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Four To Score (Stephanie Plum, No. 4)



Synopsis

A Featured Alternate Selection of the Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club and a Main Selection of the Mystery Guild Janet Evanovich, bestselling author of *One for the Money*, *Two for the Dough*, and *Three to Get Deadly*, scores big with *Four to Score*, her most thrilling Stephanie Plum adventure yet. Working for her bail bondsman cousin Vinnie, Stephanie is hot on the trail of revenge-seeking waitress Maxine Nowicki, whose crimes include bail jumping, theft, and extortion. Someone is terrifying Maxine's friends, and those who have seen her are turning up dead. Also on the hunt for Maxine is Joyce Barnhardt, Stephanie's archenemy and rival bounty hunter. Stephanie's attitude never wavers-- even when aided by crazy Grandma Mazur, ex-hooker and wannabe bounty hunter Lula, and transvestite rock musician Sally Sweet-- and even when Stephanie makes an enemy whose deadly tactics escalate from threatening messages to firebombs. All of this pales in comparison, though, with an even greater danger Stephanie faces, when, homeless and broke, she and her hamster Rex move in with a vice cop Joe Morelli. **RATED PG35** for licentious wit and libidinous cohabitation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stephanie Plum, the trash-talking New Jersey bail bondswoman of this popular series, is tracking Maxine Nowicki, who's wanted for skipping out on a car-theft charge lodged by her ex-boyfriend. Now the ex-boyfriend's very interested in getting back the love letters he supposedly wrote to Maxine. But what he's really looking for is the secret on which Evanovich hangs her screwball cast of colorful minor characters, including Sally Sweet, a cross-dressing drag queen; Lula, the

250-pound ex-hooker who works for Steph's boss; Cousin Vinnie, the bail bondsman; Grandma Mazur, who packs a Glock and is always looking for a little action; and Joyce, a wannabe bounty hunter who's been cramping Steph's style since she played pass the salami with Steph's ex-husband. The action doesn't get much farther from Trenton than the Jersey Shore, but when Steph's apartment and car are blown up by the others on Maxine's trail and she moves in with Joe Morelli, the handsome, arrogant cop she's been hung up on since high school, it gets hotter than the craps table in Atlantic City. Plum's fans won't be disappointed in this fourth outing in the series, and they're likely to be even more interested in the snappy patter and sexy shenanigans than in the mystery that holds it all together. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Half-Hungarian, half-Italian and all-Jersey, Trenton's best-known bounty hunter, Stephanie Plum, is a raucous delight in this fast-paced sequel to *Three to Get Deadly* (1997). There's no such thing as a simple assignment for Stephanie. When Maxine Nowicki, charged with stealing her boyfriend's car, skips her court appearance, she's fair game to be hauled in?no big challenge, thinks Stephanie. Wrong. Before the case is over, Stephanie will invade an Atlantic City casino with her intrepid allies: sneaker-shod Grandma Mazur; her colleague Lula, "a two-hundred pound black woman with blond baloney curls all dressed up like Cher on a bad day

Four To Score by Janet Evanovich is a must read. Evanovich is a gifted writer. She can mix laughter and murder together. When I read her books I can see Stephanie Plum's parents and grandma. Plum is bounty hunter searching for those that fail to show up for court. She gets herself into more jams than peanut butter! Her sometimes lover, Morelli, is a cop and tries to keep her out of trouble. Doing that is like holding water in a pillow case. In *Four To Score*, Plum gets the help from a drag queen, Sally, who is over six feet tall. The office file clerk, Lula, is a very heavy set former prostitute. She goes out with Plum on occasions to help find the bail jumper and, well, is she a brave as she talks? Plum finds a waitress that has her middle finger cut off. The mother of the jumper is found scalped. Who is the nut that is torturing these people and why? To find the answers, get this well written book. You won't be sorry. Rated R for very strong language and sexual content. DP. Castro Valley, Ca.

The fourth installment of the Stephanie Plum series continues to entertain. Former prostitute Lula is still helping out with a new character, transvestite Sally Sweet, adds more comedy. Grandma Mazur is man crazy and saying anything that comes to mind. Then on the serious side Stephanie's target

bail jumper, Maxine Nowiski leads her, fellow hunter Ranger, and police investigator on a chase that includes murder, counterfeiting, and kidnapping. And the sexual tension reaches all new levels. Before you ask, Stephanie's car is blown up again. Fun read.

The story is wonderful, but there seem to be a ton of errors in the print. For example, Ranger, one of the main characters, frequently says "Yo" by way of greeting and Stephanie responds in kind, but in every single instance, it is printed as "To." Ex. "To, babe." "To, what's happening?" Very distracting. Other than that, I recommend this book. 5 stars if not for the print errors.

Stephanie Plum is leaning, and learning, from her close connection to Grandma Mazur, and Joe Morelli is doing a bit more than pressure these days. He's a Trenton PD vice cop, a hard lean Italian muscle. He wants Stephanie to quit the bounty hunting, and marry him. He feels the torrid heat. They can't stay away from one another, but Stephanie can't see marriage in the cards. She's not playing that piccolo yet. She's not as Pickwickian as many believe. Stephanie has been sent out by her cousin-boss, Vinnie, as a bond-skipper retriever to locate, and bring back, Maxine Nowicki, free on a stolen automobile charge, now, a bond skipper. Maxine's boyfriend offers money if Stephanie can retrieve valuable love letters. Unpleasantness is difficult to deal with. Sometimes, procrastination works, and the thorn-in-the-side goes away. But, sometimes, it doesn't. Joyce Bernhardt returns, revived, and ready to prickle Stephanie again. She is a rival bounty hunter and an arch-enemy. Grandma Mazar doesn't mince words when she asks Sally Sweet, the code-breaking drag queen, some very personal questions about his anatomy. He stands seven feet tall in high heels, and he refuses to shave his arms, legs, arm pits, or chest hairs. So much for luscious. This book is a real page flipper. The characters are quick on the uptake, insightfully astute, and they have instinctive self-preservation acuity. Stephanie could be the girl next door, if that girl is street smart, has a licentious oriented Grandma, and is tenacious as a bulldog in a thunderstorm. Lulu's physical magnitude hasn't diminished, her proportions stretch seam strength, but, she is funny and loyal. The Robin Goodfellow mischiefousness is refreshing. Keep these alive and well. Humour is infectious. We need more super-heroes with feet firmly planted on terra-firma. Excellent.

Having her car incinerated, her apartment firebombed, being shot at, lunged at with a knife... that's all child's play to Stephanie Plum when compared to the threat of an old Italian woman giving her the "malocchio" or evil eye. In the case of Janet Evanovich's "Four to Score" the curse may come in the form of bearing Joe Morelli's baby. As if she doesn't have enough trouble with fugitives, jealous

boyfriends and/or girlfriends, a six and a half foot transvestite, rival bounty hunters, Mafia wives, and a killer with a penchant for removing fingers, Stephanie finds herself embroiled with the Morelli family--the old women in particular. Like Macbeth's three weird sisters, these old crones fall into trances, have visions, and make predictions. One of those visions have to do with Stephanie bearing Morelli's son. Horrors! (Well, at least they give her a lasagna casserole to munch on.) As always, Evanovich surrounds Stephanie with the usual ensemble cast: Lula, Connie, Grandma Mazur, Ranger, etc. But Joe Morelli gets the spotlight in this installment, and deservedly so. After all, Stephanie has to camp out in his place after her apartment is burned out. More important, their relationship takes a very carnal turn. Joe and Stephanie have a real stake in this now. When thoughts turn to kitchen curtains and cookie jars, both shudder at the potential of commitment. In the long run though, it is crime that glues everyone together. Who is passing around funny money? What did an angry young woman steal from her ex-boyfriend that is ticking him off and why is she leaving cryptic clues as to where the thing is? Who strangled a convenience store clerk and is scalping and chopping off women's fingers? Who is threatening Stephanie's life? Who might be placing Stephanie's hamster, Rex, in danger? All these questions (well, with the exception of the last one) keep the plot moving at a swift pace. And Evanovich's ear for the right humor at the right time is pitch perfect here. "Four to Score" is another great installment in the Stephanie Plum series.

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