kind of job her mother can tell her friends about without making the sign of the cross. So Stephanie Plum quits. Resigns. No looking back. No changing her mind. She wants something safe and normal. As it turns out, jobs that are safe and normal for most people aren't necessarily safe and normal for Stephanie Plum. Trouble follows her, and the kind of trouble she had at the bail bonds office can't compare to the kind of trouble she finds herself facing now. Her past has come back to haunt her. She's stalked by a maniac returned from the grave for the sole purpose of putting her into a burial plot of her own. He's killed before, and he'll kill again if given the chance. Caught between staying far away from the bounty hunter business and staying alive, Stephanie reexamines her life and the possibility that being a bounty hunter is the solution rather than the problem. After disturbingly brief careers at the button factory, Kan Klean Dry Cleaners, and Cluck-in-a-Bucket, Stephanie takes an office position in security, working for Ranger, the sexiest, baddest bounty hunter and businessman on two continents. It might not be the job she'll keep for the rest of her life, but for now it gives her the technical access she needs to find her stalker. Tempers and temperatures rise as competition ratchets up between the two men in her life---her on-again, off-again boyfriend, tough Trenton cop Joe Morelli, and her bad-ass boss, Ranger. Can Stephanie Plum take the heat? Can you? Between the adventure and the adversity there's attitude, and Stephanie Plum's got plenty in her newest misadventure, *Eleven on Top*.

Book Information

Audio CD: 3 pages

Publisher: MacMillan Audio; Abridged edition (June 21, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1593976976

ISBN-13: 978-1593976972

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (784 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #348,682 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \(E \) > Evanovich, Janet](#) #208 in [Books > Books on CD > Romance](#) #508

Customer Reviews

Of course, I had to read "Eleven on Top" today. I can't remember ever not finishing a new Janet Evanovich novel the first day I got one. "Eleven's" no different!"Eleven" is different from its predecessors in that Stephanie Plum actually takes the advice of I've lost count how many people and quits her bounty hunter job in search of a real job. She's lucky--she gets the first job she applies for at the button factory, and the second with a local dry cleaners, and the with a fast-food chicken franchise "Cluck in a Bucket"....all with disastrously funny results.The triangle between Steph, Joe Morelli, and Ranger is throbbing with tension. This is particularly so since Stephanie ends up working for Ranger at Rangeman Security--to keep safe. Which hunk is going to claim Steph this time--and for how long? I'm not telling!Steph is also being stalked by someone who tells her she thought they were dead. They attack with bullets, fire....Meanwhile, Steph, Ranger, and Joe are all looking for four Trenton men who have disappeared with their cars on the same day. This plotline is a real mystery folks and had me guessing all the way through the book. Definitely a great addition to the Plum series....Oh yeah, and the laughs keep on coming. Your favorites are here: Grandma Mazur, the eighty year old teenager, the prospective brother-in-law Albert Kloughn...All the Stephanie books are better than Prozac and almost as good as chocolate to cheer a person up.Evanovich is right: "Eleven" is DEFINITELY on top.

It was an interesting twist for Stephanie to quit her job with Vinnie. In the beginning it sort of bummed me out. But when Lula promoted herself to take over Stephanie's job and then constantly needed Stephanie to bail her out, that became pretty amusing. Stephanie's various jobs were mildly amusing also, but the whole car exploding thing is getting old. There are so many other ways to entertain. The reason I rated this book only 3 stars is due to Stephanie's relationships with Joe and Ranger. I can appreciate the author trying to please all the readers, the readers rooting for Joe and the readers rooting for Ranger (my money is on Ranger), however, at some point it just feels like Stephanie's in limbo. It's going nowhere with Joe and going nowhere with Ranger and the reader feels that. It's become almost boring, her interactions with these men. It almost feels like she's being cruel to Joe, living with him, yet flirting with Ranger at work. Stephanie's going to have to make a decision pretty soon, before the readers start to lose complete interest in either of them.

Stephanie has decided being a bounty hunter is too dangerous, so she quits her job working for

Cousin Vinnie and tries to find something safer. After working for the button factory (fired before she even starts work), a dry cleaners, and Kluck-in-a-Bucket, she finally ends up working for Ranger. However, someone is still trying to kill her, and her cars are getting blown up at an alarming rate. Also, her sister Valerie is getting married, and Stephanie is expected to walk up the aisle dressed in eggplant. And for no very good reason she has told her family that she can play the cello (she can't) and they are expecting her to play it at the wedding. And then she decides she is going to give up eating sugar, could things get any worse? There are a lot of funny scenes, my favourite is the one where Grandma Mazur and Grandma Bella have a fight (in the funeral parlour, where else?). However, I found myself slightly less gripped by this one than by the previous volumes. Maybe it's because she's not a bounty hunter any more, but there seemed to be less excitement and suspense than in the other stories. And I found the denouement too preposterous to believe. Also I found myself wondering how much longer she can keep stringing Morelli along without making a commitment, before he just gets fed up with her. Never mind, you don't read a Stephanie Plum novel for the realism, you read it for the laughs, and there are plenty of those, more than you get with most other authors anyway.

It's a good day when the latest Stephanie Plum novel shows up... *Eleven On Top* by Janet Evanovich. This may be one of my favorites of the series... Stephanie Plum has decided to quit the bounty hunting business. Her life isn't going anywhere, and she's decided to get a steady job with a regular paycheck. Of course, not having anyone shoot at her or blow up her car would be nice too. But of course, nothing is normal or steady when it comes to Ms. Plum's life. She gets fired on day one from the button factory. She gets fired from the dry cleaning job after a couple of days (and when the matriarch of the owner's family dies when Plum's car blows up). And her job in the fast food business ends after a day when the chicken restaurant she works at burns down after a couple of days. So why all the pyrotechnics? Someone's apparently out to settle an old score, and Stephanie's life seems to be in peril. Threatening notes, exploding car bombs, exploding garages, burning restaurants, and she's not even in the business any more. Add into the mix that she's now working for Ranger at the same time she's trying to nurse Morelli back to health from a broken leg... As I said above, this may be one of my favorites in the Stephanie Plum series. I enjoyed the interaction between her and Lula as Lula tries to take over her old job (and still get Stephanie to help with all the apprehensions). There's a bit more Ranger time as you learn more about his business, as well as wondering whether Stephanie will succumb to her urges to jump his bones. And her grandma is as zany as ever. Even though you think you know how the story is shaping up,

there are still plenty of twists that accelerate at the end, making sure that I stayed up later than I wanted to find out how it all ended. A good, fun read, and another excellent installment in the series...

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