

UNDER THE MOONS OF MARS

BY EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

SYNOPSIS.

Captain John Carter, C. S. A., at the onset of war, Mars, is a hero of the mountain range, from which emanates a potent force. Overcoming by this, he apparently undergoes a physical metamorphosis, some inherent part of him being transformed into a more powerful person, his seemingly useless body being transformed into a machine through a series of operations.

CHAPTER XII A Prisoner of Power

AS I entered and saluted them, Lorquas and Ptomel bled me to advance, and, fixing his great, hideous eyes upon me, addressed me in a friendly manner.

"You have been with us a few days, yet during that time you have by your prowess won a high position among us. Be that as it may, you are not one of us. You owe us no allegiance."

"Your position is peculiar. You are a prisoner and yet you give commands which must be obeyed. You are an alien and yet you are a Tharkian chief. You are a midge, and yet you can kill a mighty warrior with one blow of your fist."

"And now you are reported to have been plotting to escape with another prisoner of another race—a Tharkian chief, from her own admission, half believes you are returned from the valley of Dor. Either one of these accusations, if proved, would be sufficient ground for your execution, but we are a just people and you shall have a trial on your return to Thark. If Tal Hajus so commands."

"But," he continued, in his fierce guttural tone, "if you run off with the red girl it is I who shall have to account to Tal Hajus. It is I who shall have to face Tars Tarkas, and either demonstrate my right to command, or give up the metal from my dead carcass to a better man for such is the custom of the Tharks."

"I have no quarrel with Tars Tarkas. Together we rule supreme the greatest of the lesser communities among the green men. We do not wish to fight between ourselves; and so if you were dead, John Carter, I should be glad."

"Under two conditions only, however, may you be killed by us without orders from Tal Hajus—in personal combat in self-defense, should you attack one of us, or were you apprehended in an attempt to escape."

"As a matter of justice I must warn you that we only await one of these two excuses for ridding ourselves of so great a responsibility."

"The safe delivery of the red girl to Tal Hajus is of the greatest importance. Not in a thousand years have the Tharks made such a blunder as the green daughter of the greatest of the red jeds, who is also our bitterest enemy."

"I have spoken. The red girl told us that we were without the softer sentiments of humanity, but we are a just and truthful race. You may go."

"Turning, I left the audience-chamber. So this was the beginning of Sarkoja's persecution. I knew that none other than he could be responsible for this report which

had reached the ears of Lorquas Ptomel so quickly, and now I recalled those portions of our conversation which had touched upon escape and upon my origin.

Sarkoja was at this time Tars Tarkas's oldest and most trusted female. As such she was a mighty power behind the throne, for no warrior had the confidence of Lorquas Ptomel to such an extent as did his ablest lieutenant, Tars Tarkas.

Instead, however, of putting thoughts of possible escape from my mind, my attention was attracted by the fact that she and once with Lorquas Ptomel only served to centre my every faculty on this subject. Now, more than before, the absolute necessity for escape, in so far as Dejah Thoris was concerned, was impressed upon me. For I was convinced that those horrible fates awaited her at the headquarters of Tal Hajus.

As described by Sola, this monster was the exaggerated personification of all the ages of cruelty, ferocity, and brutality from which he had descended.

Cold, cunning, calculating, he was, also, in marked contrast to most of his fellows, a slave to brute passion.

"The thought that the divine Dejah Thoris might fall into the clutches of such an abominable monster started the cold sweat upon me. Far better that we save a friendly bullet for ourselves for the last moment, as did those brave frontier women of my lost land, who took their own lives rather than fall into the hands of the Indian braves."

"As I wandered about the plaza lost in my gloomy forebodings, Tars Tarkas approached me on his way from the audience-chamber. His demeanor toward me was unchanged, and he greeted me as though we had not just parted a few moments before."

"Where are your quarters, John Carter?" he asked.

"I have selected none," I replied. "It seemed best that I should quarter either by myself or among the other warriors and I was awaiting an opportunity to ask your advice. As you know, and I smiled, "I am not yet familiar with all the customs and habits of the Tharks."

"Come with me," he directed, and together we moved off across the plaza to a building which adjoined that occupied by Sola and her charges.

"My quarters are on the first floor of this building," he said. "The second floor also is fully occupied by warriors, but the third floor and the floors above are vacant. You may take your choice of these."

"I understand," he continued, "that you have given up your woman to the red prisoner. Well, as you have said, your ways are not our ways, but you can fight well enough to do about as you please. Thus, if you wish to give your woman to a captive, it is your own affair."

"As a chieftain, however, you should have those to serve you and in accordance with our customs you may select any of the females from the retinues of the chieftains whose metal you now wear."

"I suggested that they might also bring me some choice of their arms. Thus, if I could get along very nicely without assistance, except in the matter of preparing food, and so he promised to send women to me for this purpose and also for the care of my arms and the manufacture of my ammunition, which he said would be necessary."

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"I promised to do so, and departed. Left alone, I ascended the winding corridor to the upper floors in search of suitable quarters. The beauties of the other buildings were repeated in this, and, as usual, I knew that none other than he could be responsible for this report which

I finally chose a front room on the third floor, because this brought me nearer to Dejah Thoris, who was quartered on the second floor of the adjoining building.

Near my sleeping room were baths, dressing rooms, and other sleeping and living apartments, in all, some dozen rooms.

The windows in the rear overlooked an enormous court, which formed the centre of the square made by the buildings which faced the four contiguous streets, and which was now given over to the quartering of the various animals belonging to the warriors occupying the adjoining buildings.

While the court was entirely overgrown with the yellow moss-like vegetation which blanketed virtually the entire surface of Mars, my numerous fountains, statuary, and other objects, which were known as thorns, are as dangerous and vicious as their masters; but when once subdued are sufficiently tractable for the purposes of the green Martians.

Two of these animals had fallen to me from the warriors whose metal I wore, and in short time I could handle them quite as well as the native warriors.

The method was not at all complicated. If the thorns did not respond with sufficient celerity to the telepathic instructions which they were dealt a terrific rattle blow between the ears with the butt of a pistol, and if they showed fight this treatment was continued until the brutes either were subdued or had unseated their riders, often with fatal results.

In the latter event it immediately became a life and death struggle between the man and the beast. If the warrior were quick enough with his pistol, he might live to ride again, though upon some other beast; if not, his torn and mangled body was gathered up by his women and burned in accordance with the Tharkian custom.

My experience with Woola determined me to attempt the experiment of kindness in my treatment of my thorns. First I taught them that they could not unseat me, then I impressed upon them my authority and mastery.

Then, by degrees, I won their confidence in much the same manner as I had done with the other animals, and by the use of some of the same methods, including considerable loss of the air-craft. All this, it seemed, had been the property of the two chieftains I had slain, and now they were the property of the Tharks, and I had become their man.

At my direction they placed the stuff in one of the back rooms, and then departed, only to return with a second load, which they advised me constituted the balance of my goods. On the second trip they were accompanied by ten or fifteen other women and youths, who, it seemed, formed the retinues of the two chieftains.

They were not their families nor their wives, nor their servants; the relationship was peculiar, and so unlike anything known to us that it is most difficult to describe. All property among the green men is owned in common by the community, except the personal weapons, ornaments, and sleeping silks and furs of the individuals.

These alone can one claim undisputed right for, nor may he accumulate more of these than he is required for his actual needs. The surplus he holds merely as a custodian, and it is passed on to the younger members of the community as necessity demands.

The women and children of a man's retinue may be likened to a military unit, for which he is responsible in various ways, as in matters of instruction, discipline, and the like. The duties of their continual roamings and their unending strife with other communities and with the red Martians.

Finding that I must assume responsibility for these creatures, whether I would or no, I made the best of my actual condition, and I directed the women to find quarters on the upper floors, leaving the third floor to me!

One of the girls I charged with the duties of the kitchen, and directed the others to take up the various articles which had formerly constituted their vocations.

Thereafter I saw little of them, nor did I care to.

CHAPTER XIII The Old Climax

FOLLOWING the battle with the airships, the community remained within the city for several days, abandoning the homeward march until they could feel reasonably assured that the ships would not return.

To be caught on the open plains with a cavalcade of chariots and children was far from the desire of even so warlike a people as the green Martians.

During our period of inactivity Tars Tarkas had instructed me in many of the customs and arts of war familiar to the Tharks, including lessons in riding and guiding the great beasts which bore the warriors. These creatures, which are known as thorns, are as dangerous and vicious as their masters; but when once subdued are sufficiently tractable for the purposes of the green Martians.

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"Sarkoja is a liar of the first magnitude," I replied. "Notwithstanding the proud claim of the Tharks to absolute verity."

"I knew that even though you became a member of the community you would not cease to be my friend. A warrior may change his metal, but not his heart, as the saying is upon Barsoom."

"I think they have been trying to keep us apart," she continued, "for whenever you have been off duty one of the older women of Tars Tarkas's retinue has always arranged to trump up some excuse to get Sola and me out of sight."

"They have had me down in the pits below the buildings helping them mix their awful radium powder," and making their terrible projectiles. You know that these have to be manufactured by artificial light, an exposure to sunlight always results in an explosion. You have noticed that their bullets explode when they strike an object."

"Well, the opaque, outer coating is broken when the projectile is exposed to light, almost solid, in the forward end of which is a minute particle of radium powder. The moment the sunlight, even though diffused, strikes this powder, it explodes with a violence which nothing can withstand."

"If you ever witness a night battle, you will notice the absence of these explosions, though diffused, strikes this powder, it explodes with a violence which nothing can withstand."

"I have used the word radium in describing this powder because, in the light of recent discoveries on earth, I believe it to be a mixture of what radium is the base. In certain of the names used in the written language of Hellum, and is spelled in hieroglyphics which it would be difficult and useless to reproduce."

(CONTINUED TOMORROW.)

UNUSUAL ART EXHIBIT OPENED AT ACADEMY

Consists of Swedish Paintings, Prints and Sculptures Shown at San Francisco

Practically unheralded, one of the most important art exhibitions that has ever been shown in Philadelphia was opened to the public yesterday at the Academy of the Fine Arts. Most of it consists of the Swedish exhibit of painting, prints and sculpture shown at the Panama-Pacific exhibition which, through the efforts of 10 art museums and institutes throughout the United States, led by the Pennsylvania Academy and the Brooklyn Art Museum, will be exhibited in as many American cities.

The exhibition, which will continue for three weeks, comprises 156 paintings in oil and water colors, 61 prints and 24 sculptures. Most of the canvases are in fresh, strong, vigorous color, deliciously unacademic, and giving clearly a message of the joy that the artists experienced in painting them.

Particular attention may be called to the delightful series of canvases, 12 in number, painted by Anna Bogert. They show the true political quality in paint and inspiration the artist has placed upon her canvases, together with a fine, strong, fearless sense of color that will not be so apparent at first sight as after more than superficial examination. Three of Miss Bogert's pictures, "Fishing Fleet at Anchor," with its fine color and composition; "Fishes Cemetery," which a cove in a mountain forms a cross, protecting, as it were, the lowly home of the dead below, and "Arctic Night," a really marvelous harmony in blues, are pictures of the type one would like to live with, to greet in friendly fashion after a day's tussle with the world.

Princeton Puts Off Celebration

PRINCETON, N. J., April 17.—Princeton's tercentenary celebration in honor of Shakespeare, which was scheduled to be held today, has been indefinitely canceled because of the illness of Miss Edith Wynne Mathison, who was to address the Princeton authorities in doing honor to Shakespeare.

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Give us YOUR patronage. We will win YOUR confidence. Some of our specials for today, tomorrow and Wednesday:

LEAN PICNIC SHOULDERS 13c lb. The choicest lean, tender Picnic Shoulders, the kind that will cook up juicy and appetizing. Come and select yours.

TEA 60c GOLD SEAL, 45c lb. 1/2-lb. Pkg. 23c—3/4-lb. Pkg. 12c. Gold Seal is a blend of the highest grade Teas, rich, smooth and fragrant. Tea of Gold Seal quality in quality few stores as it is sold, would cost you 50c to \$1 the pound.

COFFEE 25c ROBFOORD BLEND, 20c lb. Robford Blend is a Coffee of excellent quality and flavor, remarkably good value at 25c the pound, and at 20c is the biggest Coffee value in Philadelphia.

20c Capital Blend, 17c lb. Our Capital Blend is a very good Coffee, and you will quickly realize that 17c the pound, 3c pounds for 50c, is a bargain price. Our Coffees Are Fresh Roasted

GOLD SEAL EGGS Carton 28c Gold Seal are the largest, freshest, meatiest and heaviest Eggs that money can buy or hens can lay.

FRESH EGGS, Dozen, 25c Eggs of excellent quality, and every one guaranteed fresh.

No-Waste Bacon, Pkg., 15c Tender Dried Beef, 8c 1/4 lb.

25c bot. Gold Seal Vanilla Extract 20c 25c bot. Gold Seal Lemon Extract 20c 10c bot. Robford Vanilla Extract 8c 10c bot. Robford Lemon Extract 8c 5c bot. Vanilla or Lemon Flavoring 4c Gold Seal Cider Vinegar, bot. 8c

Gold Seal Blue, bot. 4c Good Ammonia, bot. 4c Good Laundry Starch, lb. 3c LENOX SOAP, cake, 3c R. & C. Laundry Soap, cake 3c R. & C. Best Oleine Soap, cake 3c Gold Seal Borax Soap, cake 6c Fels Napha Soap, cake, 4c Ivory Soap, cake, 4c Snowboy Washing Powder, pkg. 4c

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CUPID IN SPRING DRIVE ON MARRIAGE BUREAU

Fifty Pairs of Easter Lovers in Mass Formation Descend on City Hall

The annual rush for Easter marriage licenses was indicated today when Clark Ferguson was deluged at the outset of the day's business with about 50 applications. Cupid, lethargic during the Lenten season, is stirred to renewed activity when the Easter bells begin to ring and additional clerks in the marriage license department are needed to meet the increased demands.

Licenses as follows were issued today: Edward Carter, 832 Ringgold street, and Rosa Shast, 224 Fairmount st.; Garabed Maroufian, 2251 Hazel ave., and Ehsis G. Hovanessian, 2019 Haverford ave.; Leslie Perry, Woodburn, Pa., and Carrie Garland, 285 Lex st.; Francis R. Russell, 246 W. Ontario st., and Edna Severus, 1912 E. Allen st.; Robert A. Boyd, 1253 N. Hancock st., and Anna V. Kelly, 814 E. Allen st.; Abraham Rosen, 425 Ritter st., and Clara Smiler, 530 Mountain st.; Frank E. Boppell, 1428 Dickinson st., and Mary E. Boppell, 1609 Hunting Park ave.; Thomas J. Bradley, Fernwood Pa., and Beate M. King, Wellington, Md.; Louis Hays, 326 Spruce st., and Julia Sopasse, Girardville, Pa.; Clarence E. Williams, 3646 N. 11th st., and Evelyn E. Hahn, 1014 Green st.; Grover H. Thomas, 2241 Atter st., and Maria Shast, 224 Fairmount st.; Emidio Rapier, 1738 S. Chadwick st., and John S. Trent, 2249 Ann st.; Clarence S. Beckman, 129 S. 58th st., and David L. Fortine, 215 N. 58th st.; Kelly, 2001 S. 8th st.; Mary E. Boppell, 1428 Dickinson st., and Mary E. Boppell, 1609 Hunting Park ave.; Sprague, Beach Haven, N. J.; Willy M. Haller, 722 Cheltenham st., and Cora E. Haller, 3173 E. 12th st.; Francis A. Morris, 2097 N. Jessup st., and John H. Duffy, 225 N. 58th st., and Lucy P. O'Connell, 1209 Ritten st.; One J. Outson, 3708 Sanson st., and Rose Ann, 636 Union st.; Margaret Stevenson, 4055 Belmont ave., and Robert Smiley, 2225 North st.; Elizabeth M. Bloomkamp, 2549 N. Fairhill st., and John S. Trent, 2249 Ann st.; Beatrice E. Robinson, 2010 Kipling st., and Beatrice Thomas D. C. Ballantine, 5102 Funtun ave., and M. A. Smith, 2249 Ann st.; James A. Stevenson, 1180 Tasker st., and Jean M. Stevenson, 1180 Tasker st.; Robert S. Newton, New York city, and Eunice Giuseppe Tamburly, 623 N. 53d st., and Connetta Seader, 911 Greenwell st.; Robert Smiley, 2225 North st., and Lettie S. Gibbons, 2830 N. 7th st.; Minnie G. Henderson, 3330 Chestnut st., and George W. Armstrong, 4215 Girard ave.; Sarah J. M. Pinkerton, 1734 N. 10th st.; Joseph Brown, 1344 Reese st., and Margaret Golden, 1344 Reese st.; Edmund L. Ellman, 2440 Fifth st., and Anna E. Ellman, 2440 Fifth st.; Ernest M. Leinke, Camden, N. J., and Marie E. Leinke, Camden, N. J.; Arthur Mira, 1429 S. Percy st., and Mary Walter Jordan, 1630 S. Percy st., and Mary Travis, 4212 Fairmount ave.; Henry Hensel, 3207 Hartville st., and Louis Henschel, 3208 Randolph st.; Henry W. Henschel, 3208 Randolph st., and Lillian Henschel, 2109 S. 65th st.; McAdams, 2806 N. Water st.; John J. Tompkins, 4218 Otter st., and Margaret W. Tompkins, 4218 Otter st.; Albert S. Overland, Camden, N. J., and Marie E. Overland, Camden, N. J.; Charles Kaiser, Leavenworth, Kan., and Sadie Joseph A. Gric, Leavenworth, Kan.; Joseph A. Gric, Leavenworth, Kan., and Fannie Leavenworth, 745 S. 16th st.; Harry R. Anderson, 224 M. Vernon st., and Rita D. J. O'Brien, 1818 Wood st.

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