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Brilliant

The Evolution of Artificial Light, by Jane Brox

"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 Szczablowski, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA



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The Cookbook Collector

A Novel, by Allegra Goodman

"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 IPOs, 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



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Faithful Place

A Novel, by Tana French

"Faithful Place by Tana French is just plain good storytelling. Frank, an undercover cop, is dragged back into his complicated and violent personal past by a shocking discovery, and as a result finds himself at the center of a riveting tale about family and how even loving relationships can turn destructive. The importance of Dublin as a setting—both in the present and recent past—can't be overlooked as French makes the city a living, breathing character lurking in the back ground of this compelling tale."

—Charlotte Tuinman, M Is for Mystery, San Mateo, CA



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Fur, Fortune, and Empire

The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America, by Eric Jay Dolin

"Dolin guides readers through over 200 years of man's quest for incredibly valuable animal pelts. Much of the tale is surprisingly nautical, as Old World powers vie for control of the abundant resources of the New World. Dolin's book seamlessly connects the economic, cultural, and geographical threads of the fur trade. Shipboard scoundrels, mountain men, Indian captives, ruthless capitalists, even victims of grizzly bears—this superb history has it all!"

—Christopher Rose, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA



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The Instructions

by Adam Levin

"*The Instructions* is a brilliant, virtuoso literary performance that is wildly entertaining from beginning to end—from page one to page 1,024! It is ambitious, provocative, touching, hilarious and sad, which leads to an exhilarating and extremely powerful reading experience."

—Ed Conklin, Chaucer's Books, Santa Barbara, CA



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The Lovers

A Novel, by Vendela Vida

"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 her 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, Maria's Bookshop, Durango, CO



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Memory Wall

Stories, by Anthony Doerr

"When people say they don't read short stories because they lack the depth and complexity of a novel, you should hand them this book. The title story alone is richer than many novels, and the rest of the collection is outstanding as well. With settings as varied as Africa, China, and the American West, featuring characters black, white and Asian, Doerr's writing reminds us of the beauty of memory and the power of storytelling."

—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS



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My Name is Memory

A Novel, by Ann Brashares

"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 rips them apart. Follow Daniel as he tries to locate Sophia, convince her to remember him, and fight the forces keeping them from loving each other. A love story unlike anything you've ever experienced!"

—Sarah Hill, The River's End Bookstore, Oswego, NY



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The Secret Lives of the Four Wives A Novel, by Lola Shoneyin

"There is nothing quite so tantalizing as a glimpse into another culture. With disarming wit and grace, Shoneyin tells the story of a modern Nigerian man and his four wives, the latest of whom, Bolanle, is causing no end of disruption in the household. Deeply political without being corrosive, this is an intimate and compassionate view of social life in Nigeria. Lola Shoneyin has penned a splendid first novel!"

—Jennie Turner-Collins, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH

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The Transformation of Bartholomew Fortuno A Novel, by Ellen Bryson

"This novel offers a look inside P.T. Barnum's famous American Museum in nineteenth-century New York City. How would it feel to be 'The World's Thinnest Man?' Embarrassed, ashamed, sad? No, Bartholomew Fortuno feels his unusual body is actually a gift to the world. That is, until he meets Iell, the world's most beautiful and mysterious Bearded Lady. Are they unique people or freaks of nature? You decide after reading this winning and wondrous novel."

—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI

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The Wake of Forgiveness A Novel, by Bruce Machart

"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

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The Widower's Tale A Novel, by Julia Glass

"Julia Glass follows classic tradition, proving once again that family is the original source of comedy, tragedy, and frustration. 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

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