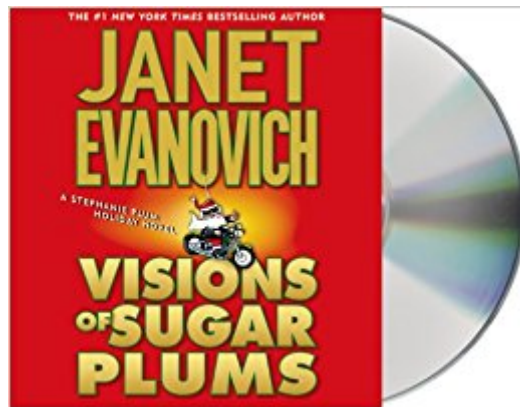




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Visions Of Sugar Plums: A Stephanie Plum Holiday Novel (Stephanie Plum Novels)



Synopsis

It's five days before Christmas and things are not looking merry for Fugitive Apprehension Agent Stephanie Plum. She hasn't got a tree. She hasn't bought any presents. The malls are jam-packed with staggering shoppers. There's not a twinkle light anywhere to be seen in her apartment. And there's a strange man in her kitchen. Sure, this has happened to Stephanie Plum before. Strangers, weirdos, felons, creeps, and lunatics are always finding their way to her front door. But this guy is different. This guy is mysterious, sexy-and he has his own agenda. His name is Diesel and he is a man on a mission. And Diesel is unlike anyone Stephanie has ever met before in her life. The question is, what does he want with her? Can he help her find a little old toy maker who has skipped out on his bail right before Christmas? Can he survive the Plum family holiday dinner? Can he get Stephanie a tree that doesn't look like it was grown next to a nuclear power plant? These questions and more are keeping Stephanie awake at night. Not to mention the fact that she needs to find a bunch of nasty elves, her sister Valerie has a Christmas "surprise" for the Plums, her niece Mary Alice doesn't believe in Santa anymore, and Grandma Mazur has a new stud muffin. So bring out the plastic reindeer, strap on your jingle bells, and get ready to celebrate the holidays-Jersey style. In Janet Evanovich's Visions of Sugar Plums, the world of Plum has never been merrier!

Book Information

Series: Stephanie Plum Novels (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Macmillan Audio; Unabridged edition (December 6, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1559277726

ISBN-13: 978-1559277723

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1 x 6.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 591 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,468,013 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Books on CD](#)
> [Authors, A-Z](#) > ([E](#)) > [Evanovich, Janet](#) #893 in [Books > Books on CD > Romance](#) #2209
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Customer Reviews

Christmas in bounty hunter Stephanie Plum's world isn't quite like Christmas in Whoville. With only four days to go before December 25, she doesn't have a decorated tree in her apartment or any

presents bought. Plus she's chasing an elusive bail-jumper named Sandy Claws; a hunky guy named Diesel is literally popping in and out of her apartment; and a mob of manic elves is threatening to assault her with cookies. The end result is that Stephanie is feeling a tad stressed over the holiday season. Life isn't any calmer over at her parents' home in the Burg, where Grandma Mazur is dating a new octogenarian stud muffin; sister Valerie is wailing over some unwelcome news; and Stephanie's mother is coping by belting back tumblers of Red Roses in the kitchen. Just where is the elusive Mr. Claws hiding, and why? What's causing the power blackouts all over Trenton? And what about the mysterious villain, Mr. Ring? Is all of this real, or is Stephanie just having a very bad dream? Janet Evanovich's mysteries are eagerly awaited by fans everywhere and this holiday installment won't disappoint. With a returning cast of entertaining, quirky characters and a rock-solid setting in New Jersey wrapped around an intriguing mystery, Evanovich delivers yet another hilarious adventure featuring irrepressible bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. --Lois Faye Dyer --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fans of the Stephanie Plum series won't be disappointed with this wonderful adaptation of Evanovich's Christmas tale. Although it's somewhat less creative than some of her other novels, this is still an amusing tale. The story begins with the mysterious arrival of Diesel, a tall, handsome stranger who appears in bounty hunter Stephanie Plum's kitchen. He's caught Stephanie at a bad time: not only is she woefully behind on her Christmas shopping, but she hasn't been able to locate bail-jumper Sandy Claws. As usual, she's got family problems, too. Her sister is pregnant, her grandmother has a new boyfriend and her mother is drinking more than usual. Listeners who aren't familiar with Evanovich's cast of characters may find this adaptation a little hard to follow at first. However, the recitation-complete with a dead-on old lady voice for Grandma and squeals from the elves-is so vivid that listeners will soon recognize the different voices and characters. Actress and veteran audio reader King's command of language and pacing is evident, and the three hour adaptation flies by. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

While I normally like Stephanie Plum novels, this is not up to the standards of the others I have read. Perhaps it is the supernatural involvement of this book. It was somewhat interesting, but I looked forward to the end so I could start something more to my liking. The new character, Diesel, can appear and disappear at a whim, and the object of the bond chase, Sandy Claws, is not Santa, but is a person of unusual powers, and the evil character, Ring, has trouble controlling his supernatural powers. Only the Christmas ending saves this story.

After weeks of reading detective fiction, literary fiction novels that take themselves too seriously, and some squirmy horror, I was ready for something light, something that was just fun. I thought I had read all the Stephanie Plumb novels, but was pleased to find a few un-numbered Stephanies I hadn't discovered yet. All the goofy characters, all the bizarre events, all the unlikely craziness that drives Mrs. Plumb to swig her Four Roses on the sly came together for a really satisfying read. Smiles, giggles and guffaws guaranteed. Crazy elves, electrified senior citizens, an undercover Santa on the lam and a mysterious blonde hunk reminiscent of the character of Earle in *Amazing Grace*, dash Stephanie's hopes for a normal Christmas, but insure readers with a smile or better on every page. I think I'll tuck another Stephanie Plumb into my reading list before I attempt any of the more self-conscious fiction. This is not literature. And thanks be. Fun first.

Stephie strikes again with a new friend. She still loses a car is chased my elves. And the entire plum family gets into the spirit of Christmas. This is one of my top series Facebook favorites so if you want to always have a great read join Stephanie plum books. I have read them all and each book gets better.

You will only like Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum books if you enjoy laughing out loud. Her characters are a hoot, and if you've read any of the *Charmed* books, here's your chance to see Diesel again. I devour her books in gulps and then read them over again to catch what I missed the first time.

Another light and amusing Plum story. Grandma Mazur's teeth had me laughing out loud.

I really can't remember if this is a love story or not ... if it is, I have rated it incorrectly because I think her love stories are naive, idealistic to say the least, and who the heck CARES if the heroine is a virgin or not. Big (lack of expletive here) deal!!!! Get real Evanovitch!! And the comedy and realism are really lacking ... Her books other than the numbered books are only "like" because they just don't have the oomph!, the "punch", that her numbered books possess. Don't ask me why, but they just don't. And her love stories suck! She should stick to her regular numbered books, unless she can come up with characters who are as equally enchanting. Even her story lines aren't as good in these un-numbered books. I wonder why.

Very pleased. Thank you.

It's almost Christmas and Stephanie Plum isn't ready for the holiday. She doesn't have a tree and she hasn't bought any presents. She also has work to do as a bounty hunter; she has to find toy maker Sandy Claws who has skipped bail. The last thing she needs is complications but that's just what happens when sexy stranger Diesel literally appears out of nowhere in her kitchen. Diesel is vague as to where he came from and how he managed to pop into Stephanie's apartment, but he's a man on a mission and sticks by Stephanie's side until he figures out what that mission is. When Stephanie isn't preoccupied with Diesel and trying to catch Sandy Claws, she's dealing with family issues. Her niece Mary Alice doesn't believe in Santa, her sister Valerie has startling news, and her Grandma Mazur has a new stud muffin. At this point, Stephanie wonders if she'll ever get a Christmas tree and her Christmas shopping done!"Visions of Sugar Plums" is a fun, if light read. Most of the old familiar characters are included: Joe Morelli, Stephanie's parents, Grandma Mazur, Valerie and her daughters, and Albert Kloughn. However, fans may be disappointed that there's no Ranger in the book. Lula doesn't appear until near the end of the book, but has some very funny scenes, especially when she "finds" a parking spot at the mall. Diesel adds a bit of fantasy that's a nice touch in a book that takes place in a season that's often filled with fantasy. Everyone, including Stephanie, accepts Diesel's sudden appearance. To me that was the only of-note, especially the way Morelli quickly decides that Diesel isn't a threat to his relationship with Stephanie. I groaned a bit when Stephanie was looking for someone named Sandy Claws at Christmas time since I thought that was overly clever but I changed my mind as the story started rolling along. Sandy Claws and his "elf" helpers added much humor to the book. In fact, the book is full of humorous incidents ranging from a food fight to Stephanie buying a Christmas tree (over and over again), the elves, and, of course, Stephanie's car being blown up. The book is worth reading just for the extremely funny take on the poem "'Twas the Night Before Christmas". While the book is long on humor and a bit short on plot, the resolution of the plot line with Grandma Mazur's stud muffin is quite a surprise and well done."Visions of Sugar Plums" is a light but very funny book to read.

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