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	Nota di contenuto	1. Preface and acknowledgements -- 2. Introduction -- 2.1 Tacitus: life and career -- 2.2 Tacitus' times: the political system of the principate -- 2.3 Tacitus' oeuvre: opera minora and maiora -- 2.4 Tacitus' style (as an instrument of thought) -- 2.5 Tacitus' Nero-narrative: Rocky-Horror-Picture Show and Broadway on the Tiber -- 2.6 Thrasea Paetus and the so-called 'Stoic opposition' -- 3. Latin text with study questions and vocabulary aid -- 4. Commentary -- Section 1: Annals 15.20–23 -- (i) 20.1–22.1: The Meeting of the Senate -- (ii) 22.2: Review of striking prodigies that occurred in AD 62 -- (iii) 23.1–4: Start of Tacitus' account of AD 63: the birth and death of Nero's daughter by Sabina Poppaea, Claudia Augusta -- Section 2: Annals 15.33–45 (AD 64) -- (i) 33.1–34.1: Nero's coming-out party as stage performer -- (ii) 34.2–35.3: A look at the kind of creatures that populate Nero's court – and the killing of an alleged rival -- (iii) 36: Nero considers, but then reconsiders, going on tour to Egypt -- (iv) 37: To show his love for Rome, Nero celebrates a huge public orgy that segues into a mock-

Sommario/riassunto	"The emperor Nero is etched into the Western imagination as one of ancient Rome's most infamous villains, and Tacitus' Annals have played a central role in shaping the mainstream historiographical understanding of this flamboyant autocrat. This section of the text plunges us straight into the moral cesspool that Rome had apparently become in the later years of Nero's reign, chronicling the emperor's fledgling stage career including his plans for a grand tour of Greece; his participation in a city-wide orgy climaxing in his publicly consummated 'marriage' to his toy boy Pythagoras; the great fire of AD 64, during which large parts of central Rome went up in flames; and the rising of Nero's 'grotesque' new palace, the so-called 'Golden House', from the ashes of the city. This building project stoked the rumours that the emperor himself was behind the conflagration, and Tacitus goes on to present us with Nero's gruesome efforts to quell these mutterings by scapegoating and executing members of an unpopular new cult then starting to spread through the Roman empire: Christianity. All this contrasts starkly with four chapters focusing on one of Nero's most principled opponents, the Stoic senator Thrasea Paetus, an audacious figure of moral fibre, who courageously refuses to bend to the forces of imperial corruption and hypocrisy. This course book offers a portion of the original Latin text, study aids with vocabulary, and a commentary. Designed to stretch and stimulate readers, Owen's and Gildenhard's incisive commentary will be of particular interest to students of Latin at both A2 and undergraduate level. It extends beyond detailed linguistic analysis and historical background to encourage critical engagement with Tacitus' prose and discussion of the most recent scholarly thought."--Publisher's website.