



Monica: An Ordinary Saint (Women in Antiquity)

Gillian Clark

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Rarely did ancient authors write about the lives of women; even more rarely did they write about the lives of ordinary women: not queens or heroines who influenced war or politics, not sensational examples of virtue or vice, not Christian martyrs or ascetics, but women of moderate status, who experienced everyday joys and sorrows and had everyday merits and failings. Such a woman was Monica--now Saint Monica because of her relationship with her son Augustine, who wrote about her in the *Confessions* and elsewhere. Despite her rather unremarkable life, Saint Monica has inspired a robust controversy in academia, the Church, and the Augustine-reading public alike: some agree with Ambrose, bishop of Milan, who knew Monica, that Augustine was exceptionally blessed in having such a mother, while others think that Monica is a classic example of the manipulative mother who lives through her son, using religion to repress his sexual life and to control him even when he seems to escape. In *Monica: An Ordinary Saint*, Gillian Clark reconciles these competing images of Monica's life and legacy, arriving at a woman who was shrewd and enterprising, but also meek and gentle. Weighing Augustine's discussion of his mother against other evidence of women's lives in late antiquity, Clark achieves portraits both of Monica individually, and of the many women like her. Augustine did not claim that his mother was a saint, but he did think that the challenges of everyday life required courage and commitment to Christian principle. Monica's ordinary life, as both he and Clark tell it, showed both. *Monica: An Ordinary Saint* illuminates Monica, wife and mother, in the context of the societal expectations and burdens that shaped her and all ordinary women.

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Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled *Monica: An Ordinary Saint (Women in Antiquity)* can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

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