



Under the Moons of Mars: New Adventures on Barsoom

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Celebrate 100 years of John Carter of Mars with this all-new collection of original stories and art!

Readers of all ages have read and loved Edgar Rice Burroughs' Barsoom series since the first book, *A Princess of Mars*, was published in 1912. Now, in time for the 100th anniversary of that seminal work, comes an anthology of original stories featuring John Carter of Mars in brand-new adventures. Collected by veteran anthology editor John Joseph Adams, this anthology features stories from titans of literature such as Peter S. Beagle and Garth Nix and original art from Mark Zug, Charles Vess, and many more—plus an introduction by Tamora Pierce and a glossary of Mars by Richard A. Lupoff.

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From Reader Review *Under the Moons of Mars: New Adventures on Barsoom* for online ebook

Vincent says

I am a big fan of the John Carter of Mars series. It's not great writing, but it is fun - a guilty pleasure and an inspiration for later SF writers and themes. This book is 15 short stories by established writers of SFF giving their take on further adventures set in the worlds of Barsoom. It is edited by John Joseph Adams and features writers such as S.M. Stirling, L.E. Modesitt, Jr. and Garth Nix - to name a few. When writing in the style or playground of older writers such as Burroughs some authors feel the need to emulate the syntax to copy the author. In most cases it doesn't work well. That is pretty much the case here. Some of the stories work, some don't. What is fun is an exploration of characters who are not necessarily featured in the main books. "Woola's Song", by Theodora Goss is one that is especially fun.

The editor does a good job giving you background on the stories - where they fit into the overall story arc and background. The appendix also gives you background on the main characters in the Burroughs stories and the background of Barsoom. For people who don't know about John Carter, it might be confusing and not as enticing. For those familiar with the series, they will make you smile, but may fall a little flat.

This is worth a look if like the original series or if you have an inquisitive new reader interested in SF. Overall the book is ok, somewhere in the middle with some fun and some flat stories.

Carl Palmateer says

Like most books of this type it's a mixed bag. It does best when dealing with the "others" of the world, characters whose story was never given full voice. Poor John Carter gets re-imagined in so many ways. In some stories he is almost unrecognizable. Generally this book is best for examining the thoughts and trends of the 21st century than exploring Barsoom.

Brett Thomasson says

Ever since "The Skeleton Men of Jupiter" was published in *Amazing Stories* in 1943, writers have turned their hands towards continuing the adventures of Edgar Rice Burroughs' John Carter, the ageless Earthman battling his way across the fantastic world of Barsoom -- what its inhabitants called the planet Mars.

Some writers have simply re-worked the stories in their own fashion. Lin Carter moved out a ways from the sun and wrote about Jandar of Callisto, one of Jupiter's moons. Others took the characters and settings of Barsoom and attempted to re-imagine them with their own vision, like Andrew Stanton. Some, like Michael Moorcock's "Kane of Old Mars" trilogy, work well. Some, like Carter's and Stanton's, don't.

Under the Moons of Mars, a collection of short stories set on Barsoom and in some cases using Burroughs' own characters, has the same collection of hits and misses. Some of the writers attempt a straight-up homage to Burroughs; Joe R. Lansdale's "The Metal Men of Mars" does the best job at this, although Chris Claremont's "The Ghost That Haunts the Superstition Mountains" and Jonathan Maberry's "The Death Song

of Dwar Guntha" are very close seconds. Others see about telling their own stories on Burroughs' world. Not as many of these succeed, but Robin Wasserman's "Vengeance of Mars" and Tobias Buckell's "A Tinker of Warhoon" stand out as two that do.

And some fail, badly. Peter S. Beagle takes Burroughs' best-known character, Tarzan of the Apes, and transports him to Mars. where he finds a John Carter who is more than a bit of a jerk and a Dejah Thoris who shows she's willing to be just as faithful to her husband Carter as Tarzan is to his wife, Jane Clayton. Overall, the collection, which was given the name used when Burrough's first Barsoom novel was serialized in *All-Story* magazine in 1912, offers some real gems to which one might wish the Burroughs estate would pay some attention in authorizing some new tales of those who rove the dead sea bottom of dying Mars, in spite of the absolute duds like Beagle's.

Original available [here](#).

Edward Butler says

Noteworthy for the originality of so many of the stories here, which explore different perspectives on Burroughs' fictional world, frequently from the viewpoints of its non-humanoid races, subverting the triumphal narrative of John Carter and his allies.

Jeff J. says

A fun, but uneven, collection of stories set in the Mars of Edgar Rice Burroughs. For the most part the stories were faithful to the source material, but I was surprised at a few that had an unflattering characterization of John Carter.

Ron says

Although I'm not a big fan of short stories (I rarely make it thru a collection) but as a fan of Edgar Rice Burroughs since 8th grade, I couldn't resist this. I read all the Mars books at least twice in high school and despite the uneven quality of the collection, I'm giving it an extra star for the nostalgia. My favorites in the bunch were those by Valente, Nix, Lansdale, and Maberry.

Roger says

John Carter, Warlord of Mars, is not as famous as Edgar Rice Burroughs' other creation, Tarzan. And I discovered the Mars books long after I had attained adulthood. Nonetheless I have a particular affection for ERB's Mars series-they are the nectar of pure adventure. So I really enjoyed revisiting the characters and places Burroughs' originated when I read *Under the Moons of Mars*, which is a sort of "tribute" anthology. It features stories from talented authors whose work I enjoy, including Peter S Beagle, Joe Lansdale, and Chris Claremont. Beagle chronicles a meeting between Tarzan and John Carter which is quite wonderful, and this

is not Lansdale's first rodeo as he has written ERB's characters before-he perfectly captures the "voice" of John Carter. This book is fun from beginning to end and there is not a bad story here-it is a rare day that you can say that about any short story collection.

Samuel P. says

This was a good read of short stories my favorite is The Apeman of Mars

Craig says

This is a nice but uneven collection of fourteen stories set on Barsoom, Edgar Rice Burroughs' Mars, celebrating the centennial of the publication of the first book, A PRINCESS OF MARS. (And probably celebrating the release of the film that flopped.) The stories vary in their faithfulness to the source material; I thought the Maberry story was probably best in that regard. I also enjoyed the stories by Goss, Claremont, Buckell, and Lansdale, and was surprised to find that I thought the only really bad story included was the Beagle. Each story is accompanied by an illustration which I thought was very nice touch. I thought the best were closest to what one have found in the original pulps, particularly those rendered by Molly Crabapple, Meinert Hansen, Charles Vess, and Daren Bader. A gazetteer by Richard Lupoff is appended which will probably be most handy for those not familiar with the original series.

Margaret says

A very mixed bag: some stories I probably won't read again, and some I will. I was surprised that I disliked Peter S. Beagle's contribution, in which Tarzan travels to Mars, but I deeply disagreed with its portrayal of John Carter. Probably my favorite was S.M. Stirling's "The Jasoom Project", an ingenious mash-up of Barsoom, the Moon Maid books, Tarzan, and Pellucidar -- I only wished it were longer!

Joel Jenkins says

Review on Moons of Mars:

Metal Men of Mars-perfunctory and uninspired (2 stars)

Three Deaths- Tale of Gar Han who lost arm to John Carter (5 stars)

Ape-Man of Mars- Tarzan comes on to Dejah Thoris, and John Carter is a jerk. Deconstructionist rewrite that makes Carter a villain. (0 stars)

A Tinker of Warhoon-Warhoons perspective on Atmosphere Plant (5 stars)

Vengeance on Mars- Sarkoja plans her revenge (5 stars)

Woola's Song- Not usually a fan of stories from an animal's perspective. This one anthropomorphizes Woola, basically making him human. Not bad despite this. (3 stars)

River God of Mars- Starts out good, but doesn't come together (3 stars)

The Bronze Man of Mars- Grandson of John Carter has adventure (5 stars)

A Game of Mars-Thuvia adventure with Kaldanes (a little on the soap opera side) (4 stars)

A Sidekick of Mars-This is told from the viewpoint of another transplant from Earth, Lam Jones, whose view

is a little less reverent than John Carter's. This flirts with deconstructionism, but not so much that it threatens to make the Carter the villain--rather it paints him to be a bit egotistic, so capable that he doesn't comprehend when others fall short, and extremely lucky. Also, since the narrator might not be completely reliable, so the reader takes Lam's words with a grain of salt (5 stars)

The Ghost that Haunts the Superstition Mountains, by Chris Claremont--Claremont previously did some writing on the John Carter Warlord of Mars comic book. This story brings Carter, Dejah Thoris, and Tars Tarkas to Earth. (5 stars)

The Jasoom Project by SM Stirling- killer story. The author throws in everything and the kitchen sink and makes it work (5 stars)

Coming of Age on Barsoom- Another deconstructionist tale where Carter is not the hero but a murderer and the villain of the story. Told from the point of view of a Thark named Falm Rojut (0 stars)

The Death Song of Dwar Guntha-Another killer tale, and a great way to wrap up the book. Told from the viewpoint of some common warriors (5 stars)

Barsoomian Gazetteer-this Barsoomian gazetteer has entries on everything from apts (six-limbed creatures found near the Martian north pole) to Zode (a Martian unit of time equivalent to an hour). This has appeared elsewhere previously. (5 stars)

Average Rating: (50 stars/14 stories=3.57) Rounded up to 4 for the strength of some of these stories.

Hallie says

Typical anthology; some of the stories were very fun, others were forgettable, and a very few were outright bad. My favorites were the last two, "Coming of Age" and "Death Song of Dwar Guntha"; most of the rest were middling, with a typical Barsoomian adventure structure. There was one I couldn't finish - "Game of Mars". Valentine seemed to think the Kaldanes and the men of Manator were the same thing? Since Chessmen is my favorite John Carter story, it was crazy distracting and annoying, so I abandoned it.

Woo, anthologies! They are making up my October, for some reason.

Christopher says

To anyone with only a passing interest in ERB's Martian Tales, I might recommend reading just *A Princess of Mars* and then the better stories from this collection.

I've starred the stories that I liked and detailed my thoughts below. Regarding the work as a whole, the editing could have been better (e.g. one story has Olovorian when Orovarian is meant; one story consistently misspells Toonolian as Tonoolian; etc.), but the forewords to each of the stories are excellent, and the gazetteer is probably very helpful to most readers.

Strictly speaking, most of the stories take some poetic license with ERB's setting, which I think is great when it works, adding some coherent new perspective or sense of possibilities to it. Simply doing ERB pastiche is also appropriate for a volume like this. I was disappointed to find some contributors hadn't read or reviewed relevant Mars books, and there were a few cases where poetic license may have been stretched to the point of

not really caring about the source material while also failing to create a good original story.

But overall, this was a very good collection. Even the weak stories were competently written.

*Lansdale - good as pastiche; true to ERB but subtly tongue-in-cheek.

*Kirtley - solid exploration of the consequences of meeting/fighting John Carter.

Beagle - Tarzan goes to Mars in scenes cut-and-pasted from *Princess* and meets John Carter; it's clever and slightly amusing as a crossover/pastiche, but unfortunately, John Carter is badly mischaracterized (more generously, re-imagined) for not very humorous effect.

*Buckell - an episode from *Princess* retold well from another POV, creating a memorable footnote character.

*Wasserman - tragic continuation of Sarkoja's story; a little over the top, but pretty good.

*Goss - *Princess* from Woola's POV; a very warm "whatever happened to ...?"

Grossman - misses the mark in several ways; voice and characterization are off, but not for any clear reason; not really successful as pastiche, nor parody, nor literary re-imagining, etc. Incidentally, given the well-established Gridley Wave communications between Barsoom and Earth as well as Barsoom having at least two viable spaceships, the big reveal in this story being presented as something momentous suggests the author hasn't read most of the books.

*Modesitt - straight sequel to book 10, though following a new descendant of John Carter like books 4 and 5; good pastiche, extremely like an ERB Mars novel at a more readable 20 pages.

Valentine - the foreword to this story politely avoids mentioning that the Kaldanes have no real connection to Manator aside from being in the same book, so here we have a direct sequel to book 5, perhaps based on no reading of book 5 at all (maybe inspired by cover art or a poor summary?), that also fails to add perspective or invention.

Nix - inspired by *Princess*'s frame story, Nix inserts a no-nonsense miner sidekick with uneven Old West mannerisms into the margins of John Carter's adventures, ineffectively poking fun.

Claremont - Barsoomians come to Earth's Old West; the story packs in too many Earth-historical references and a moral that's not very ERB-ish.

*Stirling - cleverly blends story elements from throughout the Mars novels and also from the Tarzan, Pellucidar, and Moon books; decent pastiche, though fairly dry.

*Valente - delightful re-imagination of the ordinary Thark POV, taking as clues to their inner lives their birth/adoption process, limited telepathy, and grim laughter.

*Maberry - very nice 'red shirt' / grunt POV story reminiscent of heroic, battle-glorifying scenes in books 1-3 where John Carter and/or Tars Tarkas fight atop piles of bodies.

Elliott Bäck says

Lovely nostalgia, would be even better if so much time wasn't name-dropping original characters / plots.

Jim says

I'll sum up both the Intro & FW by saying that if you're interested in reading this book, you'll agree with them & appreciate their sentiments. Yes, ERB had his faults, but he was one of my earliest introductions into SF & Fantasy. He'll always hold a special place & my thanks for that.

If you didn't grow up reading Barsoom, I doubt this collection will do much for you. The science is fantasy, the characters 2D, & the coincidences very convenient. On top of that, ERB hasn't aged well socially, although some of these stories have. At least he's not particularly racist in this one. The girls often need rescuing, but so do most of the boys. Most handle weapons well, no matter their color or gender. Lots of colors, pretty much all alike, save one that's just BAD guys & another with some extra arms. Good & bad in most, though. Still, they're fun adventures if you just go with it & don't look too hard.

Each story has a little introduction for those not familiar with the series. They're very well done. Unless I say otherwise, they're good. Ditto for the illustrations. They're B&W done in various ways.

From <http://www.johnjosephadams.com/under-...>

Under the Moons of Mars includes the following stories and illustrations.

Foreword by Tamora Pierce

Introduction by John Joseph Adams

The Metal Men of Mars by Joe R. Lansdale Illustrated by Gregory Manchess & could have been written by ERB himself. JC goes off & gets into trouble again. Interesting trouble. 3 stars.

Three Deaths by David Barr Kirtley —Illustrated by Charles Vess is not a story ERB would have ever written, but I liked it. 4 stars.

The Ape-Man of Mars by Peter S. Beagle —Illustrated by Jeremy Bastian is Tarzan meets JC. Didn't care for it, but that's probably what would have happened. 3 stars.

A Tinker of Warhoon by Tobias S. Buckell —Illustrated by Chrissie Zullo

Vengeance of Mars by Robin Wasserman —Illustrated by Misako Rocks!

Woola's Song by Theodora Goss —Illustrated by Joe Sutphin

The River Gods of Mars by Austin Grossman —Illustrated by Meinert Hansen

The Bronze Man of Mars by L. E. Modesitt, Jr. —Illustrated by Tom Daly

A Game of Mars by Genevieve Valentine —Illustrated by Molly Crabapple

The group above were all OK, 2.5 - 3 stars, but I'm getting a tired of modern tender sensibilities in this setting.

Sidekick of Mars by Garth Nix —Illustrated by Mike Cavallaro. Tried for humor. Failed. 2 stars.

The Ghost That Haunts the Superstition Mountains by Chris Claremont —Illustrated by John Picacio, just didn't work for me, but wasn't awful, 2 stars.

The Jasoom Project by S. M. Stirling —Illustrated by Jeff Carlisle, should have been novel. It was too choppy & covered too much ground for a short story, but captured ERB's style pretty well. 3 stars.

Coming of Age in Barsoom by Catherynne M. Valente —Illustrated by Michael Wm. Kaluta. She has to be kidding me. Did she ever read the novels? Where the rest of the stories may have expanded on some things, she came up with an idea that negates the entire collection. Just doesn't work at all. Negative stars - shouldn't have been published much less included in this collection.

The Death Song of Dwar Guntha by Jonathan Maberry —Illustrated by Daren Bader. 4 stars, one of the best in the collection.

Appendix: A Barsoomian Gazetteer, or, Who's Who and What's What on Mars by Richard A. Lupoff
A pretty good reference. 3 stars.

I'm glad I read it, but I wouldn't recommend anyone go out of their way too far.
