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terrific exactly the sort of collection we have long needed one offering a wide range of texts both literary and documentary and that with the inclusion of *sulpicia* and *perpetua* allows students to hear the voices of actual women from the ancient world the translations themselves are fluid the inclusion of long extracts allows students to sink their teeth into material in ways not possible with traditional source books the anonymous texts inscriptions and other non literary material topically arranged in the documentary section will enable students to see how the documentary evidence supplements or undermines the views advanced in the literary texts this is a book that should be of great use to anyone teaching a survey of the history of ancient rome or a roman civilization course i look forward to teaching with this book which is i think the best source book i have seen for the way we teach these days david potter university of michigan

book xvi of *tacitus annals* is the last of the surviving books of the great roman historian's monumental account of the reigns of the emperors from *tiberius* to *nero* the unfinished book offers a stunning portrait of *nero* in his last years a man now free of the restraining influences of his mother *agrippina* and tutor *seneca* *annals xvi* presents such unforgettable scenes as the spectacle of *petronius* suicide and the mad quest of *nero* to find the gold of the *carthaginian* queen *dido* this edition provides a commentary to the entire book with notes carefully aimed at first time readers of *tacitus* as well as more advanced students an introduction provides a guide to what we know of *tacitus* life and work as well as to the reign of *nero* and *tacitus* depiction of an empire in transition of a rome teetering on the verge of chaos and collapse a full vocabulary at the end of the volume is a vital resource for students preparing this text for class work or assessment

exploring persistent connections between absolute rulers and dramatic performance in greek and roman drama and history *anne duncan* offers the reader a comprehensive insight into the juxtaposition between tyranny and theater in the greco roman world from the mad kings of greek and roman tragedy to the relationships that greek tyrants and roman emperors cultivated with actors and playwrights absolute power has had an inescapably theatricalising effect on ruler and regime traversing various greco roman playwrights such as *euripides* *sophocles* and *seneca* this book analyses the dangerous unstable tyrants of ancient tragedy alongside the dangerous unstable tyrants of ancient historiography in order to map out the ancient world's discourses about the allure and peril of absolute power *duncan* argues that while any kind of political display has theatrical qualities it is tyranny that has an especially theatrical mode her conclusion is that tyrants and

playwrights began to influence each other over the course of greco roman antiquity so that tragedy tyrants began to resemble real rulers and real rulers began to style themselves after tragedy tyrants each trying to tap into the other s power to command audiences

from the bites and scratches of lovers and the threat of flogging that hangs over the comic slave to murder rape dismemberment and crucifixion violence is everywhere in latin literature the contributors to this volume explore the manifold ways in which violence is constructed and represented in latin poetry and prose from plautus to prudentius examining the interrelations between violence language power and gender and the narrative rhetorical and ideological functions of such depictions across the generic spectrum how does violence contribute to the pleasure of the text do depictions of violence always reinforce status hierarchies or can they provoke a reassessment of normative value systems is the reader necessarily complicit with authorial constructions of violence these are pressing questions both for ancient literature and for film and other modern media and this volume will be of interest to scholars and students of cultural studies as well as of the ancient world

this book brings together a number of case studies to show some of the ways in which as soon as the roman senate gained new political authority under constantine and his successors its members crowded the political scene in the west in these chapters rita lizzi testa makes much of her work the fruit of decades of research available in english for the first time the focus is on the aristocrats passion for aruspical science the political use of exphrastic poems and even their control of the hagiographic genre in the late sixth century she demonstrates how roman senators were chosen as legates to establish proactive relations with christian emperors their ministers and military commanders and eastern and western provincial elites senators wove a web of relations in the eastern and western empires sewing and stitching the empire s fabric with their diplomatic skills wealth and influence while lively and highly litigious assembly activity still required of them a cultured rhetoric through employing astute political strategies they maintained their privileges including their own beliefs in ancient cults christian emperors and roman elites in late antiquity provides a crucial collection for students and scholars of late antique history and religion and of politics in the late roman empire

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