Contents

Abbreviations	xii
PART I. INTRODUCTION	
1. Approaches to the Romance Epic	3
PART II. TEXTS AND CONTEXTS	
2. Prehistory of the Romance Epic in Italy	27
3. (Re-)Reading the Classics	52
4. Petrarch and Boccaccio: Starting Points, Turning Points, and Blind Alleys	96
5. Books, Readers, and Reception	1 2 7
PART III. NEW PERSPECTIVES, NEW READINGS	
6. Mars and Venus—Love and War	163
7. The Figure of the Hero	223
8. The One and the Many: Constructing the Plot	271

PART IV. CONCLUSION

9. The Paradoxical Success of the Romance Epic: Ariosto and Beyond	327
Bibliography	355
Index	375