

A Roundtable Discussion on Latin Novel *Praeterita Vox Antiquae Romae*

I published a historical fiction novel titled *Praeterita Vox Antiquae Romae*, which translates into “The Forgotten Voice of Ancient Rome”, written in Latin. In this book, I focus on the perception of women from different roman texts voiced exclusively by males and shed light on the lack of female voice in Ancient roman society. It is a fictional novel about Mila, an aspiring writer living in modern America in the city of New York. She learns that in Ancient Rome, many of the works are only written by men, from the male perspective. She wonders about the stories untold by the women in Ancient Rome. One night, in her dream, she travels to the city of Ancient Rome and encounters Thalia, a Roman girl who is living in 15 BC, during the Augustan period or the Golden Age of Literature. She has long dreamt to be a writer but was barred from her dream due the male-dominant and sexist culture. As they exchange a conversation about the world of writing in Ancient Rome versus in Modern day America, Mila learns about the villainization and marginalization of women in Ancient Roman society and literature. Through their conversation, they shed light on how women's roles in public affairs have evolved between the two eras.

Through the roundtable, I will be discussing my writing process, my inspiration for writing this novel, what I learned while writing in Latin, and the book’s message and themes through a Q&A format. In addition, I will dive into how I have incorporated literary devices, such as symbolism and metaphors, through the Latin language. I will read and analyze passages from the book that sheds light onto the lack of female perspective in Ancient Roman society, with both the Latin version and the English translations, along with the attendees. I will be preparing a presentation to discuss the Roman literary works mentioned in the book that are

written by Ovid, Cicero, Catullus, and specifically their misogynic portrayal of women of their time in their literature. In the presentation, I will also walk through the differences in the roles, power, and depiction of women today versus in the Ancient Roman world that are highlighted in the book. At the end of the presentation, I hope the reader will understand the implications of the deprivation of the Roman female voice on our modern society and how this gender gap may still be reflected in our world today.