ベルセルク 10

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SPARKS FROM A SWORD TIP
LIKE IT'S NOT EVEN MY OWN BODY... 

THAT WAS YOUR... 

...FIRST TIME TOO, RIGHT?

IT'S STRANGE.
It's understandable, considering what happened to you.

That's also why you used to hate being touched by anyone, isn't it?

I mean, you were so rough at first.

Like you were frantic or something.

But only with you.

...it was fine.

Huh...

...at that time... for some reason...

When you first saved my life.

It never mattered with you.
AFTER WE'VE RESCUED GRIFFITH, HERE...

WITH THE BAND OF THE HAWK...

EH...

HEY, GUTS...

WILL YOU STAY?
I WANT TO DRAW THE LINE...

EVERYONE... LIKE IT USED TO BE...

WITH JUDEAL, RICKERT, PIPPIN, CORKUS, THE OTHERS...

NO.

KEEP THINGS SEPARATE...

I CAN'T STAY.

WHERE I'VE BEEN HOLED UP THE PAST YEAR...

... WATERFALL.

THAT'S RIGHT, THERE'S ONE THERE, TOO...

HUH?
HERE IT COMMMMES!

OKAY!

GOtest}
WHY ARE YOU A BLACKSMITH ALL ALONE UP HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS?

I AIN'T ALONE. DAUGHTER'S WITH ME.

YOUR SWORD'S BROKEN.

HEH! IF YOU'D DIED, AT LEAST THINGS'D BALANCE OUT AROUND HERE, YA FREE-LOADER.

FIRST YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE DEAD FOR A WEEK...

THEN YOU GO AND ALMOST KILL YOURSELF.
Hmmm.

There's good ore to be had in those hills.

WHEEEW...

They say elves used to live there long ago.

Why're you a blacksmith?

Godo.

This was in my hand.

Before I knew how to walk...

"Dunno"...

My family's been blacksmiths since my great-grandfather's days.

Hey, careful with that...

I'll be one too...

I like it. It's neat.

Dunno.

Do you like doing it?
JUST LIKE FOLKS WHO LIVE DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'RE ALIVE,
I DON'T KNOW WHY I KEEP HAMMERIN'.

I BEEN STRIKIN' THE IRON SINCE I WAS BORN.
I WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO IMPROVE AND CRAFT BETTER STUFF...
THAT ONE DAY I WOKE UP AN OLD MAN. HEH? SIMPLE ENOUGH.

BEFORE I COULD DECIDE IF I LIKED IT OR NOT, I HIT THE IRON IN FRONT OF ME.

SPARKS ARE NICE. I GET ENGULFED IN 'EM.
SPARKS.

IT FEELS LIKE...

THAT FEELS LIKE...

FOR AN INSTANT...

IS SPRINGIN' INTO THE AIR BEFORE MY EYES.

LIKE MY OWN LIFE...

OH YEAH...

THERE IS ONE THING I LIKE 'BOUT BEIN' A BLACKSMITH.
...DREAMS.

IN THE END...

...THIS IS ALL THERE IS FOR ME.

IT'S NOT A CLEAR, CONCRETE DESTINATION LIKE WHAT GRIFFITH SAID...

IT'S NOT SOME LOFTY, GLITTERING THING.

NO...

"I WILL GET MY OWN KINGDOM."

...THIS IS ALL FOR ME.
UNFORGETTABLE THINGS, UNFORGETTABLE PEOPLE, AND ALL OF IT BY THE TIP OF THE SWORD... I GET THE FEELING I'VE DONE IT ALL BY GRASPING A HILT IN MY HAND.

WHEN I LOST GAMBITO, WHEN I MET GRIFFITH AND THE BAND OF THE HAWK, AND WHEN I PARTED WITH THEM... ZODD THE IMMORTAL, SUFFERING I SHOULD'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BEAR, AND MOMENTS I COULD SENSE DEATH... I CAME THROUGH ALL OF IT WITH THIS.

BECUSE THIS WAS THERE, I ONCE AGAIN THREW MYSELF INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH.

WITH THIS I'VE KEPT MYSELF ALIVE THROUGH MORE MOMENTS THAN I CAN COUNT.

ALMOST THE ENTIRE TIME I'VE BEEN ALIVE, THIS WAS NEXT TO ME AS A PART OF MY BODY.
...MY SWORD'S TOUCHED A THOUSAND TIMES MORE.

NO... ACTUALLY, COMPARED TO WHAT MY HAND'S TOUCHED...

...THIS HAS BEEN MY LIFE.

IN AND OF ITSELF...

IT'S LIKE...
...SPARKS, EVEN FOR AN INSTANT.

MAKING...

I WIELD THE SWORD.

...MY OWN...

...SPARKS.

...FOR AN INSTANT...

...IS SPRIN’ INTO THE AIR BEFORE MY EYES.

IT FEELS LIKE MY OWN LIFE...

BUT FOR NO ONE ELSE’S SAKE, WITHOUT BEING SWEPT UP... THIS TIME IT’S BY MY OWN WILL.

ALL THE THOUGHTS OF YOUR LIFE AND YOUR ENEMY’S... STRIKING AND SCATTERING THE TINY LIGHTS OF EXISTENCE ITSELF.

THE LITTLE SPARKS THAT SPRING OUT WHEN SWORDS CLASH.

YOU SEE...

...LIFE THERE.
I'll stick around until we rescue Griffith and rebuild the Band of the Hawk.

...but I've finally found it, my own thing. It may not be a worthwhile reason...

...but I'm sure there wouldn't be enough of the battles I want.

Because I wanna improve my skills more and challenge myself by crossin' swords with stronger and stronger enemies...

But that's it. After that, I continue my journey.

But I'll never entrust my sword to another again. I'll never hang from someone else's dream.
...EVERY BATTLE WILL BE MY OWN.

HAHA...THAT WAS SO GRANDLY SPOKEN.

IT MUST HAVE TAKEN ALL THE BRAINS YOU HAVE.

NOT LIKE THE OLD YOU AT ALL.

AHA HA HA...

...GRIFFITH, REALLY.
AFTER ALL, YOU AND GRIFFITH ARE JUST THE SAME!!

YOU'RE JUST GONNA LEAVE AGAIN, RIGHT?!

IT'S THE SAME WHETHER I'M AROUND OR NOT...!!

YOU KNEW THAT FROM THE START, RIGHT?!

IT'S ALL ABOUT DREAMS!! ALL ABOUT YOURSELF!!
GO FIGHT BY YOURSELF UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED....!!

JUST GO AND DIE LIKE A DOG SOMEWHERE!!

GO AND DIE WITH YOUR BELOVED SWORD, YOU BAS--!!

I'M GONNA DROWN YOU IN THAT POOL BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE KILLS YOU....!!

COME WITH ME.

COME WITH...

WHAA...
...RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T HAVE YOU ENOUGH.

I WANNA HAVE YOU HUNDREDS... WAA--

BUT AT ANY RATE, RIGHT NOW...

WHAA--

...MORE FROM HERE ON.

STUPID...

THAT'S...

WHAT I'M THINKIN' NOW.

WHether bein' with you will get in the way of what I want to do...

...OR THE OPPOSITE...

...I CAN'T TELL NOW.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S AHEAD.
...AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT TOOK PLACE.

...IN THE DENSE FOREST ALONG THE MIDLAND BORDER...

THREE DAYS PRIOR...

DON'T SAY THAT. YOU KNOW BETTER.

STUPID...
A silhouette against the setting sun...

Of some giant, serpent-headed monster.

It emerged from a valley deep in the wood.

Foresters caught sight of something...
...SOMETHING BEYOND HUMAN KNOWLEDGE...

NOW...

...HAS BEGUN TO STIR.

SPARKS FROM A SWORD TIP: END
INfiltrating
Windham,
Chapter 1

ベルセルク
ウインダム潜入の
IN THE EVENING...

SHIMMERING AGAINST THE SETTING SUN, IT WAS THE BRIGHTEST THING I HAD EVER SEEN!

...STARING UP FROM THE BACK ALLEY OF BROTHELS AND TAVERNS, WHERE THE SUN NEVER SHINES, I SAW SOMETHING.

THE MANY SPARKLING JUNK SPOILS WE PLUNDERED.

THE SMALL BATTLES WE FOUGHT ON THE COBBLESTONE WHEN WE WERE STILL YOUNG.
...would be that thing.

I made up my mind. The junk I would get. For myself...
HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I WAS CAST INTO THIS DARKNESS...?

DEEP DARKNESS WITHOUT EVEN A TRACE OF LIGHT.

BUT IT ALSO SEEMS LIKE AN INSTANT...

AN ETERNITY...

WHAT OF MY BODY? IT'S LIKE IT'S FLOATING IN MID-AIR.

WHAT OF MY SENSES ARE NUMBED AND I CAN'T FEEL A THING...

ALL MY SENSES ARE NUMBED AND I CAN'T FEEL A THING...

DID I GO INSANE LONG AGO?

HAVE I RETAINED MY SANITY?

...ONLY ONE THING IS VIVID.

IN ALL THIS EMPTINESS...
That alone is the bond which keeps my consciousness from vanishing amidst the numbness.

Malice, friendship, jealousy, futility, regret, tenderness, sorrow, pain, hunger...

That giant swirl of violent emotions in which none are definite but all are implied.

Like lightning on a dark night, he rises up within me, blazing.

And again and again like a tidal wave, an infinite number of feelings surge upon me.
I KNOW THAT THE GOOD WILL FORMS INTO TRUST OR FELLOWSHIP AND THE ANIMOSITY INTO AWE OR POSSIBLY DREAD.

I KNOW THAT I'M DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE. THOSE I'VE MET CAN BY NO MEANS DISREGARD ME. THEY ALWAYS VIEW ME WITH EITHER A LOOK OF GOOD WILL OR ANIMOSITY.

...THE HEARTS OF SO MANY IN THESE HANDS.

THEREBY HAVE I GRASPED...

...BUT WHY IS IT, WHEN IT COMES TO HIM, I ALWAYS LOSE MY COMPOSE...

OUT OF SO MANY THOUSANDS OF COMRADES AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ENEMIES, WHY JUST HIM...?

HE WAS THE REASON I'VE BEEN THROWN INTO THIS DARKNESS, AND NOW HE'S THE SOLE SUSTENANCE KEEPING ME ALIVE.
...instead
gain
such a
strong
hold on
me?

HOW LONG
AGO DID
SOMEONE
I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO HAVE
IN HAND...

...the
junk
grows
dull.

But now,
as he
shines
so glaring
within me...

That
endless
play began
so long
ago on the
cobblestone
of the back
alley.

That
pilgrimage
to claim
what to me
was the
most
sacred
piece of
junk.
GUTS...!!
...HALLUCINATION?

OH. PRINCE.

...OF US. THE UNFORGIVEN.

PRINCE...

PRINCE...?

WE SEEK AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU...
...AT THAT TIME...

IN THAT PLACE...

WE ARE KINSMEN...

...WE SHALL MEET.

ON BLESSED KING OF LONGING.
IF ONLY IT WEREN'T FOR THIS INJURY, I COULDN'T HAVE GONE WITH EVERYONE...

WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR SO LONG NOW, TOO...

AHHH, MAN.

IT'S THAT TIME.
I'm sure... just like old times...

And then...

Sure.

Be sure you get Griffith out.

Guts, do my part too.

The Griffith rescue squad is to depart immediately!!

From here we split into two groups that will operate independently!!

Everyone mount and form up!!
LET'S GO, BOSS.

WHAT?

LUCKY...

NO-THING...
WE DEPART FOR WINDHAM!!
THREE DAYS LATER...
WINDHAM'S BEFORE OUR EYES. WE VISITIN' SOMEBODY'S GRANDPA?

HUUH?

SECRET PASSAGE.

COMMON SENSE IN WAR.

A CASTLE THAT HUGE HAS TO HAVE ONE OR TWO SECRET ESCAPE PASSAGES.

TELL ME WHY WE'RE IN A GRAVEYARD. TALK ABOUT GLOOMY...
C'MON. IF WE FIND IT THAT EASY, I'LL QUIT BEIN' A MERCEN--

THIS'S IT.

RETIRED IT IS.

I FOUNDED IT.

PIPPIN.

HUU-ROAR!

SHANK!
NO MISTAKE, THIS IS IT.

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.

WAIT A MINUTE.

WILL I FIT IN THERE?

SENDING IN TOO MANY PEOPLE WOULD JUST MAKE US STAND OUT.

WHAT CHOICE IS THERE? IT'S OBVIOUS THAT WE'RE THE BAND OF THE HAWK'S STRONGEST MEMBERS.

PIPPIN AND JUDEAU I CAN SEE, BUT AFTER ALL, AIN'T IT A BAD IDEA FOR YOU, OUR LEADER, TO GO IN THERE?

THIS TEAM HAS THE HIGHEST POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.

AT ANY RATE, IF WE CAN'T GET GRIFFITH OUT... IT'S MEANINGLESS.
HEY.

YEAH, BLIT--

AREN'T YOU?

GIVE ME A BREAK!!

WHEN IT COMES TO SWORD-FIGHTING, I'M EVEN BETTER THAN THOSE TWO!!
Obey your superior's orders.

You're a pro merc right now.

Leave your personal feelings out of the plan.

Right...

...at least watch your back.

I can...

Don't forget it.
LET'S GO.

INFILTRATING WINDHAM (1): END
INfiltrating Windham,
Chapter 2
FLYING ALONE ABOVE ALL...THE HAWK.

YOU WERE ALWAYS LOOKING UP, RISING TO THE TOP...PAYING HEED TO NOTHING BUT ASCENSION.

FRUSTRATION, RESIGNATION, THERE'S NO ONE WHO THOSE WORDS FIT LESS.

YOU WOULD NEVER COME DOWN TO THE LAND WHERE WE CRAWL.

YES...

THE BOUNDLESS HAWK.
...I put myself in harm's way for your sake?

Tell me, do I need a reason each time...

Always taking.

Always winning.

"...that I'm cruel?"

"Do you think..."
"GRIFFITH'S NO GOOD WITHOUT YOU!!"

...THEN I--!!

If that's the case...

If that's true...

We sure found this passage easily though.

We're here.

We have someone on the inside.

Insurance.
FROM THE GRAVE TO THE GRAVE...

THAT WAS WEAK.

WHO'S THERE?

WAIT...!!
YOU REALLY DID COME!

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

THEY'RE ON OUR SIDE.

EH?

...YOU ARE THE BAND OF THE HAWK?

I ALMOST EXPECT TO SEE GHOSTS HERE...

THANK GOODNESS... I KEPT WONDERING WHAT WAS TO BECOME OF US IF YOU DID NOT ARRIVE.

WHO'RE YOU?

OH! YOU! YOU SHOUTED "HEY, PAL!" AT LORD JULIUS WHEN YOU WERE WITH LORD GRIFFITH...

YOU DID WHAT?

I REMEMBER IT...
I AM CHARLOTTE.

HOW DO YOU DO...

THE PRINCESS? THEN THE ONE ON THE INSIDE...

I AM CASCA, ACTING LEADER OF THE BAND OF THE HAWK. YOUR HIGHNESS' DEVOTION AND EFFORTS HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE PRESENT HERE TONIGHT.

GONNA BITE YER TONGUE?

I...I DO NOT MIND.

AH...

YOU'RE BEING RUDE!

THE ENTIRE BAND OF THE HAWK OFFERS ITS DEEPEST GRATITUDE.
BUT...

...I KNEW AT A GLANCE THIS TIME, THOUGH.

OH, I REMEMBER YOU, TOO.

YOU'RE THE KNIGHT I ASKED TO PROTECT LORD GRIFFITH...

ON THE MORNING YOU SET OUT FOR DOLDREY...

SO YOU ARE A WOMAN. I DID NOT NOTICE.

I WONDER WHY?

SHE MISTOOK HER FOR A WOMAN, Y'KNOW?

'MCAUSE IT'S DARK.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME.

HIGHNESS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

Y...

YES...

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME UNTIL DAWN.

WE MUSTN'T LOSE A MOMENT IN RESCUING GRIFFITH... SIR GRIFFITH...

THIS WAY.

COME... LET'S HURRY.

I RECOGNIZE THIS AREA.

YEAH...

I NEVER EVEN IMAGINED A HOMECOMING LIKE THIS ONE.
She seems cheerful and kind... Even the woman in me got a good impression.

Even though she's Princess of a Kingdom, she doesn't have the characteristic high-handed bearing of royalty or nobility.

The next in line to the throne of Midland...

Princess Charlotte...

...she's Griffith's...

And...

Does Griffith still see her as necessary?

Now that things have come to this.
MY FEELINGS OF ADMIRATION FOR GRIFFITH HAVEN'T CHANGED...

...BUT...

... IT STILL...

I DON'T WANT TO BE THIS WAY...!!

AS HIS BLOOD RELATIVE I FEEL I MUST APOLOGIZE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

MY FATHER'S-- HIS MAJESTY'S BEHAVIOR TOWARDS LORD GRIFFITH AND ALL OF YOU A YEAR AGO...

MISS CASCA, I MUST APOLO--
HOWEVER, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO CLEAR THE AIR LIKE THIS. IF YOU KNOW, WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL US? WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED THE DAY BEFORE WE WERE ENTRAPPED... THE NIGHT BEFORE GRIFFITH WAS IMPRISONED?

IT WAS THROUGH YOUR HELP THAT WE WERE ABLE TO INFILTRATE WINDHAM THIS WAY. PLEASE, DO NOT LET IT TROUBLE YOU...

N-NOT AT ALL, THERE'S NO CALL FOR YOUR HIGHNESS TO APOLOGIZE.

THAT NIGHT...

...LORD GRIFFITH...

...WAS IN MY CHAMBERS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?

WHO GOES?
THE HELL?

Who in OOP's name is out at this...

I WH-WHY, Princess!!

I sought the night breeze... so I was just going for a walk.

But, what brings you out here so late?

HOW RUDE OF US!!

WH-WHY, Princess Charlotte!!

It matters not. Lift your heads.
I WILL GO BACK INSIDE IN SEVERAL HOURS.

SO DO NOT SPEAK OF THIS...

I ASK YOU, PLEASE...

Uh, of course, but wasn't it the case that your highness was not to leave the palace? Those were his majesty's orders...

Therefore I chose to come out at this hour to avoid being seen by people.

B-but I cannot stand it. It's hard to breathe...

Well, ohh! In that case...

Consider it a supplemental tip.

It isn't much, but please take this...

Ah, yes, Anna.

W-Well...

Not bad. I thought you were just a timid, sheltered princess.

Pardon?...

The best to you and your bodyguards...

...al-right.
LET GO OF HER, YOU LOUS!

I...I'M ALRIGHT. I WAS JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS... BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS OF SOME USE...

YOUR HIGHNESS?!... HEY?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AND CAN'T DO ANYTHING. I'M JUST SOME SHELTERED GIRL. MYSELF CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I JUST MANAGED TO DO.

IT IS AS YOU SAID...

... BECAUSE IT WAS FOR HIS SAKE.

FOR LORD GRIFFITH'S SAKE...

... IT MUST'VE BEEN...

... I THINK...

NOW, WE MUST HURRY.
SHOULD I HOLD YOUR HAND?

HEY.

... LET'S GO.
THOUGHT WE'D BE KEEPING PERSONAL FEELINGS OUT OF IT.

YOU AIN'T SOME LOST KID.

YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

THE TOWER OF RE-BIRTH.

THAT'S ONE OLD-LOOKIN' TOWER.

AMONG THE MANY TOWERS IN WINDHAM, IT'S THE MOST ANCIENT. THEY SAY IT'S BEEN HERE SINCE THE TIME MIDLAND WAS ESTABLISHED... POSSIBLY EVEN BEFORE THEN. I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW WHY IT WAS BUILT... BUT IT SEEMS IN TIMES OF WAR, PRISONERS AND, DURING THE INQUISITION, HERETICS WERE IMPRISONED UNDERGROUND BENEATH THIS TOWER.
WE WILL GO ON BY OURSELVES FROM HERE. IF IT'S DISCOVERED THAT THE PRINCESS IS NOT IN THE PALACE, IT WILL CAUSE A CITYWIDE PANIC.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I'VE HEARD THAT LORD GRIFFITH IS CONFINED IN THE ROOM ON THE LOWEST LEVEL.

NO... EVEN NOW THE UNDERGROUND PART OF THE TOWER IS USED AS PRISON.

I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST HER EITHER, HONESTLY.

WHAT?

BUT IN BATTLE YOU HAVE TO USE WHAT YOU CAN.

SHE'D MAKE A GOOD HOSTAGE IF WE TOOK HER NOW.

YOU DON'T MEAN...

YOU SURE ABOUT LETTING HER LEAVE NOW?
...that way she could be together with her beloved Lord Griffith...

...after all...

I don't think that's the case...

The Princess is the one who guided us this far! And you... you'd bite the hand that fed us...!!

Don't say such foolish things!!

If we invite her in good faith, she might surprise you by consenting.

...I do not mind.

Regarding that...

Would you be willing to take me along with you?

I myself ask it, too.

No.

H... highness?!
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TAKE ME ALONG WITH YOU?

IF YOU DID THAT, THE WHOLE CASTLE—NO!—ALL OF MIDLAND WOULD BE TURNED ON ITS HEAD IN PANIC!! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT HEARTBREAK IT WOULD CAUSE FOR HIS MAJESTY THE KING...?!

STOP IT!!
...EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MAN AS MY FATHER...

I CARE NOT.

I DON'T...

PLEASE, MISS CASCA!

WHAT A THING TO--

YOUR HIGNESS...

NEVER YOU MIND!!

...I WOULD ENDURE BEING A HOSTAGE... OR ANYTHING!!

IF I CAN BE WITH LORD GRIFFITH...

I CAN'T RIDE A HORSE WELL AND I CAN'T USE A SWORD. I MIGHT JUST BE A BURDEN...

...BUT...

I HAVE ALMOST NEVER BEEN AWAY FROM THIS CASTLE. I UNDERSTAND NOTHING OF THINGS ON THE OUTSIDE...
I'M...

AGAINST THIS.

CASCA...

!

I'M...
However, with the band of the Hawk in its present weakened state, you would be a double-edged sword that could conceivably destroy us.

WHY...?!  

As a hostage, your highness may very well be optimum.

Even if we can get across the kingdom's border and escape, chances are a proclamation will reach other nations and the pursuit will never slacken.

Although if we take your highness with us, it becomes an issue on a national scale. The king will likely try to get you back by any means necessary.

Even if we are pursued, Midland could hope to gain no more of a benefit than the capture of one criminal.

Once we rescue our leader Griffith and make our escape—even if he was once a military commander, to Midland it will not change the fact that a criminal is on the loose.

...from then on, Sir Griffith would have to bear a disgrace that could never be erased.

Good point. And above all, once word gets around that we've taken a woman hostage...!

B-But still...!!
HE MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AGAIN.

IF THAT HAPPENS... GRIFFITH'S PATH TO SUCCESS WOULD BE CLOSED OFF.

DON'T YOU EVEN CARE ABOUT THAT?

I JUST....!!

BUT IF YOUR THOUGHTS LIE CHIEFLY WITH SIR GRIFFITH, PLEASE LISTEN TO REASON.

I DO THINK IT'S A PITY...

HIGHNESS...

...WANTED TO BE WITH HIM.

GRIFFITH IS SO CLOSE, TOO...

WHY'RE WE TALKIN' SO MUCH NOW?
NEVERRRRR!!!

NO NO NO!

NO.

...THEN I'M GOING!!! WITH LORD GRIFFITH!!

IF I SAY I'M GONNA GO, IF I SAY IT...

オタオタオタ

...!!
HIGHNESS...

THAT'S ONE HELL OF A PRINCESS.

TYIN' HER UP WOULD BE QUICKEST.

WHAT NOW? IF WE LET GO SHE'LL SCREAM AGAIN.

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR HANDS AWAY.
LET'S GO TOGETHER.

I UNDERSTAND.

...THEN YOU MUST PLEASE GIVE UP.

IN THE EVENT THAT SIR GRIFFITH TELLS YOU IT'S FUTILE...

REALLY...

FINE... I'LL JUST "CONVINCE" HIM IF I HAVE TO.

OKAY...

HOWEVER...

...
WE'RE WASTIN' TIME ON THIS CRAP...

HIGHNESS, WHAT ABOUT ME THEN...?

THE SUN'LL COME UP. LET'S GO.

HEY.

WHAA?

I'M A HORRIBLE ... WOman.
SOMEBWHERE IN MY HEART, HEARING THE PRINCESS TALK ABOUT GRIFFITH LIKE THAT, I...

THAT'S TRUE AND ALL, BUT...

WHY? WHAT YOU SAID SOUNDED RIGHT ENOUGH.

Yeah, but...

I...

Makin' a big deal over somethin' stupid...

Dammit...

Sorry! Guts, uh...

S...
WHAT'VE I DONE...?

I'M SORRY... I APOLOGIZE.

I DIDN'T MEAN FOR...

GRIFFITH'S IN FRONT OF OUR FACES. FOCUS!

WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID NOT TO MIX PERSONAL FEELINGS INTO THIS?

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE TALKIN' ABOUT THAT STUFF!

LIKE I SAID!

LET'S HURRY.

SORRY...

...
THE ONE WHO STILL HASN'T UNBOUND HIMSELF FROM GRIFFITH...

THAT'S RIGHT, I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN YOU BROOD OVER GRIFFITH THAT WAY.

BUT...

THE THING I CAN'T STAND MOST...

...IS THAT I FEEL LIKE I'M JUST GONNA ACCEPT IT.

ON IT.

JUD...EALI

PLEASE LOOK THE OTHER WAY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I NOT EVEN IF YOU PUT A THOUSAND MORE STITCHES IN ME...

YOU SAID IT. THINK I'D DIE WITHOUT HAVIN' A CHANCE TO SEE THE BOSS’S FACE?

RICKERT, WE'RE OUT OF WATER. HEAD DOWN TO THE LAKE AND DRAW SOME MORE!

RIGHT.

HANG IN THERE! GRIFFITH'LL BE BACK SOON. IF YOU DIE NOW, YOU'LL HAVE TO HAUNT 'IM!
A LITTLE LONGER... A LITTLE LONGER AND GRIFFITH WILL COME BACK.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL.

WE TOOK A HUGE DETOUR, BUT AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT GRIFFITH AGAIN...

EVERYONE'S SO CHEERFUL.

YEAH! THE HAWKS'LL BE BACK IN BUSINESS! ONCE GRIFFITH COMES BACK...
AN ELF
...?!
AH...
AH.

...I SAW IT.

?!?

THAT WAS...

NO MISTAKE!!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?! ENEMY RAID?!

A LITTLE MORE ...

A LITTLE MORE AND GRIFFITH WOULD'VE BEEN BACK.

HOW COULD--

HOW COULD IT END AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
GUYs...?
WHAT...

WHERE...

GUYS...
EVEN SO, I DON'T SEE ANY ENEMIES. SOMETHING... SOMETHING'S WEIRD!

DID THEY ALL REALIZE THERE WAS A RAID AND RUN AWAY...?
Oooh...
Oooh.

Can't be...

That thing can't exist...
EE...

GUY'S...!!

MY BODY WON'T MOVE...!!!
WITHDRAW!!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO AMUSE YOURSELF WITH SLAUGHTER IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

HASTE IS NEEDED, IS IT NOT?
WHAT THE HELL?! WHAT'S GOING ON...?!

...OHHH

WHAT THE...

ヒノオトオオオオ.

エム!

オオオオオオオ.

...!!
THIS... HOW... DID THIS...

THEY WERE...

SO HAPPY GRIFFITH WAS COMING BACK...

NO WAY...

THEY WERE IN SUCH GOOD CHEER

TILL JUST NOW

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING....!!
IMPRESSIVE...
THIS GOES A LOT DEEPER THAN THE PART OF THE TOWER ABOVE GROUND.

OY....!!
H-HIGHNESS!!

YEE....

ガタアァァ
I'll go, I swear it... I want to see Lord Griffith as soon as possible...

I-I couldn't...

Here! I'll carry you.

Stand up.

I hear ya.

This is why I can't stand the upper crust...

Oh! You gotta be kiddin'.

Quit takin' so long!

Sorry it's not gonna be as nice as a princess' carriage.

Otherwise you wait here alone. If you don't like that, hop on.
I heard this from the king, but the underground prison was built after the time of the inquisition, and it goes down no further than about the depth of the tower.

How far down does this hole go, anyway?
DO YOU ALL...

JUST WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS HOLE?

NO... DOES THAT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS HOLE?

BUT THE HOLE ITSELF EXISTED LONG BEFORE THE PRISON WAS BUILT.

IT'S DEPTH IS GREATER THAN ANY MOUNTAIN IN ALL OF MIDLAND...

IT GOES BACK A LONG TIME, ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

MOUNTAIN...?

"IN THOSE DAYS THIS CONTINENT SAW CONSTANT WARRING BETWEEN SMALL CITY-STATES AND MANY DIFFERENT TRIBES."

"APPARENTLY, IT WAS AN AGE OF RIVAL WARLORDS."
NO PROGRESS.

DON'T SOUND TOO DIFFERENT FROM NOWADAYS.

BUT FINALLY, SOMEONE APPEARED WHO PUT AN END TO THE WARRING AGE.

"IT'S SAI THAT FULLY A THIRD OF THE POPULATION DIED."

CONTINUOUS WARFARE RUINED THE LAND, AND DUE TO FOOD SHORTAGES, PLAGUE, AND THE LIKE...

"HE WAS AN EMPEROR WHO WAS ABLE TO SUBJUGATE DOZENS OF NATIONS AND ESTABLISH AN AGE-OLD EMPIRE ENCOMPASSING THIS ENTIRE CONTINENT FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME IN HISTORY."

"SUPREME KING GAISERIC."

"NO ONE KNOWS WHAT COUNTRY HE CAME FROM OR WHEN OR HOW HE RAISED AN ARMY."

"NO RECORDS WHATSOEVER REMAIN REGARDING HIS ACCOUNT PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL ON THE STAGE OF HISTORY."
WHENEVER EMPEROR GAISEREC WENT INTO BATTLE...

SOUNDS KIND OF LIKE GRIFFITH.

FROM THE MERCILESS AND RUTHLESS WAY OF FIGHTING THE EMPEROR WOULD USE AGAINST THOSE ENEMIES WHO OPPOSED HIM, IT SEEMS HE WAS GIVEN SUCH NAMES AS DEMON KING AND THE KING OF GALLOPING DEATH. BUT THERE WAS ONE OTHER REASON FOR THIS...

...HE WOULD DON A DREADFUL HELMET SHAPED AFTER A SKULL.
AFTER THE DISASTER, THE CITY WAS ERASED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH WITHOUT A TRACE IN THE SPAN OF A NIGHT.

“BY LIGHTNING AND GREAT EARTHQUAKES, THE CITY WAS ERASED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH WITHOUT A TRACE IN THE SPAN OF A NIGHT.”

I THINK HE GATHERED WORKERS FROM ALL OVER THE EMPIRE.

AND FORCED THEM THROUGH HARD LABOR TO BUILD A LARGE CAPITAL CITY.

“BUT GOD FINALLY DECIDED HE COULDN’T CONDONE THE SKULL KING’S DEEDS AND SENT FIVE ANGELS.”

THE CITY ENDED UP BECOMING A MELTING POT OF FEASTING AND PLEASURE. AT LEAST I THINK.

THEN THE KING LIVED IN THE ULTIMATE EXTRAVAGANCE WHILE LEVYING HEAVIER AND HEAVIER TAXES ON THE PEOPLE.

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, I THINK HE GATHERED WORKERS FROM ALL OVER THE EMPIRE...

SO, THERE WAS A MODEL FOR IT...

AND FORCED THEM THROUGH HARD LABOR TO BUILD A LARGE CAPITAL CITY.

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, I THINK HE GATHERED WORKERS FROM ALL OVER THE EMPIRE...
AND THAT CITY THAT FELL INTO THE GROUND BY WAY OF NATURAL CALAMITY...

...IS SAID TO BE SLEEPING STILL, JUST AS IT WAS THEN, IN A PLACE UNTouched BY EITHER SUNLIGHT OR WIND.

APPARENTLY THE NAME OF THE CITY MEANT "LAND IN THE MIDDLE OF NATIONS," SO IT RECEIVED THE NAME "MIDLAND."

...AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS HOLE.
"The emperor had no children, so it isn't a direct line..."

"But it is said that even out of all those countries, the Midland Royal Family is the only one that carries Gaiseric's blood."

"It is said the tower of rebirth was built in order to seal that unclean past."

"But not one person returned safely."

"But it seems that after the emperor's death and the collapse of the imperial capital, the continent gradually became the territory covered with assorted countries we know today."

"All of that was taught to me by my history teacher. Is that true?"

"I don't know if it is true or not."

"Also, it is fact that investigative teams have descended this hole many times."

"So that was our unknown history tour. You don't say."

"...We might see some ghosts. But if this place has that much history..."
AW.

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
BLUMER.

...

Ah.
THAT'S IT.

FOR A WHOLE YEAR.

GRIFFITH... HE'S BEEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS DARKNESS.

HIGHNESS.

L-LET ME DOWN, PLEASE.

LORD GRIFFITH!!

LORD GRIFFITH!!
TALK ABOUT STALE...
TH-THAT CANNOT BE!!
I'M SURE IT WAS
THE LOWEST
LEVEL...!!

MAYBE
HE'S IN
ANOTHER
CELL.

SOMEONE'S
HERE!!

SH!!
REUNION IN THE ABYSS
CASCA!!
THE KEY!!

HIS TONGUE, TOO...

HIS ARM AND LEG TENDONS ARE CUT.
GET THE HELL AWAY...
IT CAN'T BE GRIFFITH...

THIS CAN'T...
...BE...

THAT CAN'T BE.
TSH...

GRIFFITH?!
TELL ME!!

WHY? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO LORD GRIFFITH?

LORD GRIFFITH...

WHAT? RELEASE ME!! LET GO...
That's far enough.
D-don't be afraid, your highnessh. I'm kind of a messh to look at.

I-I'm this plache's jailer.

Hey.

I called the sholdiers, too. They'll come running shoon, sho give up nishe and quiet.

'Cause I locked the door. Eeeheeehee.

Yeah, people can't get away now.

Th-thish meansh I've got someh new toysh again.

Y-your highnessh, be patient here a bit longer.

A-and His Highsh Majesty will be happy with me too... Eeeheeehee heehee...
YOU THE ONE?

THE ONE WHO DID ALL THIS TO GRIFFITH?

SH-SH-OH IT'S NOT MY FAULT.

B-BESIDES, HIS MAJESTY SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID I COULDN'T DO WHATEVER I WANTED. SHO I DID.

Even if you hit it with a hammer it don't budge.

N-NO USHE GETTIN' MAD. THIS DOOR ISH FOUR TIMES NORMAL THICKNESS.

I PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO TORTURING HIM.

HEHHHH, I'VE NEVER HAD A PUPIL ASH PRETTY ASH HIM IN MY CARE.
I'd use hot iron, boiling water, you name it. This past year, I've seen to him constantly, like we were husband and wife. I'm also the one who'd nurse him so he wouldn't die. You couldn't split us apart, we wash so close.

First, to keep him from running away, I cut the tendons in his arms and legs. Then whenever he wasn't eating or sleeping, I'd take off his skin and nails.

...I can recognize the beauty of muscles and blood vessels too. Oh, I wash so moved. When I opened up that beautiful face, the pink muscle that peeked out at me from the wound... his skin and flesh are one in a hundred... no, one in a thousand.

And you know, when you're as professional a torturer as I am, beauty isn't just skin deep. When I peel the skin away...

Oh, yeah, yeah. This is the best part of my collection. Look. Eeheeheehee. This, this.

A tongue.

His tongue...
IT'SH NO USHE GETTIN' MAD...
LIKE I SHAD...
Seedin' as how you're gonna die, you ain't gettin' into heaven double-tongued.

Sh-sh-top sh-top sh-top...

Forget it. Your breath reeks too much.

You're goin' to hell.
HEP ME...
HEP...
HEP...
AHHH...

SPEAK CLEARLY.

I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

AIE...

あああ
あああ
もああ
DON'T MOVE!!

ガシャアア！
KEEP UP WITH ME.

GUTS...

【全文】
YOU RESIST ...?!

H-HOW DARE YOU?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! SHOOT, SHOOT!!!
WHO TOLD YOU TO RETREAT?!

F- FOOLS!

STAND YOUR GROUND!! STOP THAT....!! W-WE'LL FALL!!
THAT'S HORRIBLE... BLOODY RAIN...

LORD GRIFFITH...

LORD GRIFFITH...

GRI...

OH!

CHI!

PIPPIN, SEE TO GRIFFITH.

CAN YOU GO ON, YOUR HIGHNESS?
FOR NOW ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS GETTING GRIFFITH OUT OF THIS PLACE.

RIGHT.

FOR NOW.

DON'T FALL BEHIND GUTS!!

LET'S GO!!

HNNN, WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?!!
BESIDES, YOU KNOW THAT'S A STORY THAT HAPPENED IN THE CONFUSION OF A BATTLE AND HAS GOTTEN EXAGGERATED!

THE BAND OF THE HAWK MEANS THAT HUNDRED-MAN KILLER...

BUT CAPTAIN, SIR...

IT SEEMS THEY'VE RETURNED!!

HOW COULD A MERE FOUR INSURGENTS GIVE THIRTY MEN SO MUCH TROUBLE?

SIMPLETON! YOU REALLY THINK THE CAPTAIN OF THE RAIDERS WOULD PERFORM THIS RESCUE HIMSELF?

THINK ABOUT IT. WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THERE ANYONE WHO COULD CUT DOWN A HUNDRED ARMED SOLDIERS? AT THE MOST A DOZEN OR SO...

WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME...
THE HUNDRED-MAN KILLER GUTS!!

TH-THAT'S...!!

I-I KNOW HIM. IT...

THE HAWK'S RAIDERS CAPTAIN GUTS...!!

C- CAPTAIN!!

H-HNBG.

WAIT...

BUT...

SURROUND HIM! ENCIRCLE HIM!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
IN BATTLE IF YOU LET YOUR OPPONENT SEE YOU'RE WINDED, IT'S THE SAME AS THROWING AWAY MOST OF YOUR CHANCE OF VICTORY!!

NOW... THAT YOU MENTION IT...

IN BATTLE IF YOU LET YOUR OPPONENT SEE YOU'RE WINDED, IT'S THE SAME AS THROWING AWAY MOST OF YOUR CHANCE OF VICTORY!!

YOU FOOLS!!

NOW... THAT YOU MENTION IT...

IDIOTS!! HE'S RUN UP ALL THIS WAY SWINGING THAT BIG SWORD AROUND!! SEE FOR YOURSELVES!! HE'S ALREADY OUT OF BREATH!!

WATCH CAREFULLY AND LEARN THE INTENSITY OF THE BATTLEFIELD...

WOP!!
INCREDIBLE... LIKE A WHIRLWIND...
STAY YOUR HANDS, FOOLS!!

FOLLOW HIM!!

AHH!!

?!
BUT
THIS
RATE
Y-
YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY!!

THE
PRIN-
CESS

ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING
MUST EVER
HAPPEN TO
EXPOSE
THE
PRINCESS
TO
DANGER!

NEVER!!

WITH-
DRAW
YOUR
TROOPS
IMMEDI-
ATELY!!

WHAT
WOULD
YOU
DO IF
YOU HIT
CHARLOTTE?!
I won't... I won't let you.

SO, YOU WOULD STEAL MY LIGHT AND RUN...

YOU'VE CRAWLED OUT FROM THE DEPTHS OF DARKNESS TO TAKE MY CHARLOTTE AGAIN...

YOU SHOULD HAVE ROTTED AWAY BENEATH THAT TOWER LONG AGO...

SIRE?

BAKIRAKA...

MAJESTY...

Damn you, Griffith...

Damn you...

TH—THE BAKIRAKA!!
BAKIRAKA, CHAPTER 1
HIGHLY SKILLED IN ASSASSINATION, THEY'RE ALSO CALLED A MURDERER'S GUILD AND AN ASSASSINATION ORDER.

THE FULL STORY IS COMPLETELY SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.

IN A WAY, THEY'RE MORE FRIGHTENING THAN AN ARMY OF TEN THOUSAND.

NOW LISTEN...

DO AWAY WITH EVERY LAST ONE OF THOSE TRYING TO TAKE THE PRINCESS FROM THIS CASTLE.

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE EMPLOYED HERE IN MIDLAND...

B-BAKIRA.

CAPTAIN, WHAT ON EARTH ARE BAKIRAKA...?

I DON'T KNOW MUCH MYSELF, BUT...

BUT THERE ARE STORIES CLAIMING THAT IN THE FORMER TIME OF WAR, A HUNDRED RULERS, VASSALS, AND THE LIKE FROM ASSORTED COUNTRIES FELL VICTIM TO THEM.
IF TO THAT END THE FIVE OF YOU MUST CAST AWAY YOUR OWN LIVES... I CARE NOT IN THE LEAST!!

IF BY SOME CHANCE EVEN THE TIP OF ONE OF CHARLOTTE'S NAILS COMES TO HARM, THEN THE ENTIRE MIDLAND ARMY SHALL WIPE THE BAKIRAKA CLAN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH UNTIL NONE REMAIN!!

PRESENT CHARLOTTE BEFORE ME...

NOW GO!!

...ALONG WITH GRIFFITH'S HEAD!!
DID I IMAGINE IT?

BUT THE SOLDIERS' ATTACKS SEEMED TO STOP PARTWAY THROUGH...

S-SOMEHOW, WE MADE IT THIS FAR...
The princess is frightened.

At least wipe the blood off.
NOW LET'S HURRY

ONCE WE GET UNDERGROUND WE'RE GOOD TO GO.
WHAT'D I DO TO DESERVE THIS...?
WHAT ABOUT MY REMITTANCE TO MY PARENTS...

AHH... JUST WHEN I'D SERVED FOR FIVE YEARS DIRECTLY IN THE PALACE
AND THOUGHT I FINALLY HAD THE HONOR OF ATTENDING TO THE PRINCESS...

.....

YES, YES, I KNOW!
I'M DESPERATE ANYWAY! I'LL STAY WITH YOU TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

I'M SORRY, ANNA.
BUT TAKE HEART.
YES, I DON'T CARE HOW I LOOK.

SHE'S CHANGED SOMEHOW...

THIS WAY IT'S EASIER TO RUN.

I DON'T MIND.

THE WAITING SERVANTS, I DON'T NEED THEM.

THE WARM FIREPLACE...

I'M SURE EVEN HIS WOUNDS WILL HEAL.

IT'S ALRIGHT IF HE CAN'T SPEAK.

FOREVER... AND EVER.

WE'LL BE TOGETHER.
GET DOWN!
WHAT WAS THAT?!

WHAAAA...!

IT'S STILL NEARBY!!

BE ON GUARD!!
Looks like some monsters are living beneath Windham.

Eh? Baki-Raka...
The king must have really snapped.

To think that he'd sic them on us...

But specializing in assassination.

I'd heard that each and every one's a superhuman monster, but these guys surpass even the rumor.

A mercenary band.
HIGHNESS?!
BAKIRAKA, CHAPTER 2
HIGHNESS!!
DON'T MOVE.

BLUNDERING FOOL.

WAIT!!

!
WE WANT YOU TO HAND OVER THE PRINCESS.

IN EXCHANGE, WE GUARANTEE HER LIFE.

IF LEFT UNTREATED, SHE WILL SURELY DIE WITHIN A SHORT TIME.

AN EXCHANGE...

THE BLOWDART WHICH STRUCK THE PRINCESS WAS POISONED.

SAY WHAT?
DON'T WORRY, IT WILL GO BADLY FOR US IF SHE DIES.

WE POSSESS THE ANTIDOTE.

WHAT'LL YOU DO?

NOW...

HIGHNESS!!

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR CHOICE!!

YOU SURE?

WE'LL GRANT YOUR EXCHANGE.

N'ER. ALRIGHT.
IT'S UNAVOIDABLE...

YOU THERE, MAID-SERVANT. BRING THE PRINCESS HERE. GOOD.

YOUR HIGNESS, PLEASE HANG ON.

YOU ARE OUTSIDE OUR CONTRACT. IF YOU DON'T RESIST, WE WON'T KILL YOU.
TOGETHER...

WAYS...

...
WELL, every. J

IT WAS SHORT WHILE,

BUT THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

W-WELL, EVERYONE.

THANKS ...

TH ...
WE TAKE YOUR LIVES.

NOW THEN...
FORM A RING AROUND GRIFFITH!!

NOW!!
DON'T!! THAT FROG THING'S STILL AROUND!!

THEY'RE SNIPING US!! DOUSE THE LIGHT!!

STAY FOCUSED, STUPID!!

YOU OKAY?!

A JAVELIN.

WHAT WAS THAT?

IT JUST FELT LIKE A CANNON.
We're gonna die before we can get close. Now, what?!

His aim's dead on!!

I'll put out the light.
I have an idea.

No time to explain.

Guess you can pay admission later.

Time for my street show.

Pippin—when I give the signal, hit the wall as hard as you can with your war hammer.
FOOLS. THEY'VE PUT OUT THEIR LIGHT.

...WILL RIP YOU ALL APART!!

THE HOOK CLAWS AND HARPOON...

JUDEAU,
WE'LL SEE THE ENEMY BY THE SPARKS!!

HIT IT AS HARD AS YOU CAN!!

NOW, PIPPIN!!
BAKIRAKA (2): END
FLOWER OF THE STONE CASTLE
I never thought it'd work this well.

The javelins striking the wall and scattering sparks made me think of it.

Way to go, Judeau!!

You used sparks to see the enemy's position!!

Okay. Judeau, light the lantern again!

Sniff

You smell something? Hey.
WHAT IS THAT...?!

RUN TO THE EXIT!!

WHAT'S WRONG, PIPPIN?

DON'T LIGHT IT!!
THE DUST CAUGHT FIRE!! IF IT CATCHES UP TO US, EVEN OUR LUNGS'LL BE BURNT BLACK!!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING HURRY!!

WHY...?!

FIRE?!
GET DOWN!!
WHAT HAPPENED?
FIRE WILL GUSH UPWARDS TO A WIDER SPACE.

THE SAME ACCIDENT HAPPENED AT A MINE I USED TO WORK IN.

GRIFFITH SHOWED ME THE LITTLE BIT OF MOONLIGHT COMING THROUGH THE CEILING.

WOW! THAT WAS QUICK THINKING.

GRIFFITH DID?

THE EXIT'S NOT FAR!

LET'S HURRY!
I'D NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF ANY HARM CAME TO THE PRINCESS!! ON TOP OF THAT YOU LET HIM GET AWAY...!!!
I forced her to be part of it.

Please... forgive Anna...

Now, you don't worry about a thing, just get rest.

Of course... of course.

Anna wasn't involved.

Ah... I... ahhh...
YOU AND HE STILL...

YOU...

...LORD GRIFFITH...

...OR MOVE... HIS HANDS... OR FEET...

...CAN NO LONGER SPEAK...

SURELY YOUR MAJESTY IS SATISFIED BY NOW.

HE SUFFERED ENOUGH IN THE DARKNESS A WHOLE YEAR.

PLEASE...

VERY WELL...

DON'T TAKE ANYTHING ELSE AWAY FROM HIM...
YOU MAY BE AT EASE.

I WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THAT MAN AGAIN.

SO YOU SHOULD CEASE WORRYING ABOUT ANYTHING AND GIVE YOURSELF OVER TO REST.

I SWEAR.

REALLY...

THANK GOODNESS, YOUR HIGHNESS!!

I WILL SEE YOU TO THE PALACE, YOUR HIGHNESS.

THANK YOU....

...FATHER.
MAJESTY...

SEND OUT THE BLACK DOGS.

YOU CAN'T MEAN A BUNCH LIKE THEM...?!

THE BLACK DOGS...

M-MAJESTY, PLEASE RECONSIDER USING MEN SUCH AS THOSE...!!

...TO PURSUE GRIFFITH'S PARTY AND ANNihilATE THEM.

ORDER THE BLACK DOG KNIGHTS...
THEY'RE A DISGRACE TO THE MIDLAND ARMY!!

DO NOT REFER TO THEM AS KNIGHTS!!

HE'S LIKE...
... A BEAST.

... THAT MAN CALLED WYALD... THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM...

CAPTAIN...

WHY MUST HIS MAJESTY USE SUCH SCUM?!!

I MEAN, I KNOW THAT THE BLACK DOG KNIGHTS ARE MADE UP OF FORMER CRIMINALS...

AND IT WASN'T AS MUCH AS THE BAND OF THE HAWK, BUT DIDN'T THEY DO REALLY WELL IN THE WAR...?

TELL THE LEADER OF THE BLACK DOG KNIGHTS, WYALD...

... HE CAN NAME HIS POSITION AND REWARD IF HE BRINGS ME GRIFFITH'S HEAD.

SIR?

BE-SIDES, THAT MAN...
CAN'T YOU TELL BY LOOKIN', MORON? I'M BUSY NOW.

BOSS! WE'VE GOT ORDERS TO MOVE!
I gotta go take care of a little business today.

Something about the boss of the band of the hawk breaking out of jail or something...

Oh yeah? But it's an order, direct from the king.

What?

That business I mentioned...

It's him.

Now that's funny.
FLOVER OF THE STONE CASTLE: END

IT'S WITH THAT HAWK BOSS.
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!
Warrior supreme Guts has returned, and just in time to save the weakened Band of the Hawk from certain destruction . . . and to form an intimate bond with the beautiful Hawk captain, Casca. But job one is to find a way to free Griffith, the Hawks’ leader, from the dank dungeons and round-the-clock tortures of the Hawks’ former benefactor, the King of Midland. But while the flayed and starved Griffith may be in isolation, he is not alone. Horrors beyond imagination await Guts and the Hawks in the catacombs, and those who die may just be the lucky ones!

Created by Kentaro Miura, Berserk is a smoking manga chainsaw, a sweeping epic of gripping action, ghastly horror, and graveyard humor that has produced an army of fanatical readers and countless shellshocked civilians. Duck and cover!

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