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Eastern mythology will enjoy this unusual debut. --Library JournalLives up to the best in sword and sorcery traditions... Dabir and Asim are a winning pair who complement each others strengths well... those who like lots of swordplay mixed with some inventive magic will likely enjoy this. --RT BOOK ReviewsHoward Jones proves himself a rare master of the storytellers art, a talent uncommon even amongst successful novelists. Hes written a pure, unapologetic, classically-structured adventure tale.... Brilliant and immediate characterization, not only for Asim, the narrator, but Dabir, as well, perfect pacing, and a truly intriguing mystery draw the reader deeply into the world of the story. At one point, a story within the story allows Jones to comment on the act of storytelling itself. The novel is polished to a mirror sheen, but it has that something extra that takes a story beyond technical excellence and into the human heart.... If you have any interest in historical fiction, fantasy adventure, Robert Howard, Harold Lamb, or the One Thousand and One Nights, you will love this book. If youre not sure about any of those things, its still very possible that you may love this book. Stories that stay with me as this one has dont come around very often, and Im inclined to spread the word when they do. Read this book. -Greenmanreview.comOne of the best debuts, likely the best debut, Ive read since Ian Treglis Bitter Seeds last year. The Desert of Souls is, in a word, awesome.... Youll be hard pressed to find a debut as accomplished as The Desert of Souls. This is some top notch fantasy adventure fiction that will put a grin on your face. I want more. --kingofthenerds.wordpress.com Both characters are excellently realized.... This is a very satisfying first novel, and I will certainly be looking for the promised sequel. --SFSite.com I loved this book. This could possibly be the shortest review I ever write, because I dont know how to say it any other way: I loved this book. I wish it had been about 800 pages long. I wish I could pop in the DVD and watch the movie. I wish I had the kind of pocket change to pay Howard Andrew Jones to write me another story just like this. I wish I had the power to stop time, drop everything, and read every single one of the source texts he lists in his afterword. Heck, I wish I had the power to turn back time two days just so I could read this book all over again. --Intergalactic medicines how.com Filled with adventure, magic, evil magicians, prophecies, djinn, and nefarious dealings.... Asim is a very able storyteller and much feels like youre sitting around the fire listening in. The Desert of Souls is a wholly satisfying buddy escapade. I give The Desert of Souls 8 out of 10 hats. This is the kind of book that felt like it was written specifically for me and pulls you in and doesnt let you go until youve closed the cover and shout for more. --Booktionary.blogspot.com Jones Arabian Nights-style adventure has the polish of a cut diamond, and the finish of a veteran author.... Jones has an excellent sense of pace and an affinity for a tale properly told. Not rushed, but told as a story should be told, as though novelist and the reader were drawn up around a campfire with the whole night ahead for stories.... a welcome relief in these often dark times of current fantasy offerings. --TheSilverKey.blogspot.comPart mystery, part thriller, part adventure, all woven expertly by Jones to create a tapestry of vivid imagery and excitement... The characters are as lively as Leibers to be certain and the action is fast-paced and draws you in from page one. This is the kind of pulp adventure novel that ranks ups there with writers like Robert E. Howard, Talbot Mundy, and H. Rider Haggard. Fun and fresh! -Mania.com, Grade A The plot is like a roller coaster, going from one turn to another. The writing is like a love child between Robert Ludlum and Michael Moorcock. Very exceptional. If this is the only fantasy book you read this year. Read this one... Overall, I give this book 5 out of 5 stars! -fantasydreamer12.wordpress.comThe Desert of Souls is an elegantly written, deftly plotted, scimitar-and-sorcery tale, as colorful and romantic as a Persian carpet, woven with bright, daring exploits, frequent glints of humor, and the darker threads of heartbreak, pathos, and knotty moral quandries. It is a buddy story dressed in turbans and wearing daggers, exploring the burgeoning but sorely tested friendship between the narrator, Asim, a pious, loyal warrior with an unexpected flair for story-telling, and Dabir, the clever problem-solver who cannot resist a puzzle--or the flashing eyes and fine mind of a certain young woman. Toss in some

undead monkeys, a jaded djinn, a feathered serpent who hoards treasure of a most unusual kind, a fortune teller who may--or may not--have mixed up her clients fortunes, an evil sorcerer corrupted by a lust for revenge, a lost city, a stowaway virgin, magical artifacts, forbidden love, and enough sword-play and suspense to satisfy the most ardent lover of action....drop it into the harsh, fantastical landscape of old Arabia... and you have the critically acclaimed, thoroughly delightful and moving debut novel of Howard Andrew Jones. -thestoneriver.blogspot.comThe Desert of Souls is an engaging, enjoyable read that made me regret putting the book down whenever I had to stop... What I liked most about the book is the prose of Jones. Smooth and effortless, with a definite middle-eastern flair, I fell in love with Joness style and his skill at weaving adventure, action, wit, religion, and realism into a cohesive story. It also doesn't hurt that a good first-person narrative is my favorite kind of story... Howard Andrew Jones has hooked me with a terrific story of middle-eastern adventure, rife with magic, swordplay, and great prose. I hope he decides to write another installment in the same setting with some of the same characters...I for one would look forward to such a tale, and Im happy to have added The Desert of Souls to my library. -hippogriff.wordpress.comLike the best stories of Robert E. Howard and Fritz Leiber, The Desert of Souls wastes no time with extraneous details or self-indulgent digressions, getting straight to the meat of the matter... Jones has succeeded in transporting the reader to another time and place and never once forgets that, first and foremost, this is an adventure novel, not a history text. Theres a humility about the book that only added to the books numerous charms. If, like me, youre not especially taken with contemporary fantasy has on offer, you should definitely take a look at The Desert of Souls. Its a fun read very much in the tradition of the best pulp fantasy but with plenty of unique pleasures owing to its historical and cultural setting. -- grognardia.blogspot.comThe Desert of Souls is many things: dark mystery, hard-hitting fantasy, edge-of-seat suspense and swashbuckling adventure. It is written in a fast-paced, page-turning style replete with exotic, historic locales, vivid descriptions and memorable characters... It is no coincidence Howards novel pays homage to the legacy of authors like Howard and Lamb. Over the past few years Howard has almost single-handedly resurrected the Sword & Sorcery genre, first as editor of the late Flashing Swords eZine and currently as Managing Editor of Black Gate Magazine. In addition, his painstakingly compiled eight volume collection of stories by prolific pulp author Lamb has made him that authors premiere scholar, and reintroduced the once popular writer to todays audience. It is this love of fantasy and exotic history, along with his grand sense of storytelling that has made Howard Andrew Jones a writer to be reckoned with for many years to come. -roguebladesentertainment.comA rollicking adventure... Howard Andrew Jones has created a masterpiece of entertainment in this journey back in time. Joness writing style makes one feel as if theyre listening to someone with incredible narrative talent telling a story as Asim and Dabir go from hurdle to hurdle, barely making it out alive from some. In Joness hands, the characters come to vivid life, including the evil wizard, and its easy to feel as if youve been transported back to early Baghdad as well. The dialogue, and especially the interplay between Asim & Dabir, rings true and speaks to a closeness only seen in strong teams like Sherlock Holmes and Watson. Jones incorporates forbidden romance and other intrigues in this tale and as with all good storytellers, slowly builds up the suspense. Once you get to a certain point, youll just have to finish this one as theres no setting it down. Ive heard rumors that there is a sequel to come, and I hope theyre true. For fans of sword and sorcery adventure, this is a dont miss. -FreshFiction.comA fast-paced adventure tale, full of swords and magic and heroism, set in the world of One Thousand and One Nights...I highly recommend this to anybody who likes fun adventure tales made of awesome. --Bureau42.com

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