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Artist: 400 Lonely Things
Album: A Barsoomian Lullaby Volume One | A Snow White Egg

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A Barsoomian Lullaby Volume One | A Snow White Egg

Volume One in a multi-part series, "A Barsoomian Lullaby" is intended as an unofficial audio companion to the fantastic world of Barsoom created by author Edgar Rice Burroughs in the early 1900's. This album is a solo endeavor by Craig, recorded one song a week, for five weeks in a row in the Summer of 2007.

"A Barsoomian Lullaby" is conceived as an auditory portrait of this equally bizarre and beautiful imaginary Martian landscape Burroughs depicts "of indescribable loveliness, tinged with the weirdness of strange enchantment". The recordings are perhaps best-suited to low-volume, indirect listening - ideally while falling asleep reading one of the eleven "Martian" novels; A Barsoomian Lullaby to invoke the dreamless sleep of Mars.

A note from Craig on this series: The books and illustrations and paintings of Barsoom (treatments of which comprise the packaging) have been with me since childhood. This series of recordings came about to enhance one of my frequent re-readings of the entire set of eleven novels as well as give a shape to the comforting nostalgia I associate with them.

First exposure to these books was a bit of a life-preserver for me at a difficult age; a time in which - as a child becoming a teen - I desperately needed the world of Barsoom to be real as I felt my home had to be somewhere other than earth. I can remember lying in bed at night in Mississippi summers, a lonely kid in a lonely place, and seeing Mars outside of my

window, a red dot among the other stars. I can remember wondering if tonight would be the night that I went to sleep and finally awoke to find myself transported to the moss-covered surface of Barsoom as the character of John Carter found himself magically transported there in the first novel. Mars called to him from the night sky, and he stepped out of his body and stretched out his arms and was taken there by his own desire. Now nearly thirty years have passed since I first read those novels and I look more to Barsoom as being my personal idea of Heaven. Perhaps after I die, I will find I have a thousand years awaiting me there. Or perhaps not. Oh well, there's always Pellucidar... and Amtor... and Caprona... and Va-nah...

Emotional and nostalgic reasons aside, the Barsoomian Lullaby series is a favorite of mine as I am in love with this type of dreamy, strangely peaceful and mildly rhythmic ambience. Its lack of momentum and its stillness are qualities I enjoy for its ability to take a moment and gently hold it. It's a pleasure for me to make and for me to listen to; I find that I relax as it unfolds, and am taken almost immediately to the fringe of sleep.



Track listing:

- 1 Princess of Helium
- 2 The 9th Ray
- 3 Adrift Over Strange Regions
- 4 Cluros and Thuria
- 5 Pimalia

I hope that anyone who listens to any of the albums in this series and hasn't yet been exposed to these incredible books in all their corny, swashbuckling, politically incorrect glory gives them a chance. I recently finished recording and packaging Volume Two and will be issuing it later this Summer, with another Volume to appear every Summer thereafter.

The "Barsoomian Lullaby" series is much indebted to Edgar Rice Burroughs and the many artists who've illustrated his texts, especially Frank Frazetta, Roy Krenkel Jr, Michael Whelan and J. Allen St. John. This series is dedicated to my father for introducing me to the writings of Edgar Rice Burroughs and the world of fantasy, science fiction, adventure and horror in art, film, books and music.

I would also like to extend best wishes to those artists at Pixar, who are rumored to be working on the Barsoomian movie, nearly 100 years after its initial publication. Kaor!

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pimalia.net