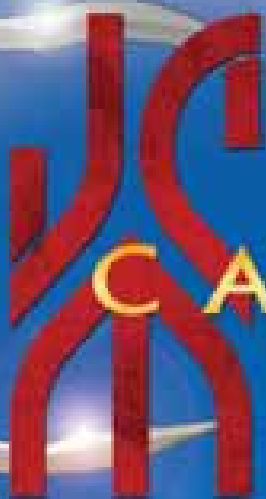


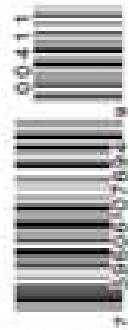
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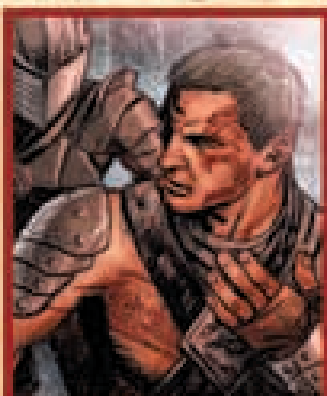
**WORLD OF MARS**

19

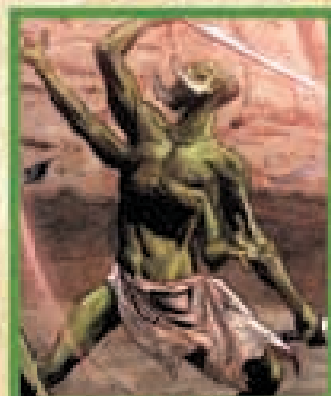
*John Carter was once a Captain in the United States military who has, through a series of unusual events, found himself on Mars. In his attempt to assimilate to the civilization of Mars—what natives call Barsoom—Carter recounts the stories of the planet, told to him by Dejah Thoris, Princess of Helium, and Tars Tarkas of the Tharks.*



Dejah Thoris  
Princess of Helium



Sab Than  
Prince of Zodanga



Tars Tarkas  
of the Tharks

## PREVIOUSLY...

On Mars there exists an unending war between Helium and its rival city, Zodanga. Believing Helium would be defeated if he were Jeddak (King), Sab Than, Prince of Zodanga, lashed out at his father, resulting in his forced exile. Undaunted he planned a rogue mission of his own, infiltrating Helium and kidnapping the Princess Dejah Thoris.

Though Dejah briefly escaped, she was captured by the deadly and monstrous Warhoon. In an odd twist, Sab Than rescued her from their clutches before she became dog—or calot—meat. Dejah's shock at Sab's kindness quickly vanished when she saw him mercilessly kill a female and unthreatening Warhoon.

Meanwhile in the hinterlands, Tal Hajus of the Tharks hatched a plan to become Jeddak of the Tharks—by slaying the great Warhoon Gothan with the help of Tars Tarkas and Loas, a female Thark. The plan was delayed when the travelers fell prey to an optical illusion that hid the Warhoons' Citadel from view. Once past the deception they scaled the Citadel wall and came face to face with Gothan himself...

# JOHN CARTER

## WORLD OF MARS

### PART FOUR OF FOUR

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS AND THE SCREENPLAY  
JOHN CARTER BY ANDREW STANTON & MARK ANDREWS AND MICHAEL CHABON

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AND RALPH MACCHIO

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DO YOU LIKE IT? I RENDERED IT MYSELF.

ALWAYS DID HAVE THE KNACK FOR PAINTING, ONLY RECENTLY THOUGH...THE LAST FEW HUNDRED YEARS...HAVE I HAD TIME TO INDULGE IT.

NO ENERGY... FOR MUCH MORE.



WHAT PERVERSE JOKE IS THIS? WHERE IS GOTHAN?

TAL HAJUS... I THINK THAT... THAT IS...

DON'T BE A FOOL, LOAS! THAT ISN'T--



BUT IT IS. NO ONE IS IMMUNE FROM THE PASSING OF YEARS, I'M AFRAID.

LET ME GUESS. YOU WISH A MIGHTY COMBAT TO PROVE YOURSELF, EH?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YES, WELL...



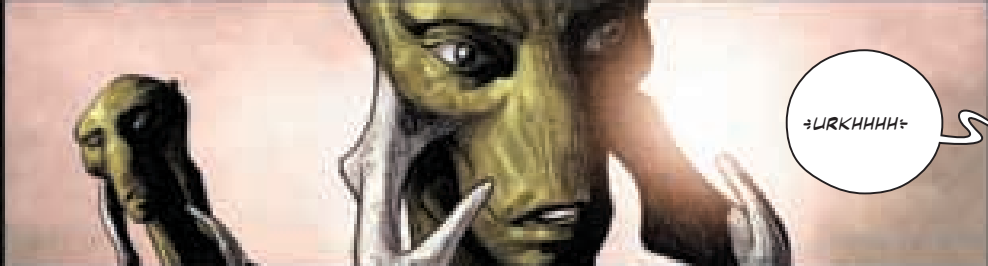
CENTURIES TOO LATE, I FEAR.

TOO WEAK EVEN TO TRAVEL TO THE RIVER ISS. SO I MUST WAIT FOR ISSUS TO COME TO ME.

THIS IS NONSENSE, TARS TARKAS. HE IS ANCIENT BEYOND IMAGINING.

THERE WOULD BE NO HONOR IN SLAYING ONE SUCH AS HE.

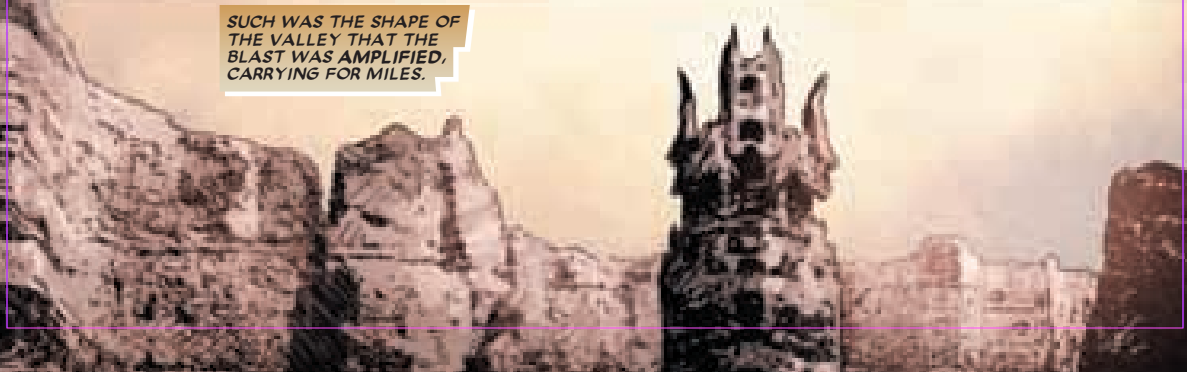
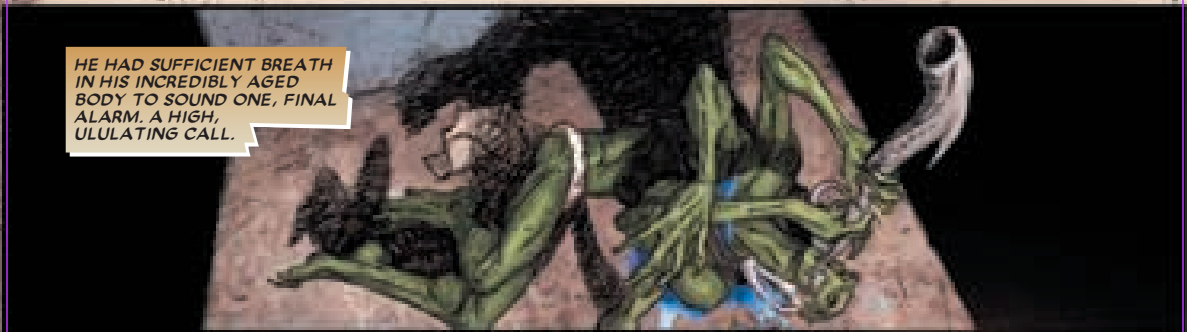
I AGREE, LOAS. IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE SIMPLY DEPARTED AND LEFT HIM TO--



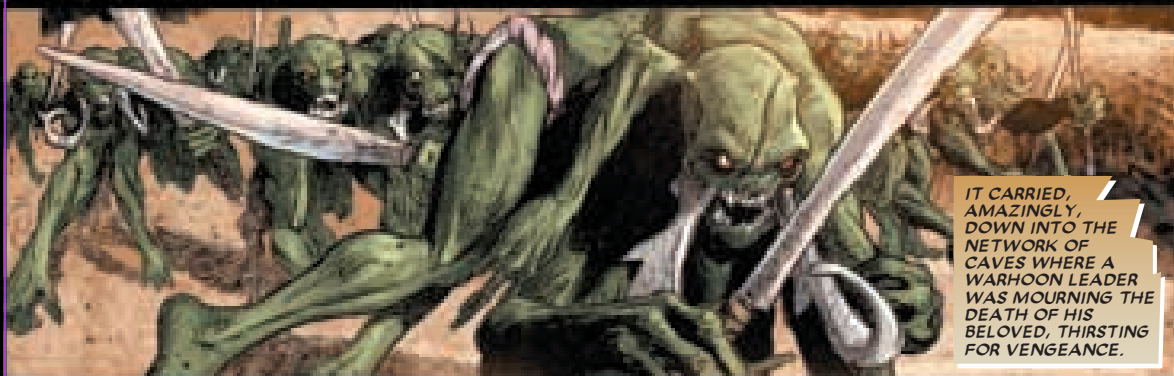
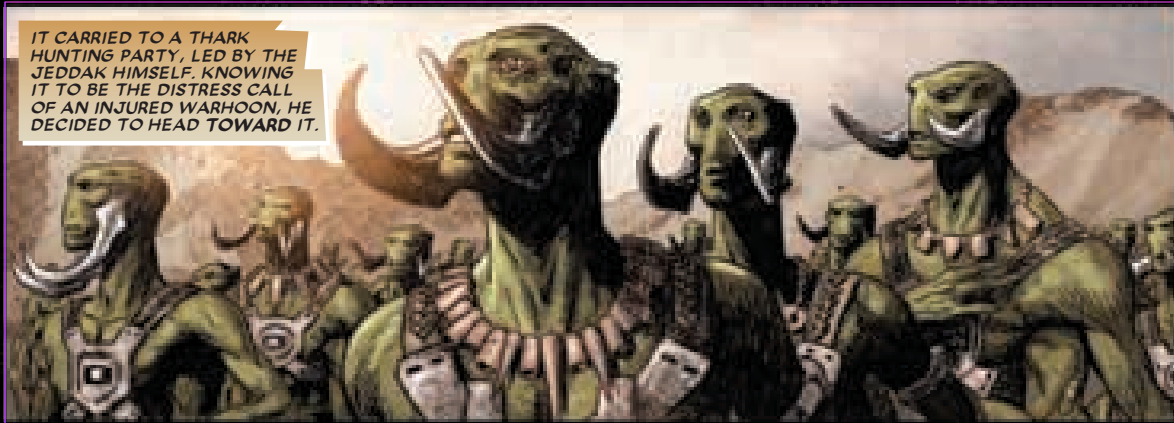
~LURKHHHH~



THE FEMALE IS MAKING YOU WEAK, TARS.  
FORTUNATELY ONE OF US HAS NOT LOST SIGHT OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT.



IT CARRIED TO A THARK HUNTING PARTY, LED BY THE JEDDAK HIMSELF. KNOWING IT TO BE THE DISTRESS CALL OF AN INJURED WARHOON, HE DECIDED TO HEAD TOWARD IT.



IT CARRIED, AMAZINGLY, DOWN INTO THE NETWORK OF CAVES WHERE A WARHOON LEADER WAS MOURNING THE DEATH OF HIS BELOVED, THIRSTING FOR VENGEANCE.

IT CARRIED TO THE MOUTH OF A CAVE THROUGH WHICH DEJAH THORIS AND SAB THAN HAD JUST EMERGED INTO DAYLIGHT, RELIEVED TO DISCOVER THAT THE SANDSTORM HAD ABATED.



THE GUARDS WHO HAD BEEN SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR DEJAH THORIS HEARD IT AND, ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW NOT WHAT IT WAS, DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE.

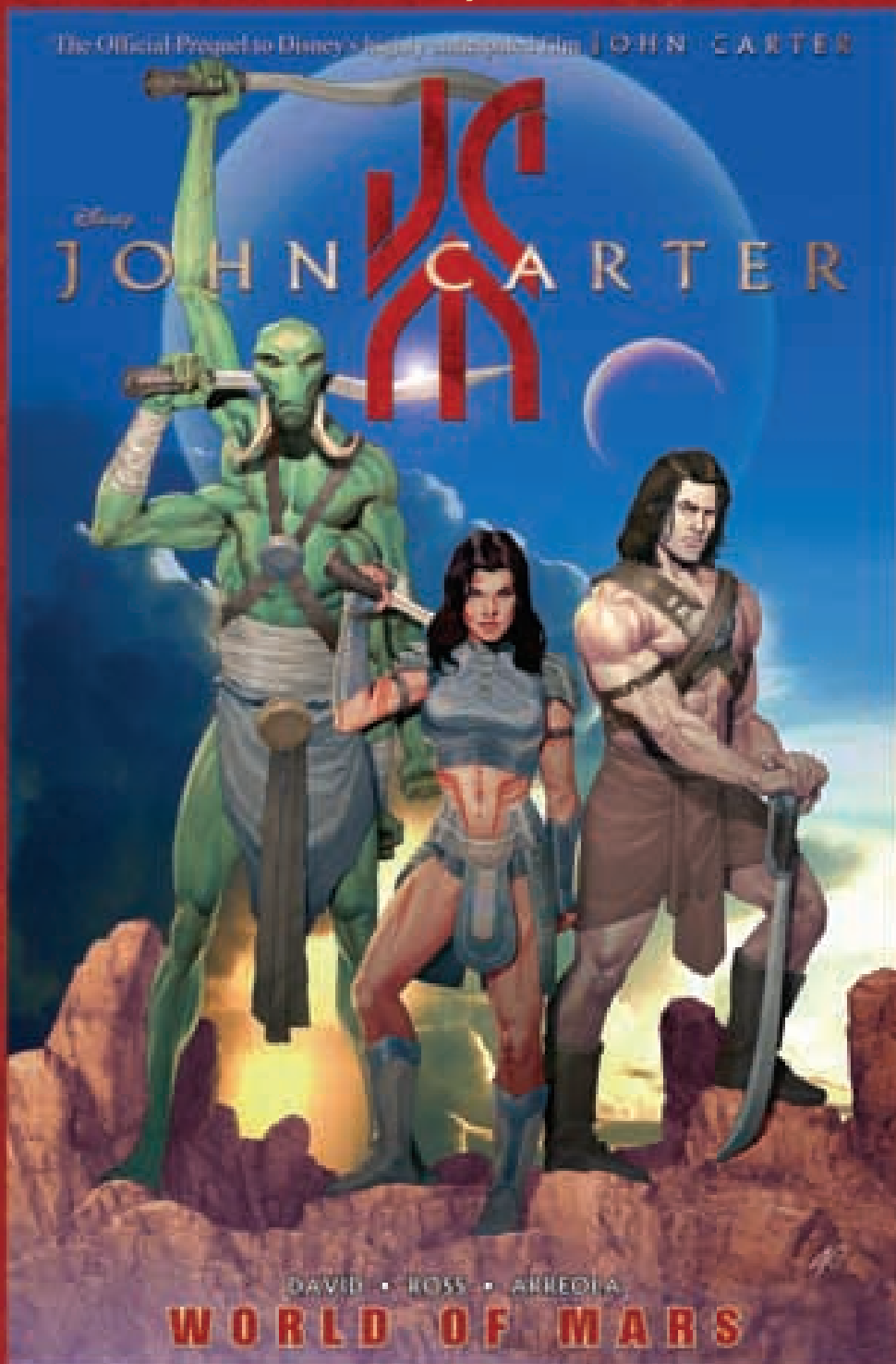
AND AS THE PERVERSE NATURE OF THE GODS OF MARS WOULD HAVE IT...



...SO TOO DID A FAR-FLUNG PATROL OF ZODANGAN WARRIORS.



Read the whole adventure! *John Carter*  
*World of Mars* collected edition in stores  
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