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THE WEEK

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Best books... Amanda Foreman

Amanda Foreman, author of *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire*, chooses her favourites from Pushkin Press, which publishes translations of great European literature. Her latest book *A World on Fire* is out in paperback (Penguin £12.99)

Journey by Moonlight by Antal Szerb, 1937, transl. by Len Rix (Pushkin Press £7.99). Revered in his native Hungary as a literary great, Szerb died in a labour camp in 1945. *Journey by Moonlight* is a page-turner about an outwardly respectable but inwardly neurotic Hungarian businessman who goes on honeymoon to Italy.

Journey to Mount Athos by François Augiéras, 1970, transl. by Sue Dyson and Christopher Moncrieff (Pushkin Press £12). François Augiéras is one of France's great underground writers, and this has become a cult classic. It is the tale of an adolescent boy's pilgrimage to a Greek island, to find God

knows what. Spiritual and sensual, Augiéras's writing verges on the mystical.

Beware of Pity by Stefan Zweig, 1939, transl. by Anthea Bell (Pushkin Press £8.99). The German writer Stefan Zweig completed only one full-length novel in his prolific career. *Beware of Pity* is about a young cavalry officer who takes pity on a disabled girl with disastrous consequences.

Hymn to Old Age by Hermann Hesse, transl. by David Henry Wilson, 2010 (Pushkin Press £10). The Nobel Prize winner's ruminations on his final years. It is a pot-pourri of poems, aphorisms and short essays. They are all

gems and all completely different, and yet are linked by the common theme of how to approach death with grace.

The Light in Between by Marella Caracciolo Chia, 2000, transl. by Howard Curtis (Pushkin Press £11.99). This is a beautiful book, recounting the passionate love affair between the Futurist painter Boccioni and Princess Vittoria Colonna.

The Allure of Chanel by Paul Morand, 2000, transl. by Euan Cameron (Pushkin Press £12). Chanel became friends with Morand in Switzerland after WWII. He used his notes of their conversations as the basis for this intimate portrait of the great designer.

Television Programmes

Death in Paradise New series starring Ben Miller as a sun-hating British cop who's sent to the Caribbean island of Saint-Marie to investigate the murder of a fellow policeman (Hugo Speer). Tue 25 Oct, BBC1 9pm (60mins).

Codebreakers: Bletchley Park's Lost Heroes This documentary tells for the first time how a 24-year-old maths student broke Hitler's super code machine and helped alter the course of the War. Tue 25 Oct, BBC2 9pm (60mins).

Frozen Planet In this new series, David Attenborough travels to the Arctic and the Antarctic to find some of the most bizarre and hardy creatures on Earth. Wed 26 Oct, BBC1 9pm (60mins).

Secret Pakistan Filmed in Pakistan and Afghanistan, this two-part documentary examines claims that Pakistan deceived the West about its involvement with the Taliban. Wed 26 Oct, BBC2 9pm (60mins).

The Slap Eight-part adaptation of Christos Tsiolkas's bestselling novel tracing the repercussions of a single event upon a group of friends. With Sophie Okonedo. Thur 27 Oct, BBC4 10pm (60mins).

Unreported World: Nigeria's Millionaire Preachers Documentary examining Nigerian preachers who drive expensive cars and perform miracles. Fri 28 Oct, C4 7.30pm (25mins).

Films

The Hurt Locker (2008) Gripping Oscar-winning drama about an elite army bomb disposal squad in Iraq. Sat 22 Oct, C4 9.30pm (155mins).

Coming up for auction

At **Christie's Elegance**, a collection of 60 Hermès handbags is going under the hammer, along with a selection of antique and contemporary jewellery and watches. Highlights include a red Birkin bag, 2005 (est. £6,000) and a gold ostrich Bolide bag, 1972 (est. £2,500). 16 Nov, Christie's, South Kensington, London SW7 (020-7930 6074).

The Week's guide to what's worth seeing and reading

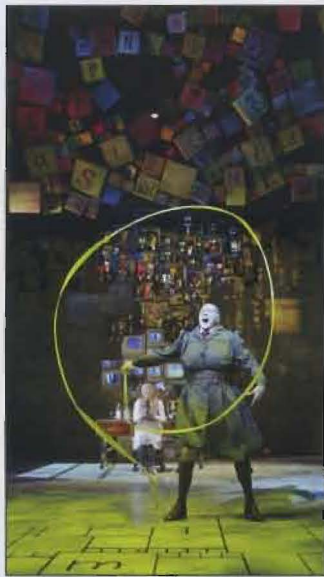
Book now

This year's Mercury Prize-winning singer-songwriter **PJ Harvey** is airing her much-loved latest album *Let England Shake* at the Royal Albert Hall. 30 and 31 October, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (020-7589 8212).

Showing now

Matilda: The Musical at the Cambridge Theatre, London WC2 (0844-800 1110, www.matildathemusical.com). A welcome transfer of the RSC's "delightful" musical version of Roald Dahl's story. Bertie Carvel is "show-stealingly good" as the headmistress, Miss Trunchbull (London Evening Standard). Ends 12 February.

The Swallowing Dark at the Playhouse, Liverpool (0151-709 4776). Wil Johnson and



Carvel in *Matilda*: "show-stealing"

Allyson Ava-Brown star in Lizzie Nunnery's drama about a refugee living in Liverpool who is forced to revisit his past in Mugabe's Zimbabwe. Ends 29 October. Then 1-26 November, Theatre 503, Battersea Park Road, London SW11 (020-7978 7040).

Richard Eyre directs Nicholas Wright's play **The Last of the Duchess**, based on Caroline Blackwood's book about the last days of Wallis Simpson. With Anna Chancellor and Sheila Hancock. Hampstead Theatre, London NW3 (020-7722 9301). Ends 26 November.

Just out in paperback

Levant by Philip Mansel (John Murray £10.99). Mansel's latest

book is a "majestic, detailed and pertinent history" of Smyrna, Alexandria and Beirut (Sunday Telegraph).

The Archers: what happened last week

Will and Nic talk about Emma. Will admits that he's finally over her. Susan tells Clarrie Clive's back in his bail hostel in Felpersham. Clarrie's shocked he's so close. Susan rings Emma to tell her Clive wants to meet Keira and George. Susan hates the idea, but it would make Ivy happy. Underwoods agree to stock Tom's sausages under the new name Tom Archer's Borseshire Sausages. The Borchester Land Board agree to Debbie's super-dairy proposal. When Debbie tells Adam about it, he's furious she's gone behind his back. Debbie insists nothing can go ahead unless Adam agrees. If he does, she and Adam can become proper partners. Tony warms to the idea of Bridge Farm rebranding. Clive visits Rickyard Cottage and gives the kids presents. George asks him if he was a burglar. Clive says if he still was, George's parents wouldn't have let him visit. When Clive leaves, Emma and Ed vow he'll never see the kids again. Tony tells Jennifer of the help he's received from everyone but her. Things get heated as Tony says he was desperate and she didn't lift a finger.