



Jewels of Gwahlur

Robert E. Howard (1906 - 1936)

Read by:	Phil Chenevert	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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The *Teeth of Gwahlur* are the legendary jewels kept in the abandoned city of Alkmeenon in the mythical African country of Keshan during the ancient Hyborian Age. No fewer than four factions vie to take possession of the jewels: the native Keshans, the neighboring country of Punt, another neighboring country, Zembabwei, and a band of Pelishti. Conan has learned of the treasure and journeyed to Keshan to lead the Keshan army, where he learns from the high priest, Gorulga, that all depends on the guidance of Yelaya, a mummified oracle. One faction hires a slave girl to impersonate the oracle but Conan soon unmasks the fraud. Another, Pelishti leader Bit-Yakin, something of a using ventriloquist, turns out to have delivered false prophecies behind

the curtain all along. Things come to a head, of course, and Conan is forced choose between making off with the treasure or saving the slave girl. Originally titled “The Servants of Bit-Yakin”, *Jewels of Gwahlur* was first published in *Weird Tales* in March, 1935.

Robert Ervin Howard (January 22, 1906 – June 11, 1936) was an American pulp fiction author best known for his character Conan the Barbarian and considered the father of the “sword and sorcery” fantasy fiction subgenre. Born and raised in Texas, his father was a country doctor who had a penchant for get-rich-quick schemes. The resulting financial problems led to marital difficulties and frequent moves. His mother, who suffered from tuberculosis his entire life, felt she had married beneath her station. As a child Howard dreamed of becoming an author of adventure fiction and achieved his first success at age 23. His writings were published in a wide selection of magazines, journals, and newspapers in several genres. The main outlet for his stories was the Depression-era pulp magazine *Weird Tales*, which featured Conan the Barbarian, a character whose cultural impact has been compared to that of such icons as Batman, Count Dracula, James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, and Tarzan. Howard remains a popular author, with his best works still continuously in print. His suicide at the age of 30 led to speculation about his mental health: when he learned that his mother had entered a permanent coma, he walked out to his car and shot himself in the head.