The Evolution of Artificial Light, by Jane Brox
(Mariner, 9780547520346, $15.95)
“...These days we take the artificial illumination of our world so much for granted that it is surprising to learn that much of our country was not electrified until well into the last century. Brox looks at the entire history of illumination from the Ice Age forward, explaining not only the development of different lighting technologies through history, but helping us understand what each meant to the people whose lives they so profoundly changed.”
—Dale Szczesbovsky, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA

The Cookbook Collector
A Novel, by Allegra Goodman
(Dial Press, 9780385340861, $15)
“This novel seeped into me slowly, but ultimately I was as utterly absorbed in it as it was in me. Goodman skillfully mingles high-tech IPGs, motherless daughters, tree-sitting environmentalists, mystical Judaism, foodie sensuousness, and three distinct love stories—and all with none of the usual head-spinning associated with that list. I was rapt, and truly delighted.”
—Becky Dayton, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, VT

Brilliant
The Evolution of Artificial Light, by Jane Brox
(Mariner, 9780547520346, $15.95)
“...These days we take the artificial illumination of our world so much for granted that it is surprising to learn that much of our country was not electrified until well into the last century. Brox looks at the entire history of illumination from the Ice Age forward, explaining not only the development of different lighting technologies through history, but helping us understand what each meant to the people whose lives they so profoundly changed.”
—Dale Szczesbovsky, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA

The Lovers
A Novel, by Vendela Vida
(Ecco, 9780060828400, $13.99)
“After the loss of her husband, Yvonne travels to Turkey to the town of her honeymoon years before. In trying to reconnect to the good parts of their marriage she ends up feeling lost and lonely, but through a series of mismatched friendships she finds her way back to herself and her family. A beautifully written book.”
—Joni Ditzler, Marie’s Bookshop, Durango, CO

The Transformation of Bartholomew Fortunato
A Novel, by Ellen Bryson
(McSweeney’s (dist. PGW), 9781936365166, $18)
“Brutal but beautiful, this book held me captive. Machart’s writing is so hallowed it works like a salve on the brutality he levels on his characters, the farm animals, and the landscape. Four brothers, raised by a father made mean from a broken heart, are both physically and emotionally damaged by his neglect. The sibling bond is broken apart when three of the four brothers marry and seemingly land well, while the fourth and youngest struggles to reconcile his divergent lifestyle. Ultimately, there is a grace that comes out of all the violence and chaos.”
—Rebecca Fitting, Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY

The Wake of Forgiveness
A Novel, by Bruce Machart
(Mariner, 9780547521947, $14.95)
“...Brutal but beautiful, this book held me captive. Machart’s writing is so hallowed it works like a salve on the brutality he levels on his characters, the farm animals, and the landscape. Four brothers, raised by a father made mean from a broken heart, are both physically and emotionally damaged by his neglect. The sibling bond is broken apart when three of the four brothers marry and seemingly land well, while the fourth and youngest struggles to reconcile his divergent lifestyle. Ultimately, there is a grace that comes out of all the violence and chaos.”
—Rebecca Fitting, Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY

The Widower’s Tale
A Novel, by Julia Glass
(Anchor, 9780307456106, $15)
“Julia Glass follows classic tradition, proving once again that family is the original source of comedy, tragedy, and hope. Her newest novel is a meditation on love, both filial and romantic, and how hopelessly ridiculous we all become if we don’t make the effort to temper our passions with reason or our actions with accountability.”
—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA

My Name is Memory
A Novel, by Ann Brashares
(Riverhead Trade, 9781594485183, $15)
“Daniel is one of the few people fortunate enough to have the ability to remember past lives in vivid detail. He can recognize souls he has met in his previous lives, including Sophia, his soul mate through the centuries. Whenever Daniel manages to find her, fate rip...