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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Figures; Series editor's preface; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; Map 1; Map 2; Maps 3 and 4; Chapter 1: A critical century; Chapter 2: The principal author of the decline and fall; Chapter 3: The legacies of Septimius Severus; Chapter 4: Law, citizenship and the Antonine revolution; Chapter 5: The empire and its neighbors: Maximinus to Philip; Chapter 6: Religion; Chapter 7: Failure and fragmentation: From the accession of Decius to the death of Gallienus; Chapter 8: Government and governmentality; Chapter 9: Reconquest and recidivism, 268-84; Chapter 10: Conclusion Emperors and usurpersChronology; Guide to further reading; Works cited; Index
Sommario/riassunto	A pioneering history of this period of crisisThe Roman empire during the period framed by the accession of Septimus Severus in 193 and the rise of Diocletian in 284 has conventionally been regarded as one of crisis. Between 235 and 284, at least eighteen men held the throne of the empire, for an average of less than three years, a reckoning which does not take into account all the relatives and lieutenants with whom those men shared power. Compared to the century between the accession of Nerva and the death of Commodus, this appears to be a period of near unintelligibility. The middle of the c