

# The New York Times

## Sunday Book Review

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### Up Front

By THE EDITORS

Amanda Foreman is a historian who understands the power — and the appeal — of a well-turned phrase, an approach she often describes as “history in the round,” which she may have inherited, in part, from her father, the noted screenwriter Carl Foreman. Both her first book, “Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire,” and her account of Britain’s role in the American Civil War, “A World on Fire,” were critical and popular successes. It should be no surprise, then, that Foreman is also an avid reader of fiction, so avid that she was enlisted as a judge for this year’s Man Booker Prize.



Illustration by Tina Berning

Amanda Foreman

In an e-mail exchange, Foreman remarked that she has always been a great admirer of J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books: “My husband and I even took ‘Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire’ on our honeymoon.” Now the mother of five children, three of whom are old enough to enter into the world of Hogwarts, Foreman imposes only two rules on their reading: They must finish the books before they see the film adaptations, and she and her husband must determine when the child is old enough to progress from one book to the next. Having finished her reading of “The Casual Vacancy,” Rowling’s first novel for adults, which she reviews this week, what’s next on Foreman’s schedule? A new book, “The World Made by Women: A History of Women From the Age of Cleopatra to the Era of Margaret Thatcher,” and a BBC series called “The Georgians,” which will, she remarked in an interview with The Women on the Web, “take the concept” of Showtime’s series “The Tudors” and give it “an 18th-century twist.”