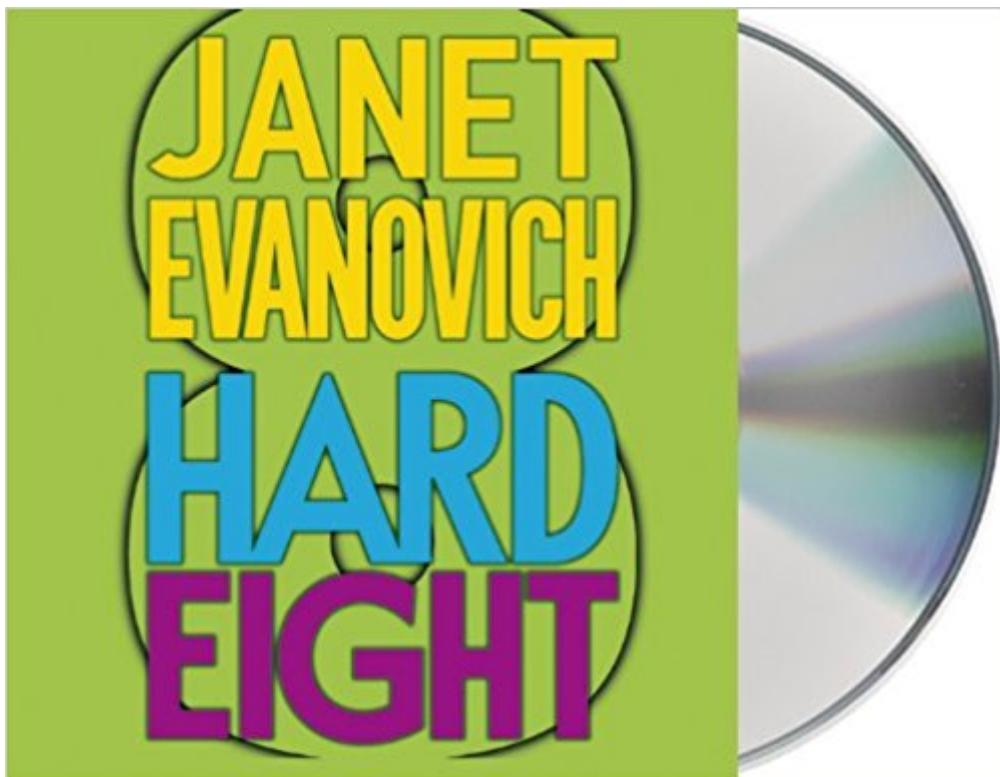


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# Hard Eight (Stephanie Plum, No. 8)



## Synopsis

The #1 bestselling phenomenon continues in the eighth Stephanie Plum novel. The stakes get higher, the crimes get nastier, the chases get faster, and the men get hotter. This time Stephanie, Morelli, Ranger, Lula, Valerie, and Grandma Mazur are strapped in for the ride of their lives. Stephanie is hired to find a missing child. But things aren't always as they seem and Stephanie must determine if she's working for the right side of the law. Plus, there's the Morelli question: can a Jersey girl keep her head on straight when more than just bullets are aimed for her heart? And with the Plum and Morelli relationship looking rocky, is it time for Ranger to move in for the kill? Janet Evanovich's latest thriller proves that Hard Eight will never be enough.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In Hard Eight, Stephanie Plum picks up a case a little nastier than anything the wisecracking bounty hunter's seen before. Evelyn Soder and her young daughter have gone on the run, leaving an angry ex-husband who's planning to collect on a child custody bond that will leave Evelyn's grandmother homeless. Stephanie's first clue that there's more to it than that comes in the form of Eddie Abruzzi, a shady local businessman who warns her to butt out of the case. Stephanie doesn't scare easily, but when Abruzzi's henchmen leave a bag of snakes on her doorknob and tarantulas in her car, she has no choice but to call Ranger, the hunky man of mystery whom she already owes too many favors. Steph knows that Ranger will soon be calling in his marker, but with her ex-fiancé Joe Morelli out of the picture, that should be OK--shouldn't it? In the meantime, she's got other fugitives to catch, aided by the usual band of misfits, plus a bumbling correspondence-school lawyer who's

developed the hots for Stephanie's sister, Valerie. And Steph's in for a surprise from her mother, who proves she's not above wielding a dangerous weapon to save her daughter's life. Author Janet Evanovich has made a bold move in using a soupçon of child jeopardy to pull this series out of the comfortable but formulaic pattern it was threatening to fall into. It's still funny, and yes, some cars are destroyed, but now there's a real edge of darkness under the humor. Fans needn't fear, though: Jersey girl Stephanie is still full of sass and Tastykakes. --Barrie Trinkle --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The menace is more personal for Trenton's favorite bounty hunter and the energy more manic in this latest outing than in last year's *Seven Up*. As a favor to her mother's next-door neighbor, Mabel Markowitz, Stephanie agrees to check up on the lady's granddaughter, Evelyn Soder, who has suddenly taken off with her little girl, Annie, leaving behind a child custody bond against Mabel's house. The son-in-law is a bad guy who lost his bar to Eddie Abruzzi, a very nasty character who owns Evelyn's building. Soon someone in a bunny suit is trailing Stephanie, her car is blown up, her apartment infiltrated and a dead body appears on her couch. She calls in her associate, Ranger, the gorgeous and mysterious Cuban bond agent, while her sometime boyfriend, Morelli the cop, also gets on the case - a real doozy for which she's not getting paid. On the home front, ever-raunchy Grandma Mazur is eager to assist. Sister Valerie and kids have moved back in as well, so there's nowhere but the couch for Stephanie and one bathroom for all. Valerie is inexplicably attracted to Evelyn's goofy lawyer, who's been tagging along with Stephanie and the ever-outrageous file clerk and ex-hooker Lula, further complicating this twisted case. Life in the Burg takes on a sinister turn with serious results. Evanovich does it again, delivering an even more suspenseful and more outrageous turn with the unstoppable Stephanie, heroine of all those who have to live on peanut butter until the next check comes through. Waiting for nine will be tough. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mabel Markowitz is worried when her daughter Evelyn Soder disappears with her daughter, it means she may loose her house. She asks Stephanie Plum to help her find out what happened. Shouldn't be too hard for a bounty hunter from Trenton, NJ only problem Stephanie Plum isn't the best bounty hunter out there. She comes into conflict with a crime lord named Eddie Abruzzi. He warns her to stay away from the Soder investigation, when she doesn't he declares war. Eddie Abruzzi, likes to play war games. Abruzzi's henchmen leaves a bag of snakes on her doorknob and tarantulas in her car, and follows her around while wearing bunny suits and Clinton masks. Ranger

is called in to help out since her on-again off-again relationship with Morelli is currently off.

I've read quite a few of the Stephanie Plum series, starting somewhere in the teens. I then went back to read the first few and skipped to 8. This book completed everything about the characters for me. Spoiler alert. I walked away from this book feeling angry about just how stupid she is. And don't get me wrong - I had a lot of laughs during the book to the point where I dumped a bottle of water in my lap. But in this book, Ranger, Morelli and Lula all call her out on what is obviously more than bad luck. And she's only alive because of luck. The character development was awesome. In depth. I finally knew how Ranger was. And Morelli. And Mrs. Plum for that matter. I guess I need a break from the characters. I love the author's writing - it's fun, light hearted, and easy to listen to while I drive. I think I'll skip the pre-teens and wait for the #22, due out this fall.

I love this author and the Stephanie Plum series. At least once in every book I am laughing so hard I can hardly breathe. The only problem with the books, they are so good I usually spend the day reading straight through them. Would highly recommend this author.

Joe's got a bit of a sexist mindset. Sometimes I just want Stephanie to give him a slap in the back of the head. I guess that's the burg thing going on. And Ranger, what can be said about Ranger? I love this series, it makes me smile and sometimes I even laugh out loud. I can't help it, even if it gets me a worried look from the husband.

This book is just another special presentation of Stephanie Plum series. It is as funny and entertaining as number one. As I said in another review of this series this is my 5th time reading it. It is as good as the first time. Janet Evanovich is a genius on being able to come up with different scenarios with the same characters. I can't praise it or her enough. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

Description of the work week: Four lost pairs of handcuffs, two CR-Vs destroyed and a body found on her couch. The body having been cut in half, smuggled into her apartment in duffle bags, then duct taped back together. Yep, that sounds like a Stephanie Plum novel.

Wow what a series. I love Stephanie and her crazy life and job. If you can read one of these books and not laugh out loud you have no funny bone. Mystery, murder, car burnings, love and laughter

this book has it all.

This is another five stars from Janet! The suspense and mystery keeps you wanting to read more. Stephanie is in the middle of a case that will take both Morelli and Ranger to save her. The problem is can they? Stephanie and her sister Valerie have been kidnapped. How will they escape? Stephanie might need to consider the button factory? I have read all eight. Hard Eight delivered everything I have enjoyed from the characters associated with Stephanie with a surprise or two. Don't try to be like an eight ball on this one because all of your predictions may not be..... correct?

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