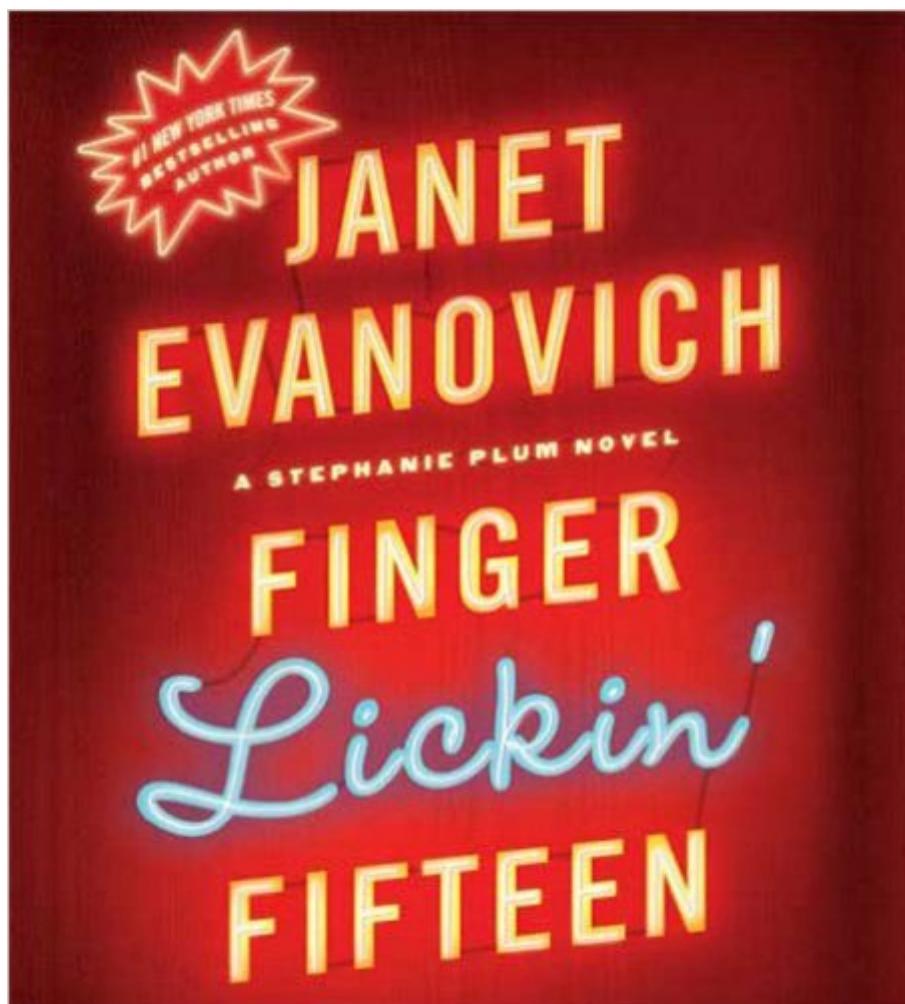


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# Finger Lickin' Fifteen (Stephanie Plum Novels)



## **Synopsis**

Recipe for disaster: Celebrity chef Stanley Chipotle comes to Trenton to participate in a barbecue cook-off and loses his head – 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**

Normally, I start a review by discussing the author, but Janet Evanovich is such an accomplished writer, I don't think that will be necessary. It is hard to believe that it has been fifteen years since we were first introduced to the sassy bounty hunter, Stephanie Plum. A show of hands from those who can remember One for the Money: One for the Money (Stephanie Plum, No. 1). Well, Stephanie, has come a long way since she first started chasing Joe Morelli. The last few books in the series, however, had readers convinced it was time to put this series to rest - and I was one of them. But Finger Lickin' Fifteen is, in some ways, a return to form for the best-selling author. Stephanie Plum has had enough experience by now to be a seasoned vet, but somehow she still manages to

stumble along the way - but I guess that is part of her charm. There are two things we can count on about Ms. Plum: She will bumble her way through the book and never commit to a serious relationship - both hold true in her latest adventure. Fifteen Lickin' Fifteen has all the characters that we've come to love and even spends time developing some of their stories. Lula, the clerk with a dubious past, witnesses the brutal murder of television star, Stanley Chipotle. This brings her the unwanted attention of keystone-capered-type-killers that are just as inept at their chosen career as Ms. Plum is at hers. Well, a big reward is offered for the capture of the killers, and Lula, along with Grandma Mazur, enter the cooking contest the TV star was in town to promote in hopes of catching them. Stephanie, meanwhile, is working with her on again, off again lover, Ranger, to solve a series of burglaries that appear to be inside jobs.

Up to book 13 - the book that began the downward trend in Janet's writing - I looked forward to her new books like a 5 year old looks forward to Christmas day. I would read each book in a sitting and re-read it several more times before I could put the characters away for another year. Often I would re-read the entire series before the release of a new book. No longer... now I can barely get through one reading, and only because I have been such a rabid fan of her past works. Number 14 was so horrible that I hardly had any interest in reading FFL, but having some faith in JE's talent, I dutifully went out and purchased the book (although waiting - unheard of for me - a week after release date). I was very apprehensive about what further degradation of my beloved characters that JE would wreak. She managed to take a small step up from the horror of 14, but not much. I really hoped that she would acknowledge the fans feedback and actually TRY when she wrote FFL. She didn't. It was a rehash of old material, "jokes" and formulas. I will scream if she reviews with the reader one more time why grandma M is living with her parents, why the funeral parlor is a social gathering and where the Buick came from etc., etc. Seriously, no one knows this stuff? She continues to reduce the characters into shallow cartoons of their former personalities. The plot was so thin and disjointed that as a reader I was bored and barely paid any attention to it, continuing to read just to get to an interaction between familiar characters. Since when is Ranger stupid? I often suspend my logic or reason when reading a SP novel, but more and more JE is forcing the ridiculous to a point that it is no longer funny, remotely possible or in any way enjoyable.

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