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March **25** 2012

Just a Thought -- John Carter of Mars

The current blockbuster action movie, *John Carter,* has a lot of people confused and a few more people worried. The movie, you see, is actually based on a series of science fiction novels written about one hundred years ago by Edgar Rice Burroughs?yes, *that* Edgar Rice Burroughs, more famous as the author of another series that has often been brought to the silver screen, *Tarzan*. The confusion about the current John Carter movie seems to lie with the producers? decision to remove ?of Mars? from the title. I have read that this was to distance the film from other recent flops containing the word Mars, such as *Mars Needs Moms*, but it also serves to confuse people who only know the name John Carter as Noah Wyle?s character on the TV show *E.R.*! Meanwhile, the original book series has a large and very passionate fanbase (among whose number I count myself!) who are concerned that the movie will do a disservice to their beloved characters. I have yet to see the movie myself, but I have been re-reading the books over the last year or so and getting as swept up in them now as I did when I was twelve. Despite having been written so long ago, they hold up very well and hold appeal for a wide age group. If you?re wondering what all the John Carter buzz is really about, take a look at the source!

- *A Princess of Mars*
- *The Gods of Mars*
- *The Warlord of Mars*

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