



Beyond the Pool of Stars

Howard Andrew Jones

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Mirian Raas comes from a long line of salvagers, adventurers who use magic to dive for sunken ships off the coast of tropical Sargava. When her father dies, Mirian has to take over his last job: a dangerous expedition into deep jungle pools, helping a tribe of lizardfolk reclaim the lost treasures of their people. Yet this isn't any ordinary job, as the same colonial government that looks down on Mirian for her half-native heritage has an interest in the treasure, and the survival of the entire nation may depend on the outcome...

From critically acclaimed author Howard Andrew Jones comes a fantastical adventure of deep-water danger and unlikely alliances in *Pathfinder Tales: Beyond the Pool of Stars*, set in the award-winning world of the Pathfinder Role playing Game.

Beyond the Pool of Stars Details

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Author : Howard Andrew Jones

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From Reader Review Beyond the Pool of Stars for online ebook

Alfeesya Azli says

4.5/5 ??! What can I say?! This book is really good and mind blowing! I never thought I would enjoy this book but I did! I love the fantasy, the magic that puts together in it, and Mirian's character is unbelievable! The writing style is unique and the imagination is extraordinary!

Frank says

This was a fun adventure story set in an indiana jones fantasy setting.

I really enjoyed it!

Brannigan says

Previously published at TheQwillery.com

Howard Andrew Jones is an inventive and talented author that has created sea and land-based fantasy adventures. Beyond the Pool of Stars and Through the Gate in the Sea are two stand-alone novels that share the same cast of characters. If you'd like to read them in order start with the Beyond the Pool of Stars, but truly you can read either book in any order.

Mirian Raas is the protagonist for both books. Mirian grew up in a family of underwater ship scavengers. With her inherited magical items that give her some awesome powers, she leads a life of adventure fighting off pirates and monsters with her crew on the ship Daughter of the Mist.

In Beyond the Pool of Stars, Mirian's father dies, leaving her to finish his last job reclaiming a treasure that has the potential to leave two group of civilizations at war. This one kept me on my toes through the entire read. It's full of adventure and exotic locations. I have to say that I've never read a book with underwater treasure hunting before and I really enjoyed experiencing something new. It's rare these day to be surprised by stories.

Jones continues to expand on the adventures stories in Through the Gate in the Sea. This time, Mirian Raas picks up a new Lizardfolk crew member and helps him seek out the long lost homeland that has captured the attention of an undead ruler.

The best thing about Jones's style is that it reminds me of a modern-day pulp writer, which for me is the highest of compliments. I love the quick pace of the story, the nonstop action, and imaginative cast of characters and storyline. I never got bored and I was left wanting just a few more chapters. I'd recommend either book to any fantasy reader. There is nothing in the content of either story that would keep me from recommending it to Teens to Adults.

Brittany Neeley says

I absolutely loved every minute of this read. Each character had their own story and struggle to deal with. I'm all about some strong females and this book is full of them. Mirian is headstrong, caring, stubborn, loyal, and loveable all at once. Alderra is bossy and strong willed. Kalina is kind and accepting even of those that fail to accept her. I also adored sweet Ivrian and loyal Jekka. Their journey to help their family and their government is worth every minute spent reading it. Learning about the lizard folk culture was a wonderful aspect of the story too. I can't say enough good things about the story! I sure hope to see more of this wonderful group of characters.

John Wheelles says

An easy, entertaining read with lots of adventure. Being based on the Pathfinder Roleplaying game, this book was a bit of a stretch in regards to my normal proclivities. The description was interesting enough to make me overlook the game ties and give it a shot, I'm glad I did. The characters are engaging, the settings unique, the creatures fantastical, the spells magical, and the story line easily draws you in. Pick up a copy and step into a world of magic, pirates, treachery and adventure!

Peter says

A nice story set in Sagrava so it has some themes of racism and colonial treatment mixed with the treasure hunt that was promised by the blurb. The story, tone and execution made this feel like a well executed RPG campaign. I really liked this. And I am looking forward to read about these characters again.

Brandon says

Another decent Pathfinder story

Joel Flank says

A solid pulpy fantasy adventure, set in the Pathfinder world of Golarion. Beyond the pool of stars focuses on the now independent colony of Sargava, caught between their former mother country of Chelax, which would like nothing more than to return the rebel colony to its empire, and dangerous jungles and pirate lords. Into this delicate balancing act, Mirian Raas returns home upon news her father has passed. Before even setting foot on shore, she's dragged into underwater adventure rescuing a ship from pirates. After showing her prowess under and above the waves, using her inherited magic items from her family of salvagers, she discovers that she's rescued her family's own ship, and gotten involved in a desperate attempt of the former colony to raise funds to pay the annual tribute to pirates to keep their naval borders safe.

She insists that she's not in the salvaging business anymore, but between seeing her family's financial peril, loyalty to her mother and brother, and a sense of exploration and adventure she has nurtured in the Pathfinder

Society, she winds up accepting just one more job. This is a trickier job than merely diving to a sunken ship for its lost treasures, she needs to follow up on a job her father was arranging before he died. Things get complicated when she needs to recruit lizardfolk guides, who don't trust humans and are treated in kind, a Chellish spy, and the dangers of a lost jungle city (flooded of course, where her skill and experience with underwater slaving come into play.)

And that's just the dangers she faces getting to the treasure. Getting home with it alive push her skills to their limits, and the cost is more than the value of a kingdom's ransom.

Another fun romp of an adventure from Howard Andrew Jones, which adds a bit of variety to the setting and challenges of the Pathfinder Tales book line.

Peter says

Back in 2015 I read Jones' Arabian sword & sorcery The Desert of Souls, which I loved. On eBay I encountered this book, and although I don't usually read much tie in novels, I decided to buy it. (The Warhammer 40K Gaunt's Ghosts books already proved to me that even tie ins to settings I don't know much about can be great fun). Well, no regrets here!

This is great pulpy goodness: tracking through jungles looking for treasures in lost cities, adding some nice character and group building. It's less serious than Jones' creator-owned stuff, but it is action packed, while still having a not completely predictable plot.

There are some nitpicks: If you wouldn't know that this is a Roleplaying Game setting tie in, you could still guess that pretty quickly. It's obvious which classes characters have, and D&D staples like healing potions and magic wands figure heavily in the story. You could even read the story as a RPG party origin story. This made the story a bit more high fantasy than I usually like my sword & sorcery, but the action filled plot and characters make up for that in a big way.

After finishing this book, I immediately ordered some more of Jones' books. Great stuff.

Jennifer Taylor says

This is quite possibly my favorite of all the Pathfinder Tales I've read this far. It reminded me a bit in places of some of my favorite of the Forgotten Realms novels. The character development was strong and the interactions between the characters was memorable. I had to go pick up the next book by this author to continue the story already.

Matthew says

I adored this book. The plot is sufficiently convoluted (hmm that word sounds bad... what's the good version of it?) to be very interesting, the characters have interesting struggles and flaws, the ups and downs were fun to read and in no way paint-by-numbers or telegraphed 100 pages in advance. It truly felt like there were six or so main characters, all fully flushed out and well crafted to stand on their own. I pray there's a sequel!

Best of all, my goodness do you get won over by the lizardman culture. it is so alien to our own, but it comes to life, in a consistent and highly believable fashion. I dont know if Mr Jones patterned it after Mayan or who knows what on earth, but it is so believable and yet clearly alien to "human" culture that it is worth the read just by itself. Its internal logic is clear and, as you learn about them, all of their actions make perfect sense under their foreign set of values of what is important and unimportant.

Great story, great characters, and all set with a clash of cultures - how many books can you say had you on the edge of your seat as two characters discussed the meaning and purpose of a legal contract? Haha!

Its fantastic, a must-read for any fantasy fans.
