SOFTWARE & TECH

Edgar Rice Burroughs Marss In Order

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Introduction to the Martian Adventures of Edgar Rice Burroughs

When the name **Edgar Rice Burroughs** is mentioned, most readers immediately think of Tarzan, the lord of the jungle. Yet for many science fiction enthusiasts, Burroughs' true masterpiece is his sweeping, swashbuckling series set on a dying planet called Barsoom—better known to Earthlings as Mars. Published between 1912 and 1948, the Barsoom series transported readers to a world of red deserts, four-armed green warriors, and noble princesses. But for new readers, the question quickly arises: What is the correct **Edgar Rice Burroughs Mars in order**? This article will guide you through the sequence of the books, explain why the order matters, and provide a comprehensive overview of each volume. Whether you are a longtime fan or a curious newcomer, understanding the proper reading sequence unlocks the full richness of Burroughs' imaginative universe.

Overview of the Barsoom Series

The Barsoom series consists of eleven novels written by Edgar Rice Burroughs, published in magazines and later collected into hardcover editions. The central hero is John Carter, a Confederate Civil War veteran mysteriously transported to Mars, where he discovers he possesses superhuman strength due to the planet's lower gravity. On Barsoom, Carter becomes a warlord, fights strange creatures, and wins the heart of the incomparable Dejah Thoris. The series combines elements of planetary romance, sword-and-planet adventure, and early science fiction. While Burroughs did not write the novels in strict chronological order of events, the generally accepted reading sequence follows the publication order, which also mirrors the timeline of John Carter's adventures.

Publication vs. Chronological Order

One common point of confusion when determining the **Edgar Rice Burroughs Mars in order** is the difference between publication date and internal chronology. The first novel, *A Princess of Mars*, was published in 1912 and introduces John Carter. The second, *The Gods of Mars*, picks up immediately after the first. However, later books such as *Swords of Mars* and *Synthetic Men of Mars* continue the timeline without major gaps. A few later novels, like *John Carter of Mars*, are collections of shorter works, but they still fit into the overall arc. For the most coherent experience, readers are advised to follow the publication order, which is also the order in which Burroughs developed the world and characters. Below is the definitive list.

The Correct Reading Order of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Mars Novels

To fully appreciate the evolution of John Carter and the world of Barsoom, here is the complete series in the recommended order. Each entry includes a brief summary to help you understand its place in the saga.

1. A Princess of Mars (1912) – John Carter is transported to Mars, rescues the princess Dejah Thoris, and becomes a warlord among the Tharks.

2. The Gods of Mars (1913) – Carter returns to Barsoom after a long absence and must navigate the treacherous temples of the Holy Therns.
3. The Warlord of Mars (1914) – Carter searches for his lost wife and daughter, culminating in a war that unites the planet's nations.
4. Thuvia, Maid of Mars (1916) – A standalone adventure focusing on Carthoris, son of John Carter, and his love for the princess Thuvia.
5. The Chessmen of Mars (1922) – Tara, daughter of John Carter, is captured and must play a deadly living chess game to survive.
6. The Master Mind of Mars (1928) – A new protagonist, Ulysses Paxton, arrives on Mars and becomes involved in a plot involving brain transplants.
7. A Fighting Man of Mars (1931) – Another Earthman, Tan Hadron, embarks on a quest to rescue a kidnapped princess.
8. Swords of Mars (1936) – John Carter travels to the Martian moon Thuria to confront a mysterious enemy.
9. Synthetic Men of Mars (1940) – Carter and Dejah Thoris face a mad scientist creating artificial life forms.
10. Llana of Gathol (1948) – A collection of four interconnected stories featuring John Carter and his granddaughter Llana.
11. John Carter of Mars (1964, posthumous) – Two short stories: "John Carter and the Giant of Mars" and "Skeleton Men of Jupiter."

This sequence ensures that you meet characters in the order they were introduced and witness the growth of the Barsoom world as Burroughs envisioned it.

Detailed Breakdown of Key Novels in the Series

A Princess of Mars – The Beginning of the Legend

The novel that started it all introduces John Carter, a Virginia gentleman who, after being trapped in a cave, finds himself on the red planet. He quickly befriends the fierce, four-armed Green Martians of the Thark tribe and falls in love with Dejah Thoris, a princess of the humanoid Red Martians. The story establishes the core themes of honor, love, and adventure that define the series. Burroughs' vivid descriptions of Martian cities, flying ships, and the ancient atmosphere factories create a world that feels both alien and romantic. **Reading this first is essential**to understanding the protagonist's origin and the basic physics of Barsoom—especially the reduced gravity that gives Carter his incredible leaping abilities.

The Gods of Mars and The Warlord of Mars – The Epic Continuation

After the ending of *A Princess of Mars*, John Carter is mysteriously returned to Earth for ten years. When he finally manages to return to Mars, he discovers that a decade has passed on Barsoom as well. *The Gods of Mars* sends Carter into the forbidden region of the Holy Therns, a cult that claims to control the afterlife. The book expands the mythology and introduces the sinister black pirates of the atmosphere. *The Warlord of Mars* concludes the first trilogy, with Carter searching for Dejah Thoirs and their daughter, ultimately uniting the warring tribes under his leadership. Together, these three novels form the core of the John Carter saga and are best read in quick succession.

Later Novels – Expanding the Universe

Beginning with *Thuvia, Maid of Mars*, Burroughs shifted focus to other heroes such as Carthoris and Tan Hadron. These stories retain the same adventurous tone but explore different regions and cultures of Barsoom. For instance, *The Chessmen of Mars* introduces the kaldanes—creatures who are all head and almost no body—and a deadly game that tests both wits and courage. *The Master Mind of Mars*features a mad scientist named Ras Thavas who performs brain transplants, adding a touch of body horror to the series. While John Carter remains a central figure in several later books, these standalone adventures can be read independently, though they are richer when consumed in the established order.

Why the Order of the Mars Series Matters

Some readers might wonder whether it is essential to follow the **Edgar Rice Burroughs Mars in order** strictly. The answer is yes, for several reasons. First, the character development of John Carter and Dejah Thoris unfolds over the early books; skipping ahead would spoil emotional milestones. Second, the world-building builds incrementally—each novel reveals new facets of Martian society, technology, and geography. Third, later books contain references and plot points that assume knowledge of previous events. For example, the discovery of John Carter's daughter in *The Warlord of Mars*is a major reveal that would be lost if read out of sequence. Finally, Burroughs' writing style evolved over time, and experiencing the series in publication order allows readers to appreciate the maturation of his storytelling from pulp to polished adventure.

Influence and Legacy of the Barsoom Series

The impact of Burroughs' Martian tales cannot be overstated. They inspired generations of science fiction writers, including Ray Bradbury (*The Martian Chronicles*), Arthur C. Clarke, and George Lucas, who acknowledged that the *Star Wars* films owe a debt to the swashbuckling heroics of John Carter. The series also laid the groundwork for the "sword and planet" subgenre, later popularized by writers like Leigh Brackett and Michael Moorcock. In 2012, Disney released a film adaptation titled *John Carter*, which, despite its box office struggles, introduced a new audience to the world of Barsoom. For those who prefer the original text, the novels remain in print and are readily available as e-books.

Conclusion: Embarking on Your Martian Journey

Whether you are a fan of classic science fiction, high adventure, or simply a good romance set against a strange red sky, the Barsoom series offers a timeless escape. By following the correct **Edgar Rice Burroughs Mars in order**, you will experience the story as the author intended: a gradual unfolding of wonder, danger, and triumph. Start with *A Princess of Mars*and let John Carter carry you across the dead sea bottoms and through the ruined cities of an ancient world. The red planet awaits—and its sword is yours to wield.

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