

# Thermae Romae: A Timeless Journey Through the Baths of Antiquity and Modernity

Step into the pages of **Thermae Romae**, a captivating manga series by Mari Yamazaki that transports you to the ancient Roman baths and modern-day Japan. Follow the adventures of Lucius Modestus, a Roman architect, as he slips through a time warp and discovers the wonders and eccentricities of Japanese bathing culture.

## Lucius Modestus: The Time-Traveling Roman Architect

Lucius Modestus, the protagonist of *Thermae Romae*, is a skilled architect who yearns to design innovative bathhouses for the people of Rome. However, his creativity is stifled by the traditional Roman bathing practices.

One fateful day, while bathing in the public baths of Trajan, Lucius is sucked into a drain and transported to modern-day Japan. He emerges in a bathhouse in Tokyo and is utterly bewildered by the advanced bathing technology and unfamiliar customs.



### Thermae Romae Vol. 1 by Mari Yamazaki

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 284270 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 376 pages

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## Exploring the Contrasts of Ancient and Modern Baths

As Lucius navigates the modern bathhouses, he is amazed by the technological advancements compared to his own time. He marvels at the showerheads, steam rooms, and electric baths, realizing the Romans have much to learn from the Japanese.

However, he also encounters cultural differences that amuse and confuse him. Lucius is puzzled by the use of tiny towels, the lack of attendants to scrub and massage bathers, and the practice of bathing with strangers.

### **Roman Influence on Japanese Baths**

Despite the differences, Lucius gradually uncovers the subtle influence of Roman bathing culture on Japanese bathing practices. He recognizes the architectural similarities between Roman bathhouses and Japanese sento, and discovers that the Japanese word for "bath" (furo) is derived from the Latin word "fervere" (to boil).

### **A Comic Exploration of Cultural Exchange**

Thermae Romae is more than just a comedic manga about ancient Romans in modern Japan. It is also a thoughtful examination of cultural exchange and the ways in which different societies have influenced each other.

Through Lucius's journey, Yamazaki explores the concepts of innovation, tradition, and the human need for relaxation and rejuvenation. The series highlights the similarities and differences between Roman and Japanese culture, fostering an appreciation for the diversity of human experience.

### **The Artistry of Mari Yamazaki**

Mari Yamazaki's artwork in *Thermae Romae* is characterized by its detailed depiction of bathhouses and historical figures and its skillful use of humor to convey the cultural contrasts. Her illustrations capture the grandeur of ancient Rome and the vibrant atmosphere of modern Japan, transporting readers to both time periods.

## The Historical Relevance of *Thermae Romae*

While *Thermae Romae* is primarily a fictional story, it is also based on historical facts and research. Yamazaki has consulted with experts to ensure accuracy in the portrayal of Roman bathing practices and Japanese bathhouse culture.

The manga has helped to raise awareness of the historical connections between Rome and Japan and has inspired a growing interest in the history of bathing and bathing culture worldwide.

***Thermae Romae*** is a delightful and thought-provoking manga series that transports readers to the ancient baths of Rome and the modern bathhouses of Japan. Through the adventures of Lucius Modestus, Mari Yamazaki explores cultural exchange, innovation, tradition, and the human need for relaxation and rejuvenation. With its captivating artwork and engaging storyline, *Thermae Romae* is a must-read for anyone interested in history, culture, and the art of bathing.



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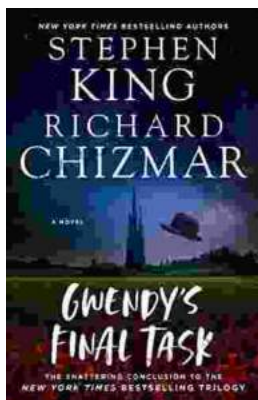
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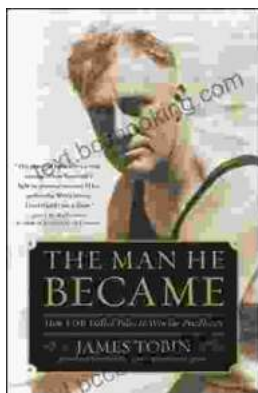
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