BERSERK vol. 5 by KENTARO MIURA

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THE GOLDEN AGE,
CHAPTER 7
GET OUTTA HERE!!

THAT'S IT........

O...OKAY!!

COME AND GET ME!!
WELL DONE, GRIFFITH!!

AHH!! SUCCESS!!

GRIFFITH?

EH?

WITH THIS, UNTIL REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE IN A MONTH.....
WHAT OF OUR LOSSES?

DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD.

ON A STRAIGHT FOREST PATH, SO MANY OPPONENTS AT ONCE... NOW THAT'S BALLSY.

DUNNO... I LOST SIGHT OF HIM. THE BATTLE LINE GOT TOO STRETCHED OUT...

WHERE IS HE?

THAT NEW GUY'S DOING BETTER THAN I THOUGHT! THE REAR GUARD'S HOLDING OUT SO WELL, THE ENEMY DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH OF A CHANCE TO SNAP AT OUR BEHIND!

HOPEFULLY HE DIDN'T BUY IT, THOUGH.
NOW'S MY CHANCE!!
DAMN!!
THEY
GOT
ME!!
GRiffith
?!
GRAB HOLD!!
WHY'D YOU COME BACK?!

DON'T SPEAK!!

YOU'LL BITE YOUR TONGUE!!

RIDING DOUBLE...

THIS'S HOPELESS.
JUST A LITTLE MORE!!

?!?

THEY'RE CATCHING UP!!

...AND THE FOREST ENDS!!

A LITTLE FARTHER...
WE'RE OUT!!

SCATTER!!

...FIRE!!
HE MANAGED THIS ENTIRE OPERATION PERSONALLY.

IT CANNOT BE HELPED

GOOD GRIEF... ONE SUCCESSFUL SNEAK ATTACK AND THEY CELEBRATE.

A MOST DREADFUL MAN HE IS.

SURELY THIS WAS A MAJOR GAIN.

HE IS YOUNG AND LACKS BACKING, BUT HIS MEN ARE EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO HIM AND HIS TACTICS ARE BRILLIANT... TRULY DREADFUL...

YES, YES, WE CANNOT BE HARD ON THEM.

YEAH, KIND OF A MEAN DUDE, THOUGH.

BUT HEY, GUTS IS PRETTY GOOD!

TELL YOU WHAT, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK WHEN GRIFFITH TOOK OFF. IF SOMETHIN' HAD HAPPENED...

...SOME THINGS ONLY GRIFFITH CAN SEE.

I THOUGHT HE'D JUST RUN OFF...

YOU LAMEBRAIN, LIKE ANYTHING WOULD EVER HAPPEN TO GRIFFITH.

WHERE IS HE, ANYWAY?

WELL... GUESS WE CAN SAY HE'S ONE OF THE HAWKS NOW...

RIGHT, WHEN YOU WERE THE MOST SCARED ONE OUT THERE.

OH REALLY?
LET'S DRINK! YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE FUN WHEN YOU CAN FIND IT!

COME DOWN!

I'M FINE HERE.

WHATCHA UP TO? IT NICE AND COOL UP HERE?

GUTS... SIR...?

UH...

I REALLY RESPECT YOU!

MY NAME IS RICKERT!

THANK YOU FOR EARLIER... YOU HELPED ME SCRAPE THROUGH.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE BUT GRIFFITH FIGHT THAT AMAZINGLY!

HUH...?
NO REASON TO THANK ME.

ALL I DID WAS MY OWN JOB.

SAME GOES FOR YOU GUYS, RIGHT?

WELL...

I'M JUDEAU. NICE TO MEET YOU!

MORE IMPORTANTLY, COME ON. THINGS CAN'T GET GOIN' WITHOUT THE STAR!

SAY WHAT...?

YOU ABOUT TO TURN DOWN OUR GOOD WILL?

TONIGHT'S PARTY IS ALSO TO WELCOME YOU TO THE GROUP!

WE CAN LEAVE IT AT THAT I GUESS.

...AH....
NOBODY ASKED YOU TO DO THAT!

PIPPIN!

WHAT?

WHAAAAAAT... WHAT THE HELL?!

LET ME GO!!
DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!!

AH.

HEY, HERE HE COMES!

ACCHII!

DON'T BE SHY.
ENOUGH ALREADY! PUT ME DOWN, YA FAT-HEADED BASTARD!!

HEE!!

I'M PIPPIN.

SONIKA...

......

......!!!
DRINK.

ALL RIGHT!!
LET'S TOAST THE ROOKIE WITH THE BAD ATTITUDE!!

AH....
......
UGH?

ズ"  

.....
I’ve changed my mind, rookie!!
You’re one hell of a guy! Takin’ on that many men by yourself!!

I thought he was about to put you under when you slugged him, though......

Well... a little impulsive, maybe.

You’re awesome!!

Here’s to the future, rookie!!

Well... anyhow, you’re trustworthy.
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE HIGH PLACES.

DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE UP EARLY.

HOW?

AYOOP.

SO HOW ABOUT THE BAND OF THE HAWK?

THINK YOU'LL FIT IN?

WANT SOME?

NO THANKS.
...IT'S KIND OF WEIRD.

MERCENARY BANDS ARE NEVER MUCH DIFFERENT. THEY'RE SAVAGE, MADE UP MOSTLY OF ROGUES AND MEN WITH SHADY PASTS, Y'KNOW?

I WAS SURPRISED BY HOW YOUNG EVERYONE HERE IS. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...

...IT'S...

DIFFERENT SOMEHOW...

WE'VE GOT ESCAPED PRISONERS, STREET URCHINS, SONS OF BLACKSMITHS, AND EVEN SECOND SONS OF POOR ARISTOCRATS IN OURS! YUP!

WELL, A LITTLE VARIETY'S GOOD EVEN FOR MERCENARY BANDS.

I GUESS, MAYBE?
ANYWAY, ALL OF US ARE HERE BECAUSE OF HIS CHARISMA.

...THOSE WHO'VE BEEN COMPLETELY CHARMED BY GRIFFITH... THOSE WHO FIGURE AS LONG AS THEY STICK WITH GRIFFITH... THEY'LL GET TO SEE GREAT THINGS.

BUT...

...IF ANYTHING, MAYBE IT'S GRIFFITH? I'D SAY...

IT'S JUST THAT UNLIKE OTHER MERCENARIES, WHO ARE SO HARDENED THEY THINK ONLY ABOUT MONEY AND THEIR OWN SURVIVAL, WE'RE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

ON HIS OWN, NO ONE OF US IS ANY BIG DEAL. NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER MERCENARY.

AROUND HERE...

...WE CAN ALSO CRY, LAUGH, GET ANGRY, WHATEVER.

...WHILE WE DO SPEND EVERY BLOOD-FILLED DAY KILLING AND BEING KILLED, IT'S STRANGE, BUT...
GRiffith...
what kind of guy is he?

hn?

i don't know....

....

hmmmm.

just listen.

whoa, hold on.

....yet you're all charmed by him....

is he a child or an adult, a good guy or a villain? i don't really know what he is.

just when you think he has a spine-chilling look on his face, he smiles innocently like a baby.

how can i put this? just when you think it looks like he's got some strange wisdom, he seems just like a kid......
But I guess he must have some kind of conviction...

But, something about him is different from us.

There are things that simple mercenaries like us only hear about in absurd drinking tales, things that he would think of and do like they were nothing.

I can't really describe it... it's not just his swordsmanship and his tactics.

Ordinary people like us don't understand Griffith... it might take him longer than a lifetime to achieve it...
...HEH.

IN EVERYTHING.

IN WHAT...?

CONVICTION...

IT'S NOT WHETHER WE REALLY KNOW HIM OR NOT.

IT'S NOT WHETHER HE'S A GOOD GUY OR A BAD GUY.

ISN'T THAT JUST HOW IT IS WHEN A MAN GATHERS OTHER MEN TOGETHER?
Guts.

Hey, new guy. The boss's callin' you.

See ya.

The place where you belong.

I'm sure you'll find it here.
WHEW.
I'll pass...

CARE TO JOIN ME? IT'S THE BEST WAY TO SOBER UP.

OKAYYY.

HI!

HAHAHAH!! WHAT A FACE!!

COME ON, DON'T BE THAT WAY.

JERK.

AGHH!! CUT IT OUT, MORON!! WE AIN'T KIDS...!!!
WOOP!

NOT QUITE!

OH?

HEH!

...
LOTTA ENERGY THIS EARLY.
WLUPP.

WHHEWW.

THAT WAS GOOD MORNING EXERCISE.

NOW WE'RE EVEN.

WHY YOU--!!

GUTS ...

HA HA HA HA HA!

...AH.

->PUH<...
OKAY, I GIVE UP!

YOU REALLY ARE Stub-BORN, YOU KNOW......

WHAT?

OH, THIS...

THAT'S A WEIRD NECKLACE...
I bought this from an old gypsy fortune-teller ages ago.

Also called The Egg of The King...

...is destined to obtain the world in exchange for his own flesh and blood.

You see, it's said that whoever possesses this...

...the world...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MAKES IT DO THAT, BUT IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT'S ALIVE.

THAT'S CREEPYYY.
NEAT, HUH?

I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR ANSWER.

HE REALLY IS TOUGH TO READ... BUT PROBABLY JUST A KID...

WHY'D YOU COME BACK TO SAVE ME?

DURING THE BATTLE...
HAVING ACQUIRED SUCH AN EXCELLENT SOLDIER, I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE HIM IN SUCH A PETTY BATTLE.

COME ALONG WITH ME...

GUTS...
This is where it starts to get interesting.

...are just the outset.

You can bet your life on that.

This is no more than a single step.

The band of the hawk...

...all the victories on the battlefield...
I WILL GET MY OWN KINGDOM.
YOU WILL FIGHT FOR MY CAUSE.

BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO ME.
I will decide the place where you die.
GET HIS OWN KINGDOM?

IS HE FOR REAL?

SO THE COMMANDER OF MAYBE FIVE HUNDRED MERCENARIES...

...IS GONNA SNATCH UP HIS OWN KINGDOM...?

HE'S NOT NOBILITY OR ROYALTY. HE'S NOT EVEN A KNIGHT.
HE'S ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS ME...

THE PUNK SAID ALL THAT LIKE IT'S JUST A MATTER OF COURSE.

CAN JUST ONE MAN...

WHEN HE SAYS THAT...?

...MEAN IT...

HE'S CRAZY...
WHAT'VE
I BEEN
DOING THESE
PAST FOUR
YEARS?

RUNNIN'
AROUND
FROM ONE
BATTLEFIELD
to the
NEXT...
...KILLING ENEMIES...

JUST...

JUST...

...SURVIVING...

......
I still don't have...

WHERE'M I GOIN'....?

...the answer to that question.

GAMBINO...
THE BIG IDEA...?!

WHAT'S...

I'M SORRY!! I'M SORRY!!

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE YOU JOINED US... I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF IT WAS A HUNDRED MEN IN A YEAR, SIR!!

I HEARD YOU HAD TEN MEN PLACED UNDER YOUR COMMAND! THAT'S AMAZING!!

I THOUGHT I'D COME CONGRATULATE YOU...

THIS HAS BEEN ONE WET DAY.

SIR!!

GUTS, SIR!!
CONGRATULATIONS!

NOW YOU'VE REALLY EARNED A PLACE IN THE BAND OF THE HAWK!

FOR NOW...

...... JUST CALL ME GUTS.
YES, FOR NOW.
IN THIS WORLD, IS THE DESTINY OF MANKIND CONTROLLED BY SOME TRANSCENDENTAL ENTITY OR LAW......?

AT LEAST, IT IS TRUE THAT MAN HAS NO CONTROL, EVEN OVER HIS OWN WILL.
Man wields the sword so that he may die smiling in some far-off time beyond perception.

Man takes up the sword in order to shield the small wound in his heart sustained in a far-off time beyond remembrance.
TRAMPLE THEM DOWN!!!

ONWARD, ONWARD!!

SHOW THE WHOLE LAND HOW VALIANT ARE WE OF THE BLACK RAM IRON LANCE HEAVY CAVALRY!!

CRUSH THEM!!

KILL THEM!!
ANYONE

ANYONE WILL DO......

WHAT A DISASTER!! TO THINK THAT A MERE THREE THOUSAND HORSEMEN COULD CONFOUND US SO...!!

WHAT ARE OUR GENERALS DOING?!

THE ENEMY'S BLACK RAM IRON LANCE HEAVY CAVALRY ARE SO FIERCE, WE'RE SUSTAINING HEAVY LOSSES!!

REPORTING, SIRE!!

IS THERE NO ONE IN MIDLAND WHO CAN STOP THESE BLACK DEVILS OF CHUDERT?!

UNGHHH......

AT THIS RATE EVEN OUR HEADQUARTERS HERE MAY BE IN DANGER....!!

HAA!

ONWARD, ONWARD!!
SO BE IT!! WE'LL MOW YOU DOWN!!

NONSENSE.......!! ONE HORSEMEN AGAINST THE BLACK RAM IRON LANCE HEAVY CAVALRY?!!
HE'S ONLY ONE RIDER!! SURROUND HIM! DON'T LET HIM MOVE!!

D... DON'T BREAK RANK!!
THE BAND OF THE HAWK!!

THE MERCENARY BAND LED BY THE WHITE HAWK, GRIFFITH...

THE GRIM REAPERS OF THE BATTLEFIELD!!
CAPTAIN GUTS!!

CAPTAIN!!

I'M STILL SHAKIN' JUST THINKIN' ABOUT IT....!!

THAT WAS SO COOL!!

RIDING OUT THERE ALONE!!

YOU WERE GREAT, CAPTAIN!!

YOU'RE THE STAR OF THIS VICTORY!!
I'm sorry about that, you guys.

I went and charged out there by myself...

That's our boss! Right?!

Yeah!!

That's the leader of the Hawk's Raiders for you, Captain Guts!!

Whewww.

We get to brag about our commander to all the other units!

Damn straight!!

C'mon, what's that for?!

Time to drink up!! Let's toast him!

Captain Guts.
“Could you come with me for a bit?”

“Captain Guts, sir?”

“*AMPH*-

“We need to talk.”

“Big sis Casca...!!

Unit Commander Casca!!

“It’s probably about how he rode off on his own earlier.”

“Those two are famous for being at each other’s throats ever since Captain Guts joined the Band of the Hawk three years ago.”

“You guys get started. I’ll be there later.”

“Yessir...”

“I think they’re gonna fight again...?”

“What’s that about?”

“GOT ME.”
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO?
ABOUT WHAT?

YOUR JOB WAS TO LEAD YOUR UNIT ALONGSIDE MINE TO PROVIDE FLANK SUPPORT AND CONTAINMENT FOR THE MAIN BODY’S CHARGE INTO THE ENEMY!!

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!!

...BUT YOUR SELFISH BEHAVIOR COULD HAVE EXPOSED THE ENTIRE BAND OF THE HAWK TO DANGER!!

YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN LUCKY AND DONE WELL...

BUT YOU... YOU BROKE AWAY FROM YOUR MEN AND THEN CHARGED THE ENEMY HEAD-ON ALONE?!
WERE YOU TRYING TO BE A HERO OR SOMETHING?!

YOU SHOULD TRY REMEMBERING YOUR PLACE!!
They're just words... and then you do the same thing all over again.

...you always say that.

I'll be careful from now on.

Ever since that time you went off on Griffith......

Practically nothing about you's changed in the past three years.

You don't think about your comrades one bit...

You're just a mad dog!!

...you're satisfied as long as you just get to cross swords with the enemy!!
SAY IT AGAIN

.......

SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME!!

THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU TWO.
I'll have a talk with Guts.
YOU'RE TOO SOFT ON HIM, GRIFFITH.

THAT MUST REALLY STINK, CASCA.

CORK-US.

LET'S FACE IT, ARGUING WITH HIM JUST MAKES YOU LOOK BAD.

WHADDA YA SAY? I'M THERE IF YOU EVER WANT TO OFF HIM.

HE'S GRIFFITH'S FAVORITE, AFTER ALL.
SORRY.

...DAMMIT.

WHEN?

I THINK ABOUT THEM...

YOU TWO REALLY DON'T GET ALONG.

HERE IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS ALREADY...
I DO THINK ABOUT MY COMRADES.

I'M NOT... WHO I USED TO BE.

THREE YEARS AGO... THE DUEL THAT DECIDED YOU WOULD JOIN THE BAND OF THE HAWK INSTEAD OF WANDERING BATTLEFIELDS...

I REMEMBER....

IT WAS HOW FIGHTS SHOULD BE.......

...THAT FIGHT WAS ENJOYABLE ......
COME ON, LET'S GO. THE WINE'S ALL ABOUT YOU THIS TIME.

I'M SORRY...

GRIFFITH.

...ABOUT TODAY'S BATTLE...
SO WHAT OF THIS STUPID BUNCH OF RABBLE... WITHOUT WAR MERCENARIES WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN THIEVES.

WHAT ON EARTH IS THE KING THINKING...?

BUT THIS LAST BATTLE... THE BAND OF THE HAWK CERTAINLY DID DISPLAY MUCH MERIT......

BUT IN THE FACE OF THIS, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REMAIN IDLE. CERTAINLY WE MUST NOT MAKE LIGHT OF THEIR BATTLEFIELD EXPLOITS.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE MAKES HIS MOVE......

AND COURT RANKING AT THAT......

IN THE NAME OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT, I BESTOW THE STATUS OF KNIGHT UPON THEE.

THIS IS UTTERLY UNPRECEDENTED. A COMMONER ATTAINING THE TITLE OF KNIGHTHOOD......

SO WHAT OF THIS STUPID BUNCH OF RABBLE... WITHOUT WAR MERCENARIES WOULD BE NOTHING MORE THAN THIEVES.
BE VALIANT...

...WITH ALL DUE COURTESY...

...AS WELL AS FAITHFULNESS.

THIS MEANS WE CAN SAY BYE-BYE TO BEING WRETCHED MERCENARIES AND JOIN THE REGULAR ARMY.

IT AIN'T JUST KNIGHT STATUS. GRIFFITH'S A VISCOUNT NOW.

...EVEN THE COURT OFFICIALS'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RECOGNIZE OUR POWER.

NOW THAT WE KEEP DISTINGUISHING OURSELVES IN BATTLE...
WE CAN'T GO ON BEING A BACKWOODS ARMY OF BUMPKINS THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN TILL NOW.

FROM NOW ON, ANY INSUBORDINATION FROM US COULD POSSIBLY CAUSE TROUBLE FOR GRIFFITH.

IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN WATCH YOUR TONGUE, CORKUS.

THIS IS A FORMAL CEREMONY.

GEEZ, YOU'RE MORE STRICT THAN MY OLD LADY.

YEAH, YEAH, I UNDERSTAND, COMMANDER CASCA.

WHAT?!

HANG ON, WHERE IS HE...

AGAIN ...

HEY, CEREMONY.

OH...

BLASTED BUMPKINS...
ONE-NINETY-FOUR!

ONE-NINETY-EIGHT!

TWO-HUNDRED!
IT WAS CRIMSON, LIKE A DROP OF BLOOD.
I bought this from an old gypsy fortune-teller ages ago.

Also called the egg of the king...

The Behelit.

...is destined to obtain the world in exchange for his own flesh and blood.

You see, it's said that whoever possesses this...

......the world...?
...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.

I WILL...

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID THREE YEARS AGO.
AND THE ENEMY LEADER?

WE SEEM TO HAVE JUST ABOUT FINISHED TAKING THE ENEMY FORTRESS!!

NO, NOT YET....... PRESENTLY CAPTAIN GUTS' RAIDERS ARE LAYING SIEGE TO THE INNER CITADEL, BUT...

REPORTING!!
HE'S HOLDING BACK THE BREACH...

...ONE MAN.

FEH! THAT'S JUST PATHETIC!

JUST ONE?

ZOOD... JUDEAU, YOU DON'T MEAN...

WHAT?

THAT NOSFERATU ZOOD HAD BEEN ADDED TO THE ENEMY FORCES...

...THE ENEMY HAS A REMARKABLE SOLDIER...

ZOOD...
But... that's not the only reason why Zodd is feared.

Among mercenaries, Nosferatu Zodd is a legendary swordsman. They say he's killed hundreds, even thousands on the battlefield.

You don't know, Pippin?! Who's that?

And the unbelievable thing is... people have been telling war stories about him for close to a hundred years!! He's immortal... that's why Zodd's called Nosferatu.

Every time a rumor goes around that he's dead, he always shows up again in some other battle...
BUT THERE ARE SOME MERCENARIES WHO REVERE ZODD AS A BATTLEFIELD GOD!!

HEY, HEY, HEY!! DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT FAIRY TALE! C'MON, LITTLE RICKERT.

SOMETHING TELLS ME IF GUTS RAN INTO HIM... HE'D GO CHARGING HEADLONG LIKE A MADMAN...

THIS CAN'T TURN OUT GOOD
WE SENT ALMOST FIFTY MEN IN THERE AND NO ONE'S COME OUT...!!

NOW LET GO A'ME!!!
YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYTHING SO HUMILIATING?!!

CAPTAINNN...

.......

...C...
DILLOS!!

NOSFERATU...

HEY... THIS IS BIG TROUBLE...

TH... THAT RUMOR REALLY WAS TRUE...

DILLOS...

...... ZODD.

...... ZODD.
H... HOLD ON... CAPTAIN....!!

KEEP BACK!!

I'M KILLIN' HIM ALONE.

NOBODY COME WITH ME.
WHAT'S WITH THESE CORPSES...

MEN IN FULL ARMOR TORN APART LIKE RAG DOLLS...!!

IT FEELS LIKE... LIKE SOMETHING INCREDIBLY STRONG BLEW RIGHT THROUGH THEM...!!!
WHAT THE HELL...

...IS THIS?!

WHAT...

NOSFERATU 2000 (c) END
NOSFERATU ZODD, CHAPTER 2

不死のゾッド(2)
WHAT THE HELL...

...IS THIS?!
YOU PARRIED THAT STRIKE WELL, BOY.

THIS OVERPOWERING SENSE THAT'S GOT ME TIED UP!?! WHAT'S THIS ...?!
HE'S A MONSTER!

SUPERB!!
NOT ONE MAN IN FIFTY YEARS HAS BEEN ABLE TO STOP MY SWORD THIS LONG!!

HE'S STRONGER THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER CROSSED SWORDS WITH!! I WAS SPEECHLESS AT HOW GOOD GRIFFITH WAS, BUT THIS GUY......

HE'S THE STRONGEST!!

IT'S TAKIN' ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IT......

DAMN!! I CAN'T EVEN GET A SWING IN!!
IS BEYOND HUMAN!!

HIS POWER...

WHAT DO I DO?
I CAN'T STAY TOE TOE WITH HIM!!

I ONLY PARRIED HIM THANKS TO THIS BROADSWORD. A NORMAL SWORD WOULD'VE BEEN BUSTED WITH ONE HIT!!

...ARE EVENLY MATCHED...

SO THE SWORDS ALONE...
SO BEING UNABLE TO KEEP BLOCKING MY SWORD, YOU'RE GOING TO GAMBLE EVERYTHING ON ONE STRIKE.
I'll bet you're counting on blade length to make a difference. But will it? Your brains'll be on the floor before your sword can touch me.
NGAHHH!!

GOT HIM!!
WHAT A SURPRISE...

...YOU'RE THE FIRST.

...I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TRY TO BREAK MY SWORD...

...AFTER BEING PUSHED BACK THAT FAR...

THE FIRST HUMAN EVER TO DRIVE A SWORD THIS DEEP INTO MY BODY...
...IN THESE PAST THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF SLAUGHTER!!
IT WAS TERROR ITSELF.

IT WAS ENORMOUS...
SO LONG AGO I'D FORGOTTEN... THE FEELING OF BLOOD BOILING...!!

THIS IS GREAT...!!

NOW, FIGHT!!

DON'T DISAPPOINT ME!!

MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'VE REMAINED ALIVE THESE THREE HUNDRED YEARS...!!

TO MAKE THIS FEELING MY OWN AGAIN... ON THE CHANCE I MIGHT COME ACROSS AN ENEMY LIKE YOU!!
MONSTERS LIKE THIS CAN'T EXIST!!

THIS CAN'T BE.....

IT CAN'T BE REAL.....
WHAT'S WRONG?

NO.

GUESS I SHOULD SAY YOU DID WELL FOR A HUMAN...

BUT I WON'T SHOW MERCY...!!

IS THIS ALL THE POWER YOU'VE GOT?!

WAS THAT IT?!
AGHHH!

If you can't fight...

I'll tear you apart!!

---

[Arrows flying towards the character]
HN?!
FOCUS!!

H...hey, what the hell is that...?

What is that?!

Is...is thatNosferatu Zodd? Huh?

Hhhh-hey!!

Don't lose focus!! Second volley!!

Fire!!
THIS MUSTN'T BE.

DID... WE KILL IT!!?
I Won't Have This!!

No One May Defile This Battle!!!
FORGET IT....!!
FALL BACK...
Ruuuuun!!!
WHAT A MONSTER!!

IT'S NO USE!! NO HUMAN CAN FIGHT THIS THING!!

AIEE!

GRIFITH, WHERE ARE...?!

CASCA!! HAVE EVERYONE WITHDRAW!!
WHY'S... IT GOT TO BE LIKE THIS?

DUMB BASTARD!! WHY'RE YOU HERE?!

HEY, CAN YOU STAND?

YOU CAN COMPLAIN AFTER WE'VE ESCAPED FROM THAT MONSTER.

WHY?

GOD-DAMMIT.....
YOUR HEART'S STILL BEATING.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

NOSFERATU ZODD (3) END
FIGHT!

FIGHT ME UNTIL YOU'RE TORN TO PIECES...!!

END OF THE ROAD, AH...?!
COME ON, RUN FOR IT!!

OH YEAH ...

A...

AWESOME!!
GRIFFITH, LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!!

GRIFFITH!
THAT I'D MEET A HUMAN...
TWO HUMANS WHO COULD WOUND ME SO...

WHAT A DAY TODAY'S BEEN......
AND THAT BOTH OF THEM...

....WULD BE LOST AT ONCE....
I'll start with this man....

It's no use, Casca!! Griffith!

What's this......?!

WHA?
THE EGG OF THE KING!??
THE EGG OF THE KING...?! A CUB LIKE HIM...

...WITH THE CRIMSON BEHELIT...?! ....?...

...THE GODHAND...

Huhuhuhu... Huh...
SO...

IT'S THAT KIND OF PLOY.
OUR BATTLE IS ON HOLD FOR NOW, BOY.

BUT... I WONDER IF I'LL EVER MEET UP WITH YOU AGAIN...?

THEN TAKE HEED...

WHEN HIS AMBITION COLLAPSES

HERE'S A WORD OF WARNING... NO, A PROPHECY.

IF YOU CAN BE SAID TO BE A TRUE FRIEND OF THIS MAN...
A DEATH YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE!!

DEATH WILL PAY YOU A VISIT!!
WHAT'S THAT?

A DEMON?

YOU MEAN... I'M GOING TO DIE...?

DEATH?
Griffith

...!!

Hang on......!!

Forget that, how's Griffith...?

Don't you touch Griffith...

Yeah... guess so.

You're lucky to be alive...

You okay, captain?
...IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU!!!

THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO GRIFFITH...

IT'S YOUR FAULT...

NOSFERATU ZODD (4) END.
A DEATH YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE!!

DEATH WILL PAY YOU A VISIT!!
A DEATH
YOU CAN
NEVER
ESCAPE!!!
WINDHAM CASTLE, ROYAL CAPITAL OF MIDLAND.

Even if he was wounded, you cannot call that a blinder.

Besides, they were eventually successful in subduing the stronghold.

Yes... you mean about Griffith's grave injuries in their recent battle...

But it seems it was not just one or two who witnessed it.

A simple but effective child's trick!

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE BAND OF THE HAWK?

The soldiers were saying... that some giant, fell beast appeared in a Chuder stronghold......

Just a falsehood! It's to conceal their own blinder.
ARGGHH, IT'S SO VEXING...

THIS WILL BE ANOTHER STEP IN THE SUCCESSIVE RISE OF HIS MERIT...

THAT LAST BATTLE WAS QUITE THE CALAMITY. A BEAST APPEARING ON THE BATTLEFIELD, EH?

CLEAR THE WAY, YOU CHURL!

OHO...

THAT IS THE CAPTAIN OF THE HAWK'S RAIDERS.......

DID YOU RECEIVE THOSE WOUNDS AT THE HANDS OF SAID BEAST?

AHHP....
HOW... DARE YOU....!!

PERHAPS IN THE DARKNESS YOU MISTOOK SOME MUTT FOR A MONSTER?!

SOMETHING'S MADE ME DIZZY.

SORRY.

Y... YOU BASTARD!!

FACE MY SWORD .......!!
WHAT'RE YOU ALL Doin' HERE?

SHOULD YOU BE WALKING YET?

IT'S YOUR FAULT!!
Casca got as worked up as the rest of us, and she blurted that out.

Don't worry about it.

Everyone knows that wasn't your fault.

Don't sweat it.

But there's a line...

We're all here to pay Griffith a visit...

So? What's everyone doing?
"These days Griffith's all wins and no losses. In fact, he's head of the mightiest armed force in Midland..."

"Well, guess it's only natural."

...Dignitaries from the Royal Court.

Oh, officials, bishops...

"There are statesmen who see Griffith as just an annoying, upstart commoner..."

"The world's as kind as it is cruel, y'know?"

"But there are also some like them who think if they stake a claim on him now, it'll pay off down the road."

Who're they?
"ALL RIGHT?"

ALL RIGHT...

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING JUST NOW?!

HEYYYY!!

I WAS LISTENING.

SO WHAT?

I'M SAYING YOU NEED TO WAIT HERE UNTIL THE DIGNITARIES HAVE FINISHED THEIR AUDIENCE!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SO WHAT?!"
IT'S JUST DROPPIN' IN ON A WOUNDED MAN! WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT SOCIAL STATUS?!?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

YOU SHALL NOT PASS! PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THE DIGNITARIES ARE FINISHED!

I'M GOIN' OUTTA THE WAY!

GUTS !!!!
GIMME RIGHT A BREAK.

GUTS!!
WAI! WAI!

HO BOY.

SOMETHING SOMETHING

THAT DUMB-ASS!

WANT TO COME, RICKERT?

SORRY.

HEH!
YOU CRAZY BITCH...!!

THE HELL?!

AGHH.
WHY DOES GRIFFITH...

..BOther WITH A GUY LIKE YOU... SO MUCH...

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THIS WAY?

WHY?
CH!

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CRYIN'.

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

THAT AIN'T NO WOMAN'S PUNCH.

OH, OWWW.

...HEY, GUTS?

FORGET IT, I'LL JUST COME BACK!
...HAS BEEN KIND OF HARD TO APPROACH, I GUESS...

LATELY, GRIFFITH...

I KIND OF KNOW...

HOW GUTS FEELS...

...

IT'S LIKE...

...HE'S DRIFTED AWAY FROM US SOME...

...STILL.
YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT YOUR COMRADES ONE BIT...... YOU'RE JUST A MAD DOG!!

YOU'RE SATISFIED AS LONG AS YOU JUST GET TO CROSS SWORDS WITH THE ENEMY!!

...HAVE TO BE THIS WAY......?

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS...

IT'S YOUR FAULT!!!
WHAT'S THAT BITCH'S PROBLEM......?!
DON'T GET ANGRY.

GRIFFITH.

I HEARD YOU CAME TO SEE ME WITH EVERYONE ELSE...

SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE WOUNDED SO MUCH WORSE THAN I.....YOU REALLY ARE TOUGH.

YOU CAN SWING A SWORD ALREADY?

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SICK.

...THOSE OFFICIALS ALL THINK THEY CAN GAIN FAVOR BY APPEARING TO CARE FOR A WOUNDED MAN DAY AFTER DAY....
IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GAIN STATUS IN THIS KINGDOM.

BUT.....

OH WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

IT FELT LIKE I WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT A MONSTER THAT FANTASTIC EXISTS...

ZODD.

NOSFERATU.....
BUT IF YOU LOOK AT IT A DIFFERENT WAY, IT MIGHT BE PROOF THAT THERE'S SOME HUGE SOMETHING BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING IN THIS WORLD.

FOR INSTANCE...

...WHAT'RE CALLED GODS.

OR SOMETHING...

DEVS?

DON'TCHA MEAN...

BY THE WAY, HOW'D I MAKE IT OUT OF THAT? I MEAN, I PASSED OUT PARTWAY THROUGH...

...WHO KNOWS?

FOR SOME REASON, HE FLEW OFF WHEN HE SAW THAT.

AREN'T THEY THE SAME THING?

THAT THING YOU WEAR AROUND YOUR NECK.
THE BEHELIIT

Hm...

THEN TAKE HEED... WHEN HIS AMBITION COLLAPSES...

IF YOU CAN BE SAID TO BE A TRUE FRIEND OF THIS MAN...

...DEATH WILL PAY YOU A VISIT!! A DEATH YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE!!

ZODD KNEW WHAT THAT THING WAS...
I'LL HAVE TO THANK THE OLD GYPSY WOMAN. LOOKS LIKE THIS THING EVEN PROTECTS AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS.

THAT'S...

ANOTHER ONE I OWE YOU.

THREE YEARS AGO YOU SAID "I CAN'T LOSE SUCH AN EXCELLENT SOLDIER."

BUT TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE FOR JUST ONE SOLDIER.

THAT'S A HOTHEADED THING FOR A CALM, COMPOSED GUY LIKE YOU TO DO.
SO WHY?

THERE'S NO REASON...

...AT ALL...

MY, A DISCUSSION FROM THREE YEARS AGO... YOU SURE CAN BE PICKY.
DO I NEED A REASON EACH TIME...

TELL ME...

DO I NEED ONE...

A REASON...

I PUT MYSELF IN HARM'S WAY...

FOR YOUR SAKE...

MASTER OF THE SWORD (I) END
This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!
He is Guts, the Black Swordsman, a warrior of legendary prowess. Relentless, fearless, merciless. As cold and brutal as the iron of the massive sword he wields and bent on revenge against the unholy forces that have branded him for sacrifice, especially Griffith, one of the demon lords of the Godhand. But Griffith was once a man, once the leader of the Band of the Hawk, a renowned cadre of elite fighters with a young Guts as its fiercest champion. Though forged in a crucible of cruelty and violence, nothing could prepare Guts for a confrontation with Nosferatu Zodd, a superhuman beast who slaughters Guts’ comrades as easily as a scythe cuts wheat. Even Guts and Griffith are no match for the abomination’s power... but something Griffith wears around his neck may well be!

Created by Kentaro Miura, Berserk is manicual manga to the max—relentless, harrowing, and gruesomely funny—and the inspiration for the popular anime series. If you’re looking for graphic fiction tied up with a pretty, pink bow, you’d better run for the hills—because Berserk will show you what you can do with that bow!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.