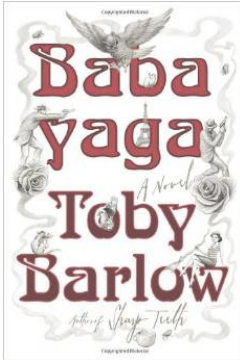


***Babayaga* by Toby Barlow**  
**Farrar, Straus and Giroux (August 6, 2013)**



The rule-abiding detective acclimates remarkably well after being transformed into a flea. The humdrum ad man keeps a cool head when he finds himself neck deep in international intrigue. The warring witches consistently underestimate one another despite their centuries of shared history. And author Toby Barlow proves himself to be refreshingly indifferent to genre boundaries, artfully knotting together one brilliantly bonkers tale that's part dark comedy, part surreal fantasy, part Parisian love story, part spy thriller, and all magnificently enchanting. His ensemble cast of potently engrossing characters propels several carefully crafted, criss-crossing plot lines, all of which he deftly guides to one satisfying end. --[Robin A. Rothman](#)