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Indie Ebook Award Winners 2016 (Mystery)

Teva Hutchinson

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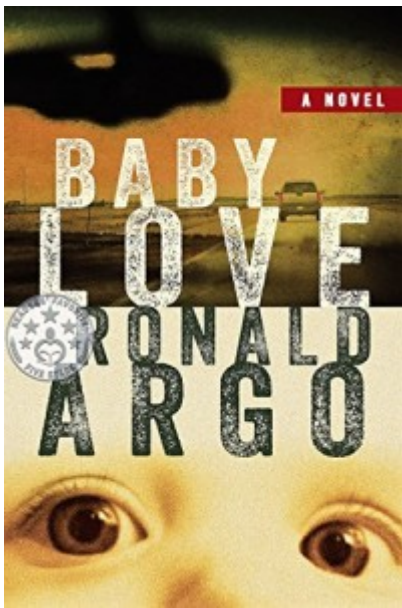
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MYSTERY



Winner

Argo, Ronald. [Baby Love](#). HotDamn Univ. May 2016. 372p. ebk. ISBN N/A. MYSTERY

Former foster child Maggie Frazier wants to open a home to help other orphans. Just as she zeroes in on the perfect location, her life begins to unravel. One of her babies is missing, her dad is killed, and a border patrol agent comes calling for the money she stole from her boss. As Maggie tries to stay alive, keep her other babies safe, and grieve the loss of her father, she crosses paths with a reporter facing his own troubles. Ray Myers is fired from his job as crime reporter but can't stop searching for a missing infant and for answers about why one veteran wasn't allowed to bring his son home from Vietnam. His search for the truth takes him across the border to Mexico and forces him to face his own addiction. Ray and Maggie form an unlikely pair as people do the wrong things for the right reasons. As relationships form and fail, readers cannot help but feel invested. **VERDICT** Argo's dramatic and gripping tale also manages to tug at your heartstrings.—Teva Hutchinson, Atlanta Univ. Center Robert W. Woodruff Lib.

Honorable Mentions

Bates, Keeley. [A Dead End](#). CreateSpace: Amazon. (Saints & Strangers Cozy Mystery, Bk. 1). Aug. 2016. 194p. ebk. ISBN N/A. MYSTERY

After standing up to a popular television producer, Kit Wilder's days in Hollywood are over despite her frequent calls to her agent for another chance. Her mother has the solution: move home, pursue a college degree, and lead a quiet life. Kit follows the suggestion and soon finds herself back in Westdale, PA, home to the Pilgrim Society, descendants of those who came over on the *Mayflower*. Kit buys a fixer-upper and while doing renovations, stumbles on the body of her new home's former owner. With nowhere else to go and her house the scene of a crime investigation, she's left with no choice but to channel her former character, Detective Ellie Gold, and help solve the murder. **VERDICT** Bates excels at the familiar staples of a beloved cozy mystery, including nosy neighbors, a nagging mom, and a swoon-worthy love interest, while still keeping the story modern through the use of social media and common technology.—Teva Hutchinson, Atlanta Univ. Center Robert W. Woodruff Lib.

Kaplan, E.M. [The Bride Wore Dead: A Josie Tucker Mystery](#). CreateSpace: Amazon. 2013. 320p. ebk. ISBN N/A. MYSTERY

When asked by her best friend to fill in as a bridesmaid for a woman she barely knows, Josie Tucker reluctantly agrees. It isn't easy for her to find joy in the occasion, especially when she realizes that the groom-to-be recently hit on her. Worse still, the new bride dies on her honeymoon, and her mother begs for Josie's help to prove that her daughter's new husband was responsible. Coincidentally, Josie's doctor recommends that she spend some time at a spa for her troublesome stomach—the same spa where the bride met her tragic end. As the calming environment and special diet begin to work their magic, Josie does a little sleuthing on the side. Unfortunately, there's trouble afoot, and Josie is caught in the crosshairs. **VERDICT** While her tendency to place herself in danger will frustrate some mystery fans, Josie shines as a funny and sympathetic heroine whose amateur detective work is just as enjoyable as her complicated personal life.—Teva Hutchinson, Atlanta Univ. Center Robert W. Woodruff Lib.