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## Biographers turn nasty

07.07.08 | [Philip Jones](#)

The author Amanda Foreman is being accused of turning the genteel world of historical biography into a playground for glamorous young female writers trying to make a quick killing in the bestseller lists, reports the Times.

The barbs come from Kathryn Hughes, a biographer who regularly presents Open Book on Radio 4. In an article entitled The Death of Life Writing, she claimed that much of the "devaluing of the biographer's skill" could be laid at Foreman's door.

Foreman was said to be seething at Hughes's attack but remained diplomatic. "Biography is changing," she said this weekend. "Biographers are challenging our conception of the genre in extremely exciting ways. In fact, I believe that we could be approaching a new golden age."

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