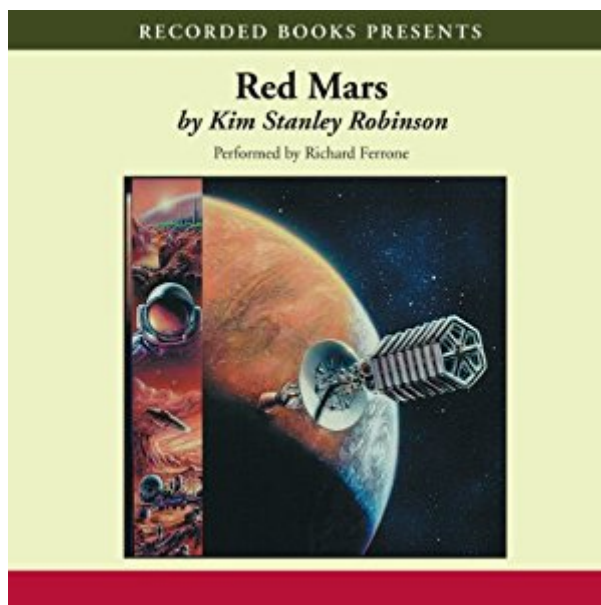


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# Red Mars



## Synopsis

John Boone, Maya Toitovna, Frank Chalmers, and Arkady Bogdanov lead a mission whose ultimate goal is the terraforming of Mars in order to release moisture onto their desolate landscape. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 23 hours and 52 minutes

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## Customer Reviews

You don't leave all your ideas behind. People from different cultures went to Mars. They thought differently about how it should be on Mars. There were people who did not want any change and there were people who very much wanted to change it. Then there is the influence of Mars which would make cultures quite different from Earth. Earth is struggling. The wealthy are getting what they want, but the poor don't. They even found a way to extend life, but this is not offered to poor people. The first 100 people who went to Mars had science backgrounds. Earth had ideas of what they wanted these people to do. Not all agreed with that which lead to violence. And there were companies on Earth who were later paying people to go and bring back minerals. Initially, the first people are not paid. It is like a commune in that everyone must work together to make it work. I will read the next two books. I need to know what happens. I think if you knew science more and more specifically about Mars and space, it would be even a better book. Though I'm glad my friend Mary turned me on to this.

The book caught and held my attention. I know just enough science to be able to appreciate how

carefully the story is based on science, yet is not made prosaic or too explanatory by that scientific basis. The book focuses on a group of 100 scientists who are very human. They do not all respond truthfully to the questions selecting them for the trip, for instance. They have egos, and they want to be on Mars, often for conflicting reasons. This is a story of politics, personal love and hate, and ecology. The science is astounding, but the dramatic and mythic elements carry the story, and, indeed, the whole trilogy. (I am beginning Blue Mars now.)

I'm finished! I'm finished! I never, ever have to read about these (almost without exception) awful, selfish, cruel, stupid, vicious, ignorant people! Oh god, the last bit of this book. Imagine all the camping bits in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Then subtract the likable, easy-to-root-for characters, and the clear goal. That gives you an idea about the last section of this book. But this isn't to say that the rest of the book wasn't also interminable. Oh no! It too was a seemingly endless slog of useless description, boring exposition, and infantile use of big words for no clear purpose other than to show off the author's vocabulary. I don't think I've ever met a more unpleasant group of characters dropped into a more boring story ever. I only finished this book because, by the time I had realized that it was never going to improve, I had already sacrificed too much time just to have it be wasted. This is one of the worse books I have ever read. I don't know how I can be in such complete disagreement with so many other readers. I can understand how my opinion of Eco's "Foucault's Pendulum" can be so different. I think many people gave good reviews to that novel because they wanted to appear erudite, and liking Eco is seen as a way to do that. But I don't think that KSM held any particularly great cachet prior to "Red Mars." So I guess I just don't see what so many others do in the novel.

Of the "Mars Trilogy" this by far the best. The characterizations & hard science makes this stand out. I don't know how well the author planned the sequels. The sequel science was ok but of course became more & more speculative. He then used one plot device that ruined the rest of the series. Out of nowhere we suddenly had near immortal life spans. This allowed the same characters to live through the terraforming changes. Lazy writing. I still highly recommend this book. I read the sequels but don't recommend them.

This was a hard slog for someone like me unaccustomed to reading science fiction. The very good news is Robinson's analysis of the world we live in in the guise of planet mars. Same old, same old! Capitalism, corporatism, nationalism on a new stage. Other good news is What I take to be a tour of

the planet in all it's complexity, potential, and wonder. Less satisfying are the human players, none of whom seem to be the least bit real.

Although I liked the concept and the story, I got bogged down by the vernacular. I felt that it was necessary to learn a whole new vocabulary in order to visualize the terrain and the action. I am used to reading massive volumes, many of them historical, and many of them sci-fi, but this one is not one I will continue with in volumes 2 and 3.

I kept being hopeful that this book was going somewhere. I can't figure out why people think it was so great. It had so many great possibilities but the story organization made no sense, and why did war happen? How is it 30 years later? I kept thinking I missed a chapter. Also, the characters had no depth. There was no relationship development so you just don't care. I did love the realistic nature of the Mars descriptions. I stopped reading with 5% left. I just couldn't be curious about the ending.

A classic of science fiction literature. We listened to the 29 hour audio version over the course of a few roadtrips. The story moves along well, and the character exposition is a highlight. It's not strictly hard-core sci-fi, and you have to give the author license for a bit of the near-future tech used in the story to move the plot along. An engaging tale, well worth your time. We'll be listening to the sequel novels next.

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