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edgar rice burroughs marss in order

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Edgar Rice Burroughs Marss in Order: A Complete Guide to the Author's Legendary Martian Adventures

When you think of classic pulp fiction, the name Edgar Rice Burroughs instantly conjures up images of daring explorers, exotic alien worlds, and timeless heroics. Burroughs, the creator of Tarzan, John Carter of Mars, and the Lost Race of Pellucidar, left an indelible mark on early 20th century adventure literature. Among his many series, the **Martian saga** stands out as a masterclass in world building and speculative storytelling. Yet, with more than a dozen novels spanning several decades, many readers wonder: *What is the correct reading order for the Edgar Rice Burroughs Marss series?*This article provides a comprehensive, naturally flowing guide to help you experience Burroughs' Martian universe exactly as he intended.

Why the Reading Order Matters

Burroughs' Martian books were originally published out of chronological sequence. The first novel, *A Princess of Mars* (1912), introduced the hero John Carter, while later titles such as *The Gods of Mars* (1913) and *The Warlord of Mars* (1914) built on that foundation. However, as the series expanded, Burroughs and his editors added prequels, sequels, and spin offs that shifted the internal timeline. Reading the books in the order they were published can be exciting, but it may also lead to narrative inconsistencies and spoilers. Conversely, following the **internal chronology**ensures a smooth, logical progression of events, character development, and world building details.

For collectors, the order also matters when assembling a library or a display. Knowing which editions to prioritize—first editions, reprints, omnibus collections—helps you build a cohesive collection that reflects both historical significance and literary evolution.

The Edgar Rice Burroughs Martian Series: An Overview

Burroughs' Martian universe is divided into two main arcs:

1. The Barsoom Saga – the original series featuring John Carter, the Earthman who becomes a hero on Mars.
2. The New Adventures of John Carter – later novels that continue John Carter's adventures, often set decades after the first arc.

In addition to these, Burroughs penned a handful of short stories, novellas, and companion pieces that enrich the setting. Below is a concise list of the core titles, grouped by their narrative chronology:

- A Princess of Mars (1912)
- The Gods of Mars (1913)
- The Warlord of Mars (1914)
- John Carter of Mars (1915)
- Thuvia, Maid of Mars (1918)
- Thuvia and the Child of Mars (1918)
- Thuvia, Daughter of Mars (1918)
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- Thuvia and the Child of Mars (1918)
- Thuvia and the Child of Mars (1918)

Although the above list contains duplicates due to the way some titles were reprinted, the core narrative remains the same. The following sections will guide you through the recommended order.

Recommended Reading Order for the Edgar Rice Burroughs Marss Series

Below is a step by step reading order that respects the internal chronology of the Martian world, ensuring that you experience character arcs, plot twists, and world building details in the most coherent manner.

1. A Princess of Mars – The genesis of John Carter's Martian adventure. Follow his accidental arrival, first encounters with the Martian societies, and his initial struggle to survive.
2. The Gods of Mars – A direct sequel that expands the political landscape of Barsoom and introduces the powerful alien beings that threaten humanity.
3. The Warlord of Mars – Delves deeper into the complex web of alliances and rivalries among the Martian factions.
4. John Carter of Mars – A continuation that explores Carter's growing influence on Barsoom's political stage.
5. Thuvia, Maid of Mars – Introduces the beautiful Thuvia, whose relationship with Carter adds emotional depth to the saga.
6. Thuvia, Daughter of Mars – Focuses on the next generation and the shifting dynamics on the planet.
7. Thuvia and the Child of Mars – The final installment of the original Barsoom arc, concluding Carter's first major storyline.
8. Thuvia, Daughter of Mars – A reprint that provides additional context to the preceding narrative.
9. Thuvia and the Child of Mars – A final wrap up, tying loose ends and setting the stage for future adventures.

For readers who prefer to follow the publication order, the **original publication sequence** is as follows:

1. A Princess of Mars (1912)
2. The Gods of Mars (1913)
3. The Warlord of Mars (1914)
4. John Carter of Mars (1915)
5. Thuvia, Maid of Mars (1918)
6. Thuvia, Daughter of Mars (1918)
7. Thuvia and the Child of Mars (1918)

Both orders have their merits. If you're new to the series and want to experience the narrative flow as intended, the **internal chronology**is the best choice. If you're a collector or a fan of the original pulp feel, the publication order offers a nostalgic experience.

Why the Internal Chronology Works Best

Burroughs' storytelling style is deeply rooted in the sense of progression and discovery. By following the internal chronology, you'll witness:

- The gradual evolution of Barsoom's political systems.

- John Carter's personal growth from a bewildered Earthman to a revered Martian hero.
- The development of key relationships, especially with Thuvia.
- The introduction of new factions, technologies, and mythologies in a logical sequence.

Reading in this order also helps avoid narrative spoilers that would otherwise arise if you jumped ahead to later titles that reference earlier events. It's a smoother, more immersive experience that respects the author's original vision.

Deep Dive: Key Themes and Character Arcs

Understanding the thematic core of the Burroughs Marss series can enrich your reading experience. Below are some of the most prominent themes:

1. The Clash of Civilizations

Barsoom is a land of stark contrasts—technological marvels like the **Wraiths of the Void** coexist with primitive tribes. The series examines how different societies interact, sometimes peacefully, often violently.

2. The Heroic Ideal

John Carter embodies the archetypal hero—brave, honorable, and self less. His journey reflects the classic hero's journey, complete with trials, mentors, and a return home, albeit to a new world.

3. The Power of Identity

Carter's dual identity as an Earthman and a Martian allows Burroughs to explore themes of belonging, loyalty, and cultural assimilation.

4. The Consequences of Power

The series frequently showcases the corrupting influence of power. The **Warlords** and **Gods** of Mars wield immense influence, but their reigns are often plagued by betrayal and moral decay.

How to Acquire the Edgar Rice Burroughs Marss Books

For avid readers and collectors alike, obtaining the Marss series can be approached in several ways. Here's a concise guide to help you navigate your options.

1. Print Editions

Print editions are available in various formats:

- First Editions – Rare, highly valuable for collectors.
- Reprints – Widely available, often in paperback or hardcover.
- Omnibus Collections – Bundles that include multiple titles, providing a cost effective way to own the series.

Check reputable booksellers such as **Amazon**, **Barnes & Noble**, or **Alibris** for new and used copies.

2. Digital Formats

For readers who prefer e books, the Marss series is available on major platforms:

- Kindle – Offers a wide selection of both new and vintage titles.
- Apple Books – Features high quality e versions with adjustable text sizes.
- Google Play Books – Provides an offline reading experience.

Digital editions are particularly convenient for travelers or those who want to read on multiple devices.

3. Libraries and Academic Institutions

Many university libraries and public libraries carry Burroughs' works. If you're interested in scholarly analysis, you may find annotated editions and critical essays in these collections.

4. Special Editions and Collectors' Items

Occasionally, specialty publishers release limited editions featuring new illustrations, author notes, or unique cover art. Keep an eye on Baen Books

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