Chapter III - Thuvia - Maid of Mars

Chapter III deepens the suspense as political tension builds in Helium following Thuvia's mysterious disappearance. With Prince Carthoris’s honor questioned, John Carter acts swiftly, urging a diplomatic mission to avoid open war with Ptarth. Tardos Mors and other leaders agree Carthoris must deliver Helium’s apology and support directly to Thuvan Dihn. Though official channels are followed, personal motives mix in—the prince is determined not only to preserve Helium’s standing but to understand his feelings for Thuvia. That mixture of duty and emotion shapes every step of his journey. Even before takeoff, he’s weighed down by uncertainty, not realizing danger already lurks within his home. The tampering of his flier’s navigation, by a disguised guard, adds another layer to the unfolding plot. Once in the air, Carthoris remains unaware his destination has been altered. As Helium’s flier streaks across the skies, the true path leads not toward diplomacy but into a trap that will test the prince’s resolve and loyalty.

While the skies above Barsoom offer no warnings, Carthoris begins to reflect. His thoughts circle back to Thuvia—not only her safety but her affections, torn between him and Kulan Tith. These feelings are complicated by the weight of Martian customs and alliances. Though Thuvia is promised to another, Carthoris cannot silence his growing attachment. The young prince wrestles with this internal storm, unsure whether love or honor should guide his next words when he reaches Ptarth. Sleep overtakes him as the hum of the flier fills the cabin, offering temporary escape from emotional unrest. Meanwhile, the damage inflicted by the saboteur continues its course. The compass, now misaligned, carries Carthoris further from Ptarth and closer to unforeseen danger. By the time dawn approaches, his mission has already been derailed, though the skies outside remain deceptively peaceful.

Waking to the sight of unfamiliar terrain, Carthoris is quick to act. The city rising below is not Ptarth—it is older, abandoned, and shrouded in the legends of Martian history. As he inspects the controls, the realization of sabotage dawns too late. A scene near the city's edge pulls his attention. A red woman, unmistakably Barsoomian, is being dragged by a green warrior, a sight that reignites his protective instincts. Without hesitation, he veers the flier downward. Whether or not it’s Thuvia, someone is in danger, and he won’t allow harm if he can help it. His response is immediate, courageous, and driven by the values Helium holds dear—defense of the innocent, regardless of political alignment or personal cost.



The abandoned city looms like a relic of the past, its ruined spires hiding both danger and mystery. These places are feared across Barsoom, known for strange disappearances and myths of creatures who dwell in forgotten shadows. But Carthoris doesn't hesitate. His descent is swift, precise, fueled not only by a hero’s instinct but a man’s hope to make a difference. In this moment, diplomacy fades, replaced by direct action. His decision places him at the heart of a new conflict, one shaped not by political councils but raw survival. The woman below, though still unidentified, represents a chance to protect, to redeem, and to understand the deeper schemes pulling the strings behind the scenes.

Unknown to him, the fate of Barsoom’s fragile alliances now hinges not just on what Carthoris says in Ptarth, but on what he does here—in a forgotten place marked by deception, bravery, and the collision of personal devotion with ancient threats. This detour, though unintended, is no accident. It marks the beginning of a larger journey where love, honor, and fate collide in the dust of a war-scarred world. Through Carthoris’s determination and the choices he will make from here, the true strength of Helium—and his own heart—will be tested in ways neither council nor prophecy could predict.