

# Journey's Horizon

A Novel Written by Jamie Davis.

Based on Locations from "Final Fantasy  
XIV"

I would like to dedicate this book to Amy, & AJ, my two ride or die best friends and family. Loaf is Bread, for your unwavering support. I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did writing it.

## PROLOG: JACOB WHITE

Jacob White was on a boat, bound for the water surrounded land, of Limsa Lominsa, a place where he was intending to become a culinarian expert at least that is what he told himself. He knew something was always different about him growing up. He could do things that other people never understood, feel things for other people that no one else could understand. His life hadn't been easy, and he had been in the care of his Miqo'te friend, and father figure Aric, who was firm but kind, and a real "badass" with a lance.

Walking up the stairs to the ship deck, Jacob felt the nerves settling in. A voice came from behind him. A familiar voice.

"Don't be hanging about too long up there, we'll be arriving within in the hour." It was Aric. Jacob's nerves plummeted even more, and now he began to shake. He swallowed hard before talking.

"I need some Air, it's too clustered down here, want to join me?" Jacob asked hoping he wouldn't have to be on the top side alone.

"Not right now I'm going to check we have everything packed."

"I don't really have much, so I know I'm packed." Jacob replied, sadness came with this statement, it was true he never had much to his name.

"Well I'm just going to make sure, don't talk to any strangers up there, and if you hear the bell signaling for land, come find me." Aric said with finality. Jacob nodded, and watched his dear friend walk away. Taking a deep breath, he headed up onto the deck.

The sun was burning bright in the sky, and the water was calm. Jacob noticed that there wasn't an awful lot of people on deck which surprised him he was sure there'd be a good few. The sea was calm and waves were minimal, the flocking of birds could be heard and the sky was a clear blue. Jacob took a big sniff of fresh air with a large hint of the aroma of the sea and smiled content. This was freedom to him. He enjoyed these moments taking in the view and seeing life at its best, walking over to the ship deck edge he pulled over an empty box stood on it so he could see over the edge, and peered into the water seeing his own reflection. Baby blue ocean eyes, blonde hair and his own white face painted whiskers. The water was moving in a slow rhythm, and Jacob was enthralled by it.

Freedom. This is what it feels like. As he was focusing on the water, something caught his eye, underneath he saw something swimming gracefully about. He frowned. As he leaned over, a loud bang made him jump and he tumbled back off the box landing with a hard crack on the floor, he let out a yelp as he felt his forearm burning. Just as he was taking it in, he felt someone's arm lift him up from under the shoulders.

"Sorry 'bout that there pal, idiot over there dropped a crate you okay?" The stranger asked. Jacob looked up and saw the man's face, he was bearded, wearing a sailor's attire.

"Yeah, I'm alright thanks. Just scraped my arm." Jacob smiled weakly at the man, and he couldn't help but notice he was looking at him with a strange fascination. "Something wrong?" The man snapped out of his reverie.

"No, no, not wrong. Just don't get many'a your type round 'ere." The sailor stated. Jacob frowned.

"Sorry, My kind?"

"Yeah, we don't see many Lalafell aboard this ship at least." Jacob looked more confused, 'Lalafell' he thought, before he could ask more however the bell began signaling.

"Gotta run, thanks for the help!" Jacob said, as he ran off down below the ship once more.

Panting Jacob arrived at their cabin. He opened the door, and Aric was already on his feet handing Jacob his rucksack.

"Nice to see you followed instruction" Aric said. Jacob nodded. "I always do."

"I know." Aric said with a small smile.

The pair headed back onto the top deck, once they reached the top, Jacob saw Limisa Lominsa, in the small distance. He was taken aback by its large scale. A full city standing on a white rocky cliffs, Jacob wondered how on earth it even stood how it didn't collapse with the pressure of such a large city. Limsa Lominsa by the looks of it, was built of a lower city and a higher city. A whistle sound broke Jacob out of his amazement.

"Stick close by." Aric nodded at Jacob as he said this.

"Yes sir".

As the boat came to a halt, the kind sailor from before, placed down a plank. Jacob followed Aric off the boat and onto land. He forgot what solid concrete ground felt like after spending so long on a ship. They walked towards a large shining blue crystal.

"Woah, what's that?" Jacob asked, Aric didn't look back, merely kept walking as he responded.

"It's called an aetheryte crystal. It powers most of the city with what it needs. Most major cities and outposts here in Eorzea have them." Jacob gazed up in wonderment as they walked past. Crowds everywhere, in such a small space. They began walking nearer some shops. "This is hawkers Alley, you can buy almost anything here, ingredients, dyes, weapons and that sort." Aric added. Jacob looked around all the shops.

Excitement grew inside of him. This place was so amazing to him, and he was going to be staying here with his closet ally! They came to a middle section between the shops. "Hey let's take a minute on this bench." Aric said.

This stunned Jacob for a moment, Aric was normally a man of business. He usually didn't

like to take short stops on long journeys, he found them an impractical waste of time. They walked over to the marble white bench, and sat. Jacob's feet didn't touch the ground as he sat, so he swung his legs idly as his friend went through his own rucksack.

"How long are we staying here Aric?" Jacob asked, beaming. Aric looked up from his rucksack and smiled at his little friend.

"You like it here already huh?" Aric asked. Jacob nodded.

"It's incredible! I've never seen anything like it." Jacob shouted with excitement. Aric laughed for a moment, then his face dropped a little.

"No, I don't suppose you have." Jacob noticed his friend's face drop a little. The one thing Jacob was good at was reading people usually getting the right feel if their intentions are pure or not.

"Somethings wrong with you, what is it?" Aric sighed.

"I have to tell you something and I don't want you to be upset or angry. Okay?" Aric seemed hesitant.

"Depends what it is."

"I won't be staying with you here." Aric said, his eyes looking down on the ground. Jacob's beam fell, and his excitement vanished.

"What do you mean? You swore you'd never leave me alone!" Jacob said, a lump growing in his throat as tears threatened to consume him.

"And I meant it. I am not leaving you alone." Aric tried to reassure his friend.

"You just said you weren't staying here with me. That's leaving me alone." Jacob stated.

"Jacob. I have other duties to take care of here. I've got you somewhere to stay, and somewhere to study. I made sure you were housed."

"Other duties? I've never explored this place before. I don't know anyone and I'm not sure how great I am at making friends". Suddenly Limsa seemed less amazing. Jacob placed his head in his hands and tried to fight back his tears, he felt a hand on his back patting him and he knew his friend was trying to comfort him.

"The reason we took a trip here is because I was summoned to lead the Lancers guild in Old Gridania. I owe them a lot Jacob, they trained me to be who I am."

"Can't I come with you there instead?" "And what would you do?"

"I could train to be a lancer like you!" Jacob said now looking up from his hands into his friends eyes, and smiling.

"As awesome as that would be, no. Your path is to be something different."

"I don't even know what I'm good at besides cooking." Jacob sighed and looked out at the ocean, despite his sinking mood, the ocean looked pretty and he could appreciate that.

"I have known for a while, there was something special about you other than cooking Jacob, that's why we're here. I'm taking you to the Arcanist Guild. Just down this section of Hawkers Alley." Jacob looked back at his friend, his eyes wide in confusion and fear.

"Arcanist? But...I don't know magic Aric."

"You've never tried it. Besides I've seen you do things that cannot be explained." "Like what?"

"I've seen you cast fire spells without thinking, you're so attuned with the Earth I know

you've got magic in your blood."

"One time thing doesn't mean I am magic." Jacob folded his arms around his legs as he brought them up to the bench.

"Listen here my little friend. You're like a son to me. I know there's something deep rooted in you that could possibly change the world. You're going to do great things and we would be doing the world a disservice, if I didn't at least help you along the way, if you didn't try also." Aric's eyes were serious, and Jacobs' heart warmed hearing him call him his son.

"They really need you in Old Gridania huh?" Jacob asked, saddened that he knew the answer.

"They do, but listen. If you ever need me, you go back past the crystal we walked by, over to the lift and go up to the airship landing and purchase a ticket to New Gridania, the Lancer's Guild isn't far from there, just a small walk. You are welcome to visit me any time." Aric sincerely said. Jacob took a moment to think this all through. "Anytime, you promise?"

"Yes." Aric said. Jacob nodded then hugged his friend tight. Once they pulled apart, Aric picked up his rucksack, and motioned for Jacob to follow. "Shall we?". Jacob nodded, and they walked past the other shops before stopping outside a building "This is it.

Ready?" Aric asked.

"Not really." Jacob shrugged. Aric smiled at his friend and opened the wooden doors.

As they walked in, Jacob took in the sheer size of the place. It looked so small from outside compared to the inside, the floor had clean red carpets, to their left was a staircase leading down somewhere, and in front of them was a reception desk. Aric led the way towards the front desk, a kind looking young lady was writing in a book with her quill, when she looked startled to see someone stood there.

"Hello, how may I help you today?" She asked with a smile, though she looked very flustered.

"Hello, my name is Aric, I'm here to see K'rhid Tia. I have an appointment to see him." The receptionist looked surprised to hear this. Jacob wondered if this was all some weird set up, and that he actually would be homeless in Limsa afterall.

"May I ask what it is regarding?" The young receptionist asked.

"I'm here to enlist someone into your services. It was all pre-arranged." Aric said, he too was confused.

"Ah see, the problem is K'rhid hasn't been here for a while, he's away investigating something. So you'll want to see Thubyrgeim. She has taken the role of Guildmaster temporarily."

"Okay where may I find her?" Aric asked. The young receptionist nodded to the right, Jacob turned and saw a very tall lady with red hair, pale skin and glasses. He took in her attire which was a large white robe covering her entire length. Aric turned back to the young receptionist and nodded "Thanks."

Aric walked over to the Guildmaster, and did a light cough, however she didn't take her focus away from the books she was organizing.

"This one goes here, but this one isn't right. Oh dear. How did we even function these last few months. Nothing is ever in order here" Thubrygiem muttered to herself, though loud enough for Jacob to hear. Intimidated by her sheer size, Jacob hides behind his friend's legs.

"Excuse me." Aric said rather too loud. Thubrygiem turned around to look at them. "Can't you see I'm busy? You need to speak to the receptionist." She then turned back to the books.

"Yeah see I just did that and she told me to speak to you." Aric looked annoyed. Jacob hadn't seen him annoyed often but when he was, he usually got his point across. "Very well, what can I do for you?" Thubrygiem responded with a hint of annoyance laced in her words.

"I hear you have taken over as Guildmaster. I don't know if K'hria left anything with you but I am here to enlist my son Jacob White into your guild. It was originally all pre-arranged." Aric's tone was icy.

"Ah, yes." Thubrygiem pause mid sentence and looked around. "Where is he?" She asked. Aric shifted his leg, and Jacob stood there, his face bright red. "Ah, I see you're a lalafell that's wonderful, No shame in it! They're known for their impressive Magic skills! Even the Black Mages Guild in Ul'dah is run entirely by Lalafells!" Jacob thought her mood had changed rather quickly at the sight of him which only made his unease grow more. He wasn't sure what to make of her.

"Here." Aric took a small coin purse out his bag and went to hand it over to Thubrygiem, she looked rather offended.

"What's this!?" She hissed.

"Payment, for taking the boy?" Aric said, confused at how he offended her.

"We don't take payments for enlisting. The magical arts are an amazing gift and no amount of Gil could cover that! Put it away!" Aric quickly withdrew his coin purse, stuffing it back in his pockets.

"I'm sorry I didn't mean to offend, I didn't know!" Aric sounded flustered himself now. "Not to worry dear, easy mistake. Anyway, as I am sure you're not studying these arts, I think it's prudent I get the boy settled in as fast as I can, so I'll go get the keys to the dormitory and you can say your goodbyes." Thubrygiem stated before rushing off towards the reception. Jacob's stomach fell into complete nerves. Aric looked at his small friend, and nodded. The pair walked towards the entrance doors in silence. Aric opened the door, and knelt down to his friend's height.

"You're going to be incredible here, I know it."

"I don't want to stay Aric, I'm not sure I can do this." Jacob's eyes now filled with tears. Aric reached out and hugged his friend. Jacob let out a sob on his father figure's shoulder. "I know this is a big adjustment, it all is. Like I told you, I am not that far away. If you ever need to visit, you know where to find me." They pulled apart and Aric wiped his friend's eyes before standing back up. "Now do as she says, and study hard. Next time we meet, I'd like you to knock me on my ass with that magic of yours." Jacob let out a small giggle. "Goodbye for now, my dear friend." Jacob nodded.

“Goodbye, Dad.” Aric smiled at this. Patted his friends head, before turning, adjusting his rucksack, and walking out into the bustle of Hawkers Alley, Jacob hoped Aric would turn around for a last look at him before the doors closed on them, however he never did, and as the doors closed on their finality of their parting, Jacob couldn’t help but shed a few more tears for his dear friend, terrified of the journey ahead of him.