Contents

Abbreviations xv
Introduction: Historical Background and Sources 1
Chapter 1. The Aristocratic-Literary World 11
Chapter 2. The Socially Less Privileged: Decurions and Plebeians, Dependents and Slaves 42
Chapter 3. Family Life: Women and Children, Husbands and Wives 71
Chapter 4. Social Turmoil: “New Men” and Bandits, Romans and Barbarians 113
Chapter 5. The Triumph of Christianity and Life in the Church 141
Chapter 6. Elite Women: Roman Aristocrats and Barbarian Queens 179
Chapter 7. Inappropriate Activities: Leadership, Necromancy, and Rebellion 211
Epilogue: Having the Last Word 242
Appendixes
1. Roman Emperors 251
2. Selected Bishops of Rome (Popes) 253
3. Barbarian Rulers 255
4. Glossary 259
5. Sources Quoted 265
Bibliography 271
Index 283