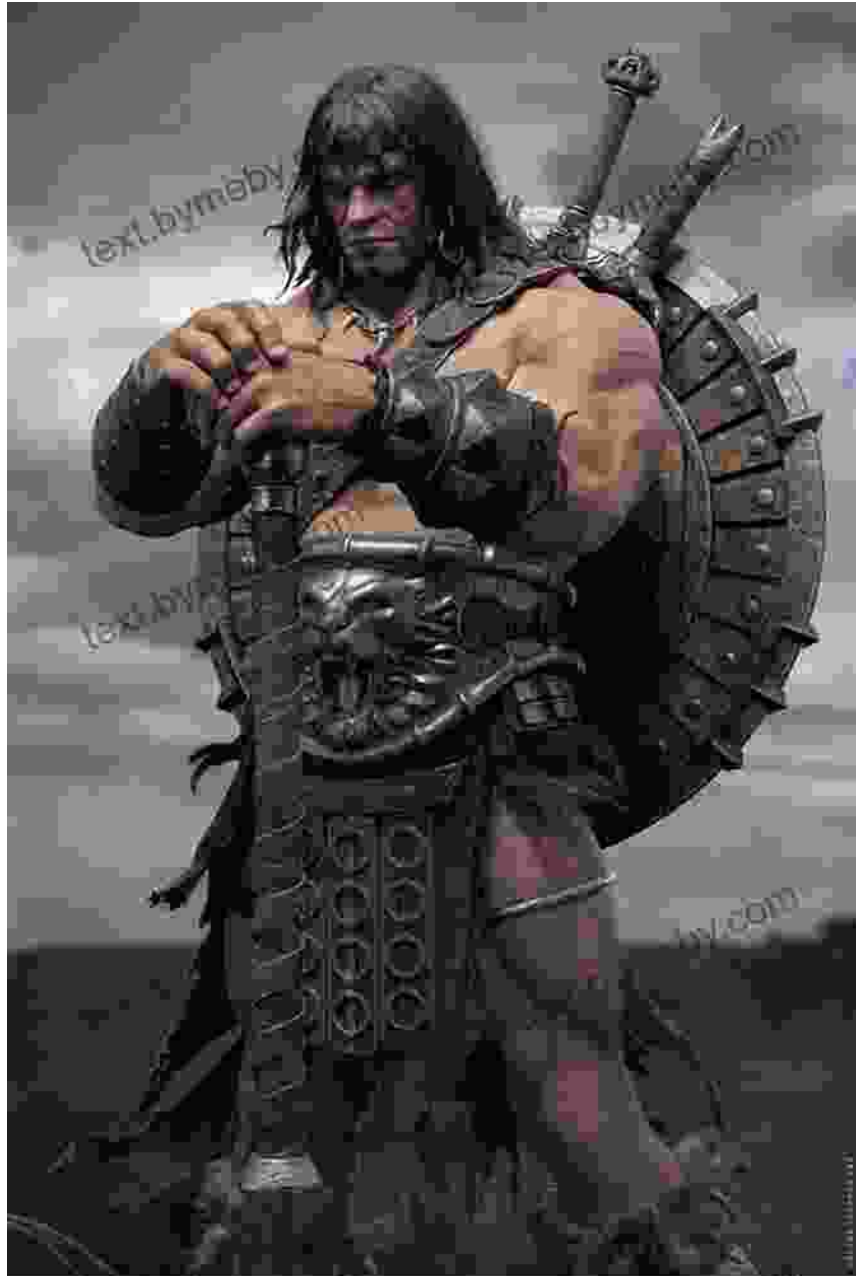


# Conan the Barbarian: An Epic Journey Through Sword and Sorcery Tales



In the realm of sword and sorcery, there exists a legend that has captured the imaginations of readers and moviegoers alike: Conan the Barbarian. Born from the pages of Robert E. Howard's pulp stories in the 1930s,

Conan has become an enduring icon, embodying the raw power and indomitable spirit of a warrior living in a brutal and unforgiving world.



## Conan The Barbarian (1970-1993) #114 by Roy Thomas

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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This article delves into the captivating world of Conan the Barbarian, exploring its origins, key characters, and the epic tales that have cemented its place in popular culture. So strap yourself in, dear reader, and prepare for an unforgettable journey into the Hyborian Age, where the clash of steel and the fury of battle await.

### The Birth of a Barbarian

The character of Conan was first introduced in Robert E. Howard's short story "The Phoenix on the Sword," published in the December 1932 issue of *Weird Tales* magazine. Howard's creation was a product of his lifelong fascination with history, particularly the Celtic and Viking cultures. In Conan, he envisioned a warrior who embodied the primal instincts and raw physical power of these ancient peoples.

Orphaned at a young age, Conan grew up amidst the harsh realities of the Cimmerian wilderness, honing his skills as a fierce and relentless fighter. Driven by an insatiable thirst for adventure and a yearning for the glory of

battle, he embarked on a perilous journey that would lead him across the Hyborian Age, an era of upheaval and conflict that spanned thousands of years.

## **Roy Thomas: The Master of Conan**

While Robert E. Howard established the foundation of the Conan mythos, it was the writer Roy Thomas who truly brought the character to life in the world of comic books. Starting in 1970, Thomas took over the reins of the *Conan the Barbarian* series published by Marvel Comics. Under his guidance, Conan's adventures soared to new heights, captivating readers with their thrilling storylines, stunning artwork, and unforgettable characters.

Thomas delved deeply into the lore and history of Conan, expanding upon the world created by Howard and introducing new elements that enriched the narrative. He also developed a cast of supporting characters who would become integral to the Conan saga, including the enigmatic Red Sonja, the resourceful thief Belit, and the cunning wizard Thoth-Amon.

## **Epic Tales of Sword and Sorcery**

Over the course of his comic book adventures, Conan faced a myriad of challenges and foes, from savage beasts to ancient sorcerers and tyrannical warlords. Each tale showcased his unwavering courage, indomitable spirit, and the brutal efficiency of his sword.

In "The Tower of the Elephant," Conan infiltrates a towering fortress to rescue a kidnapped princess. In "The Song of Bêlit," he sails the high seas as a pirate captain, encountering dangerous creatures and treacherous storms. And in "The Hour of the Dragon," he confronts the wizard Thoth-Amon in a battle that will determine the fate of the Hyborian Age.

Through these epic tales, Roy Thomas captured the essence of Conan's character and the timeless appeal of the sword and sorcery genre. He crafted stories that were both thrilling and thought-provoking, exploring themes of heroism, loyalty, and the human condition.

## **114 Unforgettable Issues**

The original run of *Conan the Barbarian* comics under Roy Thomas spanned an impressive 114 issues, published from 1970 to 1993. Each issue featured stunning artwork from a rotating roster of talented artists, including Barry Windsor-Smith, John Buscema, and Gil Kane.

The series was a critical and commercial success, solidifying Conan's status as one of the most popular and enduring characters in the history of comics. It also influenced countless other works of sword and sorcery, both in print and on screen.

## **Conan's Legacy: Beyond the Comics**

The impact of Conan the Barbarian extended far beyond the pages of Marvel Comics. The character has been adapted into numerous films, television series, video games, and novels. Each new interpretation has brought its own unique take on the Cimmerian warrior, but they all share a common thread: the enduring appeal of his indomitable spirit and his timeless adventures in the Hyborian Age.

Conan's legacy is one of strength, courage, and adventure. He represents the unyielding spirit that resides within us all, the desire to conquer challenges and embrace the unknown. As long as there are tales to be told and swords to be wielded, Conan the Barbarian will continue to inspire and entertain generations to come.

Conan the Barbarian is more than just a fictional character; he is an embodiment of the human spirit and the enduring power of imagination. Through his epic tales of sword and sorcery, Conan has captivated readers and viewers for decades, inspiring countless works of art and entertainment.

Whether you encounter him in the pages of a comic book, on the silver screen, or in the realm of your own imagination, Conan the Barbarian remains an unforgettable icon whose adventures will forever ignite the fires of our imagination.



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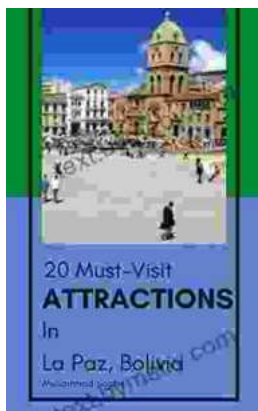
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