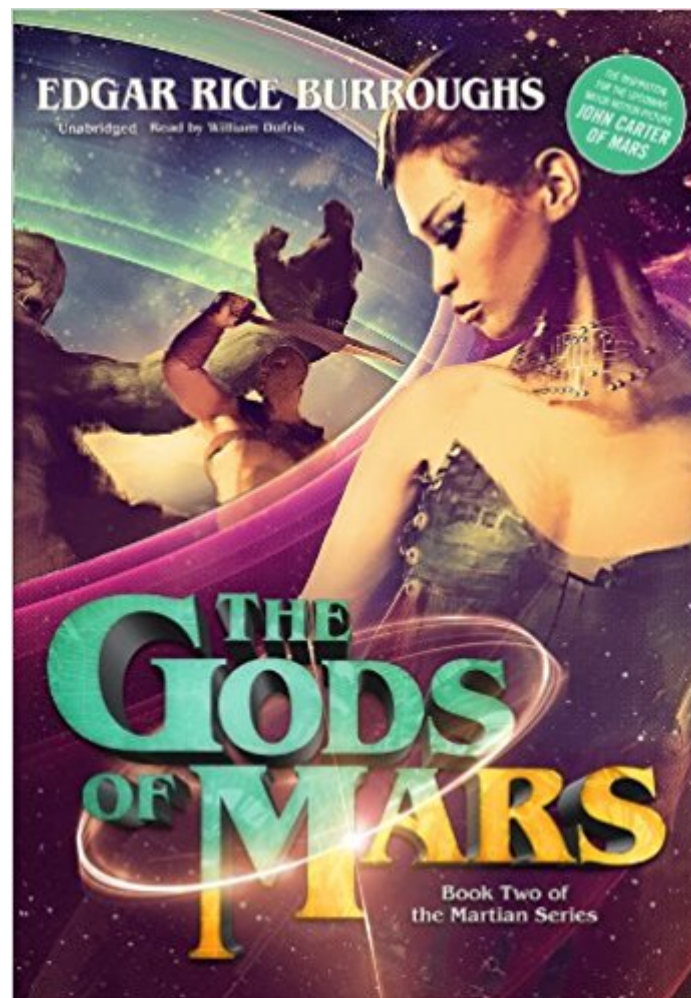




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The Gods Of Mars (The Martian-Barsoom-John Carter Series, Book 2)



Synopsis

This is Book 2 in Edgar Rice Burroughs' Martian Series, also known as the Barsoom Series. This is the extraordinary story of John Carter, who returns to the Red Planet in search of his beloved, Dejah Thoris. John lands in the Valley Dor, which is populated by vicious plant men, and discovers the Lost Sea of Korus, guarded by the great white apes and horrifying lions of Barsoom. It is here that he finds the princess Thuvia, who is a captive of the Holy Therns, high priests who eat only human flesh slain by their plant men. But this is only the beginning of John Carter's adventures under the double moons of Mars before he fights his way back to his own people as the Prince of the House of Tardos Mors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Soldier and adventurer John Carter tells the story of how he returns to the planet Mars to be reunited with his love, the Martian princess Dejah Thoris. With his great friend Tars Tarkas, mighty Jeddak of Thark, Carter sets out in search of his princess. But Dejah Thoris has vanished. And Carter becomes trapped in the legendary Eden of Mars from which none has ever escaped alive.
--From the Publisher

This book is a large print version using a minimum of 16 point type in a 6 by 9 inch size and library bound. As with all Quiet Vision print books, it use a high grade, acid free paper for long life.

I read the first book in the *Barsoom* series as a story in the *Steam Punk Megapack* collection. It is pure action/adventure and I really enjoyed it! I then went to Wikipedia and discovered there are eleven books total in the series. The last book is really two separate stories. These books are all fun and easy to read. I discovered that many of the individual titles in the series are free at [for the Kindle](http://www.feedbooks.com), particularly the first five. Then the stories seem to come in collections for a price. I suggest avoiding the collections based on the negative reviews that I read. I was able to acquire all of the books eventually as single Kindle books. Two books, numbers 8 and 10 (I believe), I was able to get by googling the titles. They were in Kindle format and free! Check out [feedbooks.com](http://www.feedbooks.com). I did not know before this that the Kindle format is available outside of the [Web Site](http://www.amazon.com). I could not get these two books through [.Book eleven is available at Kindle](http://www.amazon.com) but the Title is listed as: *John Carter on Mars*. In Wikipedia it is listed as: *John Carter of Mars*. I believe the two stories: *John Carter and the Giant of Mars* & *Skeleton Men of Jupiter* can be acquired for free as separate titles at [feedbooks.com](http://www.feedbooks.com) if you prefer *free*.

I love his writing style. I find myself flying through the pages. It is fantasy stuff, maidens in distress, monsters, heroes, and warrior princesses. What's not to like? The books were written in simpler times when sex was implied and violence was surreal. They appeal to children and adults alike because they stimulate the imagination and satisfy our desire for good to triumph over evil. In a [Paris Review](http://www.parisreview.org) interview, Ray Bradbury said of Burroughs that "Edgar Rice Burroughs never would have looked upon himself as a social mover and shaker with social obligations. But as it turns out [and I love to say it](http://www.parisreview.org) because it upsets everyone terribly [Burroughs is probably the most influential writer in the entire history of the world](http://www.parisreview.org)." Bradbury continued that "By giving romance and adventure to a whole generation of boys, Burroughs caused them to go out and decide to become special." I agree, and girls enjoy them too.

When we last saw John Carter, he had been accidentally transferred back to Earth, and away from his beloved Dejah Thoris. Well, obviously in a novel named "The Gods of Mars," he isn't going to stay on his home planet and learn how to play poker. Instead, Edgar Rice Burroughs' second Barsoom novel returns our hero to the red planet, and introduces a whole new dilemma for our hero -- how to get back to the world of the living. Yes, he's both alive AND dead, as far as the Barsoomians are concerned. John Carter returns to Mars, but is shocked to find that he's in a

completely unfamiliar part of it, populated by grotesque Plant Men and white apes. After encountering his old friend Tars Tarkas, Carter learns that they are in the Barsoomian afterlife. No, really. The problem is, nobody can return from the pilgrimage to the River Iss -- and if anyone tries, they will be killed. Even though they were already dead... don't think too hard about it. But the greatest threat comes from two breeds of Martian that Carter has never seen before -- the Black Martian pirates and the White Martian Therns, both of whom consider themselves to be gods. Anyone who survives the valley is turned into a slave, and Carter soon makes new allies among his fellow captives. But even if he can escape the grasp of the "goddess" Issus, he may not be able to survive in a world where escaping from "death" is blasphemy -- especially when he finds that Dejah Thoris may be doomed as well. "The Gods of Mars" is a much faster-moving story than the first Barsoom book, even though we're introduced to a whole new part of Mars and two new Martian species. Rather than the slow introductions of "A Princess of Mars," Burroughs just plunges right into the main story right away, and it's a long time before he stops to contemplate the flora/fauna/customs of the Martians. Burroughs' prose is also more polished in this story, with longer action scenes and a faster pace -- as well as some moments that are absolutely horrifying (the plant men, with their corpselike skin, ragged noses and wormy hair). And while he still has the slight stuffiness of early 20th-century pulp, he injects a lot of vivid descriptions and action into the story. John Carter is still a bit on the Stuey side -- multiple women are in love with him by the story's end, for instance. But he's still a very strong character, with lots of guts and courage. Burroughs throws a rather unexpected twist into the story when Carter discovers that one of his fellow captives is actually related to him; and he also introduces some other interesting characters, such as the malignant Issus and the strong, proud Thuvia. "The Gods of Mars" is one of the few sequels that is actually markedly better than the original book. But be warned: it leaves you dangling on a cliffhanger that will leave you scrabbling for the third book.

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