



Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire

By Anthony A. Barrett



Download



Read Online

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett

Agrippina the Younger attained a level of power in first-century Rome unprecedented for a woman. According to ancient sources, she achieved her success by plotting against her brother, the emperor Caligula, murdering her husband, the emperor Claudius, and controlling her son, the emperor Nero, by sleeping with him. Modern scholars tend to accept this verdict. But in his dynamic biography—the first on Agrippina in English—Anthony Barrett paints a startling new picture of this influential woman.

Drawing on the latest archaeological, numismatic, and historical evidence, Barrett argues that Agrippina has been misjudged. Although she was ambitious, says Barrett, she made her way through ability and determination rather than by sexual allure, and her political contributions to her time seem to have been positive. After Agrippina's marriage to Claudius there was a marked decline in the number of judicial executions and there was close cooperation between the Senate and the emperor; the settlement of Cologne, founded under her aegis, was a model of social harmony; and the first five years of Nero's reign, while she was still alive, were the most enlightened of his rule. According to Barrett, Agrippina's one real failing was her relationship with her son, the monster of her own making who had her murdered in horrific and violent circumstances. Agrippina's impact was so lasting, however, that for some 150 years after her death no woman in the imperial family dared assume an assertive political role.



[Download Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early E ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early ...pdf](#)

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire

By Anthony A. Barrett

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett

Agrippina the Younger attained a level of power in first-century Rome unprecedented for a woman. According to ancient sources, she achieved her success by plotting against her brother, the emperor Caligula, murdering her husband, the emperor Claudius, and controlling her son, the emperor Nero, by sleeping with him. Modern scholars tend to accept this verdict. But in his dynamic biography—the first on Agrippina in English—Anthony Barrett paints a startling new picture of this influential woman.

Drawing on the latest archaeological, numismatic, and historical evidence, Barrett argues that Agrippina has been misjudged. Although she was ambitious, says Barrett, she made her way through ability and determination rather than by sexual allure, and her political contributions to her time seem to have been positive. After Agrippina's marriage to Claudius there was a marked decline in the number of judicial executions and there was close cooperation between the Senate and the emperor; the settlement of Cologne, founded under her aegis, was a model of social harmony; and the first five years of Nero's reign, while she was still alive, were the most enlightened of his rule. According to Barrett, Agrippina's one real failing was her relationship with her son, the monster of her own making who had her murdered in horrific and violent circumstances. Agrippina's impact was so lasting, however, that for some 150 years after her death no woman in the imperial family dared assume an assertive political role.

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #521955 in Books
- Published on: 1999-07-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .81" w x 5.98" l, 1.17 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

 [Download Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early E ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett

Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Classics scholar Barrett (Caligula, S. & S., 1991) has applied modern historiography to the subject of one of the most famous, rather, infamous women of the ancient world?the daughter of Germanicus, sister of Caligula, wife of Claudius, and mother of Nero, who eventually killed her. He does not exonerate Agrippina the Younger (15-59 A.D.) so much as give plausible explanations for her behavior and put her actions in a proper perspective. His chapters are cleverly, insightfully arranged around her relationships; but despite potential repetition with this format, he avoids leaving such familial impressions with the reader. Barrett works from the premise that in a monarchical patriarchy the only venues to power for the ambitious woman were extralegal. Agrippina's story is a narrative of the first century of the empire, from the adoption of Octavius to the varying accounts of her sensational death. This is a wonderful book, with copious notes and appendixes. Well recommended for academic libraries with classics and women's studies collections.?Clay G. Williams, Ferris State Univ., Big Rapids, Mich.

Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Reviews

One of history's most notorious monsters is rehabilitated as a politically successful woman whose power and reputation in first-century Rome fell victim to Roman sexism. Barrett (Classics/Univ. of British Columbia; Caligula, 1990) begins with a brief history of powerful Roman women before Agrippina, including her great-grandmother Livia, wife of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Much of this section is overly familiar, reading at times like a recap of I, Claudius. But this background gains significance once Agrippina the Younger makes her appearance. Barrett persuasively argues that Roman chroniclers were unable to see Agrippina or her predecessors except through the stereotype of the politically ambitious woman: a seductive poisoner with no sense of moral bounds. By carefully weighing the historical record, taking into account the distorting power of misogynist folklore, the author disputes such commonplaces as the idea that Agrippina murdered her husband, Claudius, and slept with her son Nero. His Agrippina is a politically adroit consensus-builder whose influence over two emperors contributed to the most enlightened portions of their reigns. Her diplomatic skill falters only in the handling of her teenage son--a miscalculation that leads to her execution in 54 a.d. on his orders. That Agrippina's murder was celebrated as a just comeuppance demonstrates the persistence of the ``age-old resentment of powerful and ambitious women." Though Barrett draws no contemporary analogies, the reader may easily do so. Despite the high-mindedness of his central theme, the author is always alert to the pleasures of ``juicy anecdote[s]" (such as Agrippina's supposed incest with her brother Caligula), and recounts them in full, if only to discredit them. A scholarly yet accessible biography that largely succeeds in replacing Grand Guignol with something more satisfying: the tragedy of a natural leader born female in a society afraid to be led by women. (illustrations, not seen) (History Book Club selection) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

'The most valuable part of the book is the inventory of source material at the end where not only the more familiar literary evidence is catalogued but the coins, statues and inscriptions featuring Agrippina.' - Miriam Griffin, *History Today*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Antoine Harris:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or maybe goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. These are reading whatever they have because their hobby is usually reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man feel need book if they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire.

Michael Cardona:

Hey guys, do you wants to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the name Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire suitable to you? The book was written by popular writer in this era. The particular book untitled Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire is the main of several books this everyone read now. This particular book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimension that you ever know prior to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this book. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world with this book.

Patricia Henderson:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world really likes. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new information. When you read a book you will get new information mainly because book is one of several ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, examining a book will make you more imaginative. When you reading a book especially fictional book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire, you can tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a book.

Sandra Maes:

On this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of the books in the top collection in your reading list is definitely Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Download and Read Online Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett #6XBK9MF702P

Read Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett for online ebook

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett books to read online.

Online Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett ebook PDF download

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett Doc

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett Mobipocket

Agrippina: Sex, Power, and Politics in the Early Empire By Anthony A. Barrett EPub