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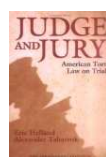


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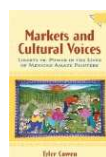
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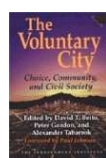
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My favorite things Mars

This was a reader request, so here goes:

- Song about:** *Venus and Mars*, by Paul McCartney and Wings. The melody is nice, the synthesizer is used well, and the song doesn't wear out its welcome.
- Album about:** David Bowie's [Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars](#) 🎵. *Venus and Mars* is not overall a good album; it is mostly dull and overproduced. So Bowie is a clear winner here.
- Novel about:** *The Martian Chronicles*, by Ray Bradbury. Worth a reread, especially if you first encountered it when young. *Red Mars* by Kim Robinson is a runner-up. What else am I missing?
- Film about:** [Mission to Mars](#) 📺. Underrated de Palma, much better on a big screen, where it has a nice poetry of motion. I [already know](#) that some of you hate this movie, so there is no need to pillory me again on this count. I have never seen [The Eyes of Laura Mars](#) 📺. What's that old science fiction movie modeled after *The Tempest*?
- TV show about:** *Veronica Mars*, especially [season one](#) 📺. Excellent dialogue, and it asks what family really consists of. One of my favorite years of any TV show. Is the British show [Life on Mars](#) 📺 good? I vaguely recall [My Favorite Martian](#) from when I was a kid. Was it actually about being gay?
- Musician:** Sun Ra.
- Mars, painting of:** Jacques Louis David

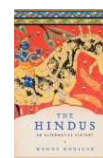
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The Hindus



The Confessions of Noa Weber



Wars, Guns, and Votes

[probably wins this one.](#) [This image](#) is from Pompeii.

8. Best Cato Institute essay about Martian economics: [By Ed Hudgin.](#)

The bottom line: It's not just a culture, they've got a whole planet to work with.

Posted by Tyler Cowen on July 25, 2009 at 06:10 AM in [The Arts](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments

sounds great -- i'd love to go. what's the exchange rate?

Posted by: [babar](#) at Jul 25, 2009 8:15:41 AM

I've heard tell that it is where men come from...is this true? I don't want to vacation to a sausagefest.

Posted by: [T. Simenon](#) at Jul 25, 2009 8:29:49 AM

I loved Edgar Rice Burroughs's Mars series, but then again I was 8 when I started reading it.

Posted by: [bil. A.](#) at Jul 25, 2009 8:31:31 AM

Thanks!!

Posted by: [yc](#) at Jul 25, 2009 8:36:25 AM

The sci-fi movie patterned after The Tempest was Forbidden Planet.

Posted by: [cdj](#) at Jul 25, 2009 8:55:13 AM

Martian Chronicles make me gag everytime, especially the one about the fully-automatic house — so sick. 451°F is excellent, though.

Posted by: [Grammar nazi](#) at Jul 25, 2009 9:03:16 AM

No favourite restaurant??

Life on Mars is pretty good, one of the better regarded British series of the last few years. And unusually for a drama, its main secondary character Gene Hunt got his own spinoff series, *Ashes to Ashes*, last year. How is the US version?

As for novels, **Stranger in a Strange Land** was one of my favourites when I first read it, though that may be influenced by the fact that it was one of the very first science fiction novels I encountered.

Posted by: [Leigh Caldwell](#) at Jul 25, 2009 9:34:17 AM

How about best candy? M&M's from Mars Inc.

Posted by: [Meds](#) at Jul 25, 2009 9:45:16 AM

Technically, *The Martian Chronicles* isn't a novel, it's a collection of short stories.

I recommend Heinlein's *Red Planet*. It's not as ambitious as *Stranger in a Strange Land*, but it's actually set on Mars, and has plenty of good stuff in it.

Posted by: [Nancy Lebovitz](#) at Jul 25, 2009 10:13:00 AM

The Japanese anime series Cowboy Bebop is set on Mars, not that you'd notice for most of it. There's a movie and a bunch of TV episodes. Fun!

Posted by: [MichaelG](#) at Jul 25, 2009 11:50:35 AM

Usually the Red Mars/Green Mars/Blue Mars series is considered the best Mars fiction, although I didn't enjoy it all that much. I think the *Martian Chronicles* is not particularly good sci-fi. Here are some other candidates:

The Sands of Mars by Arthur C. Clarke
Man Plus by Frederik Pohl
Moving Mars by Greg Bear
Martian Time-Slip by Philip K. Dick

Posted by: [Andy](#) at Jul 25, 2009 12:06:00 PM

Seu Jorge: Life on Mars (David Bowie cover)

Posted by: [john doe #2](#) at Jul 25, 2009 12:18:12 PM

Its not a song but [Mars, Bringer of War](#) by Holst is pretty good.

Silliest movie about [Mars Attacks](#).

Posted by: [AlanW](#) at Jul 25, 2009 12:18:12 PM

Ok, when I read "painting" I immediately thought "of mars," not "of Mars"... and my vote would go to Chesley Bonestell, who did the paintings for the movie Red Planet based on the book by Heinlein, inspired by Percival Lowell's canal drawings. And I second the Edgar Rice Burroughs stories - overwrought, yes, and they feel very silly after a lifetime of reading contemporary sci fi... but they inspired an entire generation of writers.

I am so sad about Veronica Mars - I never finished watching Season 3 even though I hear it got better near the end. Sigh.

Posted by: [Renee](#) at Jul 25, 2009 12:21:17 PM

Don't knock S2 of VM either.

Posted by: [AJ](#) at Jul 25, 2009 12:27:52 PM

Best film about Mars: "Total Recall" hands down

Posted by: [Alex Segura](#) at Jul 25, 2009 12:57:23 PM

I expected to see "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus?" here.

I thought it was a pretty accurate description of the differences between the sexes, especially for its time. Now, every blogger and his brother has an opinion on intrinsic (evolutionary) psychological differences between men and women, but, at the time, there was nothing I'd seen before, and for me it seemed like a breakthrough.

Posted by: [Phil](#) at Jul 25, 2009 1:06:46 PM

The British "Life on Mars" is excellent, though it helps if you vaguely remember England in the 70s...

Posted by: [Kevin Marks](#) at Jul 25, 2009 1:19:05 PM

I like Sun Ra a lot and I'm glad that you do as well (I'm happy to see someone outside of the business advocating for non-pop music). But Tyler, you've got to stop using him as a default best musician.

Sun Ra was from Saturn, not Mars. & not Birmingham, Alabama either. I'm not denying that Herman Blount wasn't born in Birmingham, but Sun Ra was from Saturn. Period.

Posted by: [Herb Levy](#) at Jul 25, 2009 2:43:36 PM

Heinlein's Double Star is a better novel than Red Planet.

Posted by: [Will McLean](#) at Jul 25, 2009 3:52:56 PM

Venus and Mars by Botticelli. David's doesn't come close.

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/sandro-botticelli-venus-and-mars>

Posted by: [Will McLean](#) at Jul 25, 2009 4:02:35 PM

Life on mars is about a travel in time to the 70s. Thats why it is like UK in the 70s. Or USA in the 70s in the american remake. Best Mars images the full color images of Mars by the Vikings

Posted by: [k](#) at Jul 25, 2009 4:37:14 PM

Good call by Will on Botticelli, thanks!
Total Recall also wins in its category.

Posted by: [Tyler Cowen](#) at Jul 25, 2009 4:59:46 PM

"Life on Mars is pretty good, one of the better regarded British series of the last few years. And unusually for a drama, its main secondary character Gene Hunt got his own spinoff series, Ashes to Ashes, last year. How is the US version?"

never saw it, but first season cancellation.

Posted by: [Careless](#) at Jul 25, 2009 5:17:01 PM

Best movie title: "Mars Needs Women."
(1967)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060672/>

Posted by: [rb.sr](#) at Jul 25, 2009 6:32:19 PM

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