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978-0-521-49050-4 - Growing up Fatherless in Antiquity

Edited by Sabine R. Hubner and David M. Ratzan

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GROWING UP FATHERLESS IN ANTIQUITY

As the changes in the traditional family accelerated toward the end of the twentieth century, a great deal of attention came to focus on fathers, both modern and ancient. While academics and politicians alike singled out the conspicuous and growing absence of the modern father as a crucial factor affecting contemporary family and social dynamics, ancient historians and classicists have rarely explored ancient father-absence, despite the likelihood that nearly a third of all children in the ancient Mediterranean world were fatherless before they turned fifteen. The proportion of children raised by single mothers, relatives, stepparents, or others was thus at least as high in antiquity as it is today. This book assesses the wide-ranging impact that high levels of chronic father-absence had on the cultures, politics, and families of the ancient world.

SABINE R. HÜBNER is a visiting research scholar at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and an adjunct assistant professor of Ancient History at Columbia University.

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*Utriusque patribus,
qui semper nobis affuerunt*

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Note on abbreviations

Abbreviated references to ancient authors and works conform to the conventions of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd edn.). A key to abbreviated papyrological references may be found in *Checklist of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets* (ed. [Oates,] Bagnall *et al.*; <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/papyrus/texts/clist.html>).