Berserk

ベルセルク14

三浦建太郎
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WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!

YOU SAID THIS MAKES TWICE YOU'VE CARRIED ME?!

I'M THE ONE WHO CARRIED YOU BOTH FROM THAT OTHERWORLDLY LAND.

HAS SOME CONNECTION.  THIS, TOO...

DON'T THANK ME. IT WAS INCIDENTAL.

WHAT...?!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
THAT'S ALL I'LL SAY FOR NOW.

I AM THE FOE OF THE INHUMANS.

WELL...

I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS PLACE.

WHY'D YOU BRING US TO THESE MOUNTAINS?

...I MERELY BROUGHT YOU TO THE NEAREST SAFE PLACE TO THAT OTHERWORLDLY GATE.

IT WAS A MOST SUITABLE PLACE IN WHICH TO HIDE FROM THOSE OF THE DARKNESS.

EVEN THOUGH THE ELVES HAVE LEFT, THE EARTH’S ENERGY IS STRONG.

FORMERLY, ELVES LIVED IN THOSE MOUNTAINS.

...WAS THE ELF DUST THAT YOUR FRIEND BY CHANCE HAD WITH HIM.

LIKEWISE, WHAT SAVED YOU FROM DEATH...

OH YEAH, GOOD MENTIONED THAT ONCE...

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SOME CONNECTION TO THE PLACE.

IT WAS CHANCE.
IT IS NOT EASY TO COME BY. MEDICINE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.

SELDOM DO ELVES REVEAL THEMSELVES TO HUMANS.

MAYBE YOU HAVE SOME TIE... TO THE ELVES.

...DUST?

... ELF...

... ...

EVEN SO, I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE NO DESIRE TO BELIEVE IN DESTINY AND SUCH.

NOT NOW...

YEAH...

HM...

...WHY IS CASCA...

BUT IF WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HIDE OURSELVES...
...She has to stay inside that cellar...?

Casca does...?

Then that means from now on...

If she doesn't want the evil spirits to approach, she mustn't leave that place.

Perhaps she's gone outside the ore cave.

All the better if it's a place in the sunlight. But once the sun sets, or if she walks into a dark forest, the dead will gather around her.

Hey, wait a minute!!

*Fx leap

There!!
WAIT!!

CAS!!

SOMETHING'S WRONG.

WHAT??!

...YET SO MANY ARE GATHERED.

THE EVIL SPIRITS AIN'T INFLECTING HARM UPON HER ...

WHY?
YOU OKAY?!
ARE YOU HURT?!

HEY!!

TCH!
TOO LATE--
THE DAMAGE IS ALREADY DONE!!

CASCA!!

AH...

CASCA...?!

AHH...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

FX SQUEEZE

CAS ...?!

LIGH...

FX SCRATCH

NN... AH...

AHH...!!

HEGH...
A DEMON ...?!
...was with child.

...probably due to her sexual relations with the new Godhand.

...was possessed by evil.

That shapeless fetus, which was only just conceived...
AND SO...

...IT HAS TAKEN ON THE NATURE OF A DEMON.

IT'S A CURSED CHILD.
Hold on a minute!!

IT WOULD BE BEST TO KILL IT. THAT’S NO HUMAN CHILD. SOMEDAY IT WILL BRING WOE UPON YOU BOTH.

That means it’s...

Wait...

That means....

Shut up!!

Ahh...

Ahh...
NO...!!

ONE OF THOSE WHO...

THIS IS A DEMON.

...DEVoured OUR COMRADES AND MADE YOU THIS WAY.
NO...!!
... IT'S YOUR CHILD.

... OOOO ...

... AU ...

LIKE THE OTHER EVIL SPIRITS CHASED BY THE LIGHT, IT HAS SLIPPED INTO A PLACE NEARER THE WORLD OF THE DEAD.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN IT HAS BECOME DUST.

ALL CHILDREN YEARN FOR THEIR PARENTS.

SOMEDAY IT WILL APPEAR BEFORE YOU BOTH AGAIN.

DEMONS, IN THEIR OWN WAY.

AS DO...
FAREWELL.

RICKERT! GUY'S!!

GOOD JOURNEY...

BUT, MIND THIS...

YOURS IS A BLACK PATH THROUGH THE NIGHT.

WHEN YOU CONFRONT THOSE WHO LURK IN THE DARKNESS, YOU ALSO ENVELOP YOURSELF IN IT.

IF YOU MEAN TO PURSUE THE INHUMANS, FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE OF THAT BRAND. IT REACTS STRONGLY TO EVIL.

WE WILL LIKELY MEET AGAIN, SHOULD DESTINY DICTATE...

...STRUGGLER.

DEMON INFANT: END
ARMAMENT
*FX. CRAWL*

WHOA! WHOA!

*DUMBASS BASTARD!!*

*FX. BLASHAAA*

WHAT'RE YOU Doin' IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD?!

*FX. SNIFF SNIFF*

HEY, MAN...

H-HEY...
DON'T GIT INVOLVED.
WHAT IS THAT?

S'BAD NEWS.

SUN LIPS AND VANISHES.

GOD'S SAKE.

NOTHIN' BUT BAD OMENS HAPPENIN'...

SACRIFICE...

*FX: SNIFF SNIFF

*FX: SNIFF
*FX: FEEL FEEL

*FX: CLIK CLAK

H-HOLD ON NOW, ERICA...

SHOULD WE REALLY BE...?

SHH! THIS WAY.
SO MANY WEAPONS AND ARMOR....!

HE WAS A GENIUS WHO'D MAKE ANYTHING HE WAS ASKED!

HE USED TO MAKE SWORDS AND ARMOR FOR THE LOCAL LORD!

THEY SAY MY DADDY'S SO GOOD, HE'S REALLY FAMOUS IN TOWN!

...AND LOTS MORE.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS?

AND THAT'S NOT ALL. BOWS AND ARROWS, CANNONS, SPURS, HORSESHOES...
A king sent out a proclamation long ago...

...to bring him a sword that could kill a dragon...

"Make 'em refined, make 'em elegant..."

At that time, I'd gotten sick of doing work for nobles.
I don't like losin' track of the essence of a tool, but that's exactly what I did here.

Now it's a good reminder.

But if anyone could handle this, it'd still just be a hindrance.

I almost got hung out to dry...

Mighty things, things that could kill. That's all there was for me.

I sure was young back then.

Swords are just large butcher knives, after all.

Tools meant for killing people.

...as it was described.

And so I forged it...

I didn't lose track of the essence of a tool.

So I ran away from the castle town, and I've lived here quietly since.
"This really kill?

...A dragon?

...Kill one?

Can it...

...Dragons.

If there were any...

"Seems to want to fight even after losing his hand and eye."

"He ain't up to the job, is he?"

"Your friend looks like he's about to fight a dragon, though."

"It's a meaningless slab of iron you can't even lift..."

"For killin' dragons and monsters that ain't even real."

"Ex. Gulp"

But you know, this ain't even what you'd call a sword."
You...

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.

Yeah.

Yeah.

...YOU LEAVE...

SO TOMORROW...

GUTS WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING.

...DON'T HAVE TO...

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

BUT... I REALLY DO REALIZE.

BUT THE BAND OF THE HAWK IS...

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

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I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

BUT THE BAND OF THE HAWK IS...

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.
WE GOT IT MADE TODAY. ERICA REALLY OUTDID HERSELF.

BET YOU'RE HUNGRY.

... ... ...
BEFORE, SHE'D TRY TO RUN JUST CAUSE I WAS HERE.

BETTER THAN A MONTH AGO.

*FX SLURP

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', IDIOT?!

*FX CLATTER

IT'S GONNA SCALD!! STRIP!!

*FX SCRATCH
... *FX WHIMP*  *FX DASH*

*FX GCHANG GCHANG*  *FX GCHANG GCHANG*  *FX GCHANG GCHANG*

*FX AAAA*

*FX GCHANG GCHANG*  *FX AAAA*  *FX GCHANG GCHANG*  *FX GCHANG GCHANG*  *FX AAAA*  *FX GCHANG GCHANG*  *FX GCHANG GCHANG*
YOU CAN USE KNIVES, GUTS?

I HAD JUDEAL TEACH ME THE ROPES A LONG TIME AGO. IT'S NOT MY STYLE, SO THAT'S AS FAR AS WE WENT.
'FX STAND

THERE.

...I'll need this time.

IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING...

SAYY, WHY ARE YOUR CLOTHES AND ARMOR ALL BLACK?

...ARE IN THE DARKNESS...

THEY...

BECAUSE I'LL BE FIGHTING IN LOTS OF DARK PLACES.
Hey, Guts. Give me your left arm.

Huhn?

Trust me.

Like umm this, and...

*FX GACHING*

Yuhup.

...little reason why it's groovy.

Here, there's this too.

I made it from stuff in Master Sogo's storehouse. It's magnetized, so you can grip a sword too.

Artificial arm, huh? It's groovy.

Let's see... face that rock and point the hand at it.

Hnn?

I helped, tooooo.
HECK, I'LL JUST MAKE HIM WORK OFF THE COST OF THE FOOD AND ARMS.

I OWE YOU A LOT.

THIS IS WHY THEY SAY MERCENARIES AIN'T NO BETTER THAN THIEVES.

GOOD GRIEF! GOIN' THROUGH A MAN'S STOCK IN TRADE AND TAKIN' WHATEVER YOU WANT.

IF YOU'RE CAREFUL WITH IT, IT SHOULDN'T NICK AT ALL.

I JUST FORGED IT. IT AIN'T MY BEST, BUT IT'S DAMN FINE.

BUT YOU WON'T GET FAR WITHOUT THIS.

MY FAREWELL GIFT. TAKE IT AND GO. I DUNNO WHO YOU'RE GONIN' OFF TO FIGHT, OR WHERE...
*FX. SNIFF SNIFF*

*FX. SHAAAA*

*FX. HUFF HUFF*

FOUND YOU...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WAIT!! AND WHO'RE YOU?

NOT GOOD.

LEFTOVERS.

HE'S MY GUEST...

MY...

NOSE...

...IS REALLY GOOD.

I FOLLOWED THE SCENT OF EVIL...

*FX: SHAAA

ARMAMENT: END
HE WHO HUNTS DRAGONS
EVERYBODY STAY BACK!!

FX: KRISH KRISH

GUTS!! IT'S...!!
OWAHHH THE HELL?!

FX: GUFUHNN...

URGE TO KILL...

THE FIRST ONE...
MY LUCKY DAY...

ANY FEAR...

...BLACKING OUT...
THIS RESPONSE...

WILL IT WORK...?!

WILD GAME.

*FX GRRRR

WH—WHAT IN DAMNATION...

MII...

FACE, SACK...

...IN MY HUNT.

IT'S THE FIRST...
I doubt it would nick, no matter how many people he cut with it...

...for cuttin’ inhuman things!

...but I didn’t make that...

Oh, wow!!!

This is bad.

Huh...? 
*FX: VMM

*FX: BACH

*FX: BOAASSSH

*FX: BAKINNG
"FX GARRRR"

"FOOD"

"FX KLARANN"

"GUTS . . .!!

OH, NO!!

"FX REEL REEL . . .!!

"FX ZUSSH ZUSSH

"I DON'T....

THINK SO!!

"FX GSHANG"
...THE HELL DID I SURVIVE?!!

POINT IT AT THAT THING!! HURRY!!

YOUR ARTIFICIAL HAND!!

GUTS!!

...?

PULL THE METAL PART AT THE BASE!

*FX: GREE
I'M HUNGRY!!

FX GACHING

FX LUNGE

FX DOOOM
YOU GOTA BE KIDDIN' ME.

YOW!

FX SSSSSS

FX CHULD CHULP

FX VSSSSSH

FX WAOHNN

H-HE'S GOT A CANNON IN HIS ARM!?!?

OWN ...

TOO MUCH SUL-PONDER

MY SHOUL-DER...

FX GACHING

IT'S OUTTA JOINT!
*FX: BAGONNING

*FX: STEP

*FX: OHHH

*FX: SHRRAP
YOU GOT SOMETHIN' MUCH BETTER SUITED TO MY FIGHT.

YOU CAN WIELD IT.

THAT THING....!!

YOU'RE JUST FULLA SURPRISES...

"FX, SHIVER SHIVER"

YOU HELD OUT ON ME, GODD...
...he's scary.
Guts, right now...

"Dragons are dragons because humans can't beat 'em."
...Who beats dragons...?

So, what's a man...

You're not...

...Going to say anything to Casca...

...Nah...

But the band of the hawk...

I don't want to believe it...

I don't want to admit it...

Guts, listen...

What I think...

...Is that maybe you should stay here...
WE'RE STILL HERE.

THE BAND OF THE HAWK AIN'T GONE YET.

NOT YET.

...BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING REVENGE FOR DEAD PEOPLE...

...YOU SHOULD BE WITH CASCA NOW...

IT AIN'T OVER.

...HUUH ...

AIN'T OVER.

THIS WAR...

SHE'S OUR LEADER.

PROTECT HER.

TAKE CARE OF CASCA.

RIGHT?

...SO I'LL RAID THE ENEMY CAMP.

I'M CAPTAIN OF THE RAIDERS...
Maybe any reason was good enough.

War... revenge...

But one thing's for sure...

...there's some dismal rage inside me...

Right now...

...supporting these two feet.

...and that's all there is...

It pushes me...

...to walk onward.
ON THAT DAY, THE DEAD SUN HUNG OVER ALL NATIONS.
LET US PRAY.

MOM DOESN'T KNOW EITHER, BUT IT'S A BAD Omen.

OKAY.

MOM, WHAT'S THAT...

WHAT WAS THAT?

HEY, MOM.

WOWW.
WHY IS THE ARMY OF THE HOLY SEE HERE...?!?!

NOTE: The Holy See is essentially the central government of the papacy.

THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS!!

...THEM...!

HEYYY, HEYYY. THE MOTHER PILGRIM BACK THERE WAS QUITE THE BEAUTY. IS SHE YOUR TYPE, VICE-COMMANDER AZAN? I'LL BET SHE'S A WARRIOR.

OH, YOU'RE SO UPTIGHT. ANXIOUS OLD MEN ARE PITIFUL, YOU KNOW.

PRECISELY HOW DO YOU REGARD THIS DUTY OF APOCALYPTIC INQUIRY?!

A MIRACLE OF OUR SOLEMN AND DREADFUL GOD IS BEFORE YOUR EYES, AND YOU LET THEM STRAY OVER A MERE WOMAN...? YOU UNGRATEFUL DOG!!

MIND YOURSELF, SERPICO!!

THIS IS WHY YOU'RE STILL SINGLE AT YOUR AGE.
WE'RE ON A MISSION.

COULD YOU PUT AN END TO IT?

THAT'S NOT FASHIONABLE THESE DAYS.

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!! I'M SOMETHING OF A CLERGYMAN, AND I'VE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF WEDDING!

YOU TWO!!

WE'VE FOUND IT!!

WE...

WHAT IS IT?

SHE GOT ANGRY, HEEHEE.

FX BDADUMP

AT LAST...

"FX MUTTER MUTTER"

R-REALLY...?

F-FOUND IT...?!

IT'S YOUR FAULT. DON'T "HEEHEE" ME.
OH, DEAR LORD....!!

TO THINK THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD REALLY APPEAR....

IT IS PROOF THAT THE FIFTH ANGEL WILL ALIGHT...

A RED LAKE WILL APPEAR TO THE WEST OF THE CITY WITH A NAME BOTH NEW AND OLD.

IT SURELY IS THE RED LAKE, AS THE PROPHECY FORETOLD!! N-NO MISTAKE.

THE REVELATIONS SAY THAT WHEN THE SUN DIES FIVE TIMES...

THE ANGEL IS THE HAWK OF DARKNESS.

THE MASTER OF THE SINFUL BLACK SHEEP, THE KING OF THE BLIND WHITE SHEEP.
...shall call down upon the world an age of darkness.
TALK ABOUT TOUGH TIMES!

FEH!

TWO YEARS LATER

LOOKS LIKE THINGS'RE SHRIVELIN' UP IN THESE PARTS.

LATELY THERE AIN'T BEEN NOTHIN' WORTH PLUNDERIN', AND NOW THIS RAIN.

WELL, EVEN SO, SHE'LL BE WORTH SOMETHIN' WHEN WE SELL HER OFF.

ONLY GOOD'S WE CAUGHT THIS SCRAWNY KID WANDERIN' THE FOREST.
HE LIKES HER.

OH! SHEESH...

*FX HOP

*FX WHOCK

*FX LICK

AHH?

BY THE WAY, YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS TREE...?

THAT'S PATHETIC, MAN!

FOOL.

*FX GAAHAAH

WHAT 'BOUT IT?
IT WAS A RITUAL OF SACRIFICE.

IT'S SAID THEY'D STAKE PEOPLES' INTESTINES TO A TREE AND MAKE 'EM WALK AROUND IT ONCE.

A LONG TIME AGO...

...HERETICS WHO BELIEVED IN FOREST SPIRITS LIVED 'ROUN' HERE.

HERETICS?

THIS TREE'S...

...ONE OF 'EM.

THIS PLACE IS CREEPY ENOUGH ALREADY.

HEY, LAY OFF THE BAD JOKES.

THIS ONE?

THINK IT'S A JOKE?

LOOK.
...at all the bumps.

Don't they look like human faces?

Look real close...

Enough, already...

I'll bet those're the faces of people who got nailed to this tree.

Heehee, ain't it obvious?

Hey dig, what're you doin'?

Intestin'.

Kehee...

'Fx yank

Hey, get up, bitch!
WE CAN JUST SNATCH ANOTHER WOMAN!!
FORGET ABOUT IT--WE GOTTA SELL HER.

BY THE WAY, I WANTA...

SEE IF SHE CAN REALLY WALK AROUND A TREE EVEN ONCE WITH HER GLUTS NAILED TO IT.

BESIDES, I WANNA...

THAT RITUAL THING.

L-LET'S TRY IT.

BESIDES, I WANNA...

TCH! THAT BOY'S SICK IN THE HEAD.

LEAVE THE FOOL BE.

EEEHEE, DON'T MOVE OR THIS'LL HURT.
カグラ
カグラ

*FX RMMBSLL
A FOREST GHOST...?!
CAN'T EVEN CATCH A WINK.

TEH!

NO, I DIDN'T.

Y-YOU MADE A FOOL A' ME.

H-HOW LONG'VE YOU BEEN THERE, BASTARD?!

WE COULD ALWAYS DRAG OUT YOUR BOWELS INSTEAD OF THE GIRL'S.

FX SLURP

FX PAT PAT

D-DON'T SCREW WITH ME, MAN...

SINCE LONG BEFORE YOU ALL STARTED JABBERING.
NEVER MIND THAT.

WAS THAT STORY TRUE?

Huh?

ABOUT THIS TREE.
STAKING INTESTINES AND ALL THAT.

SURE... SO WHAT OF IT? YOU WANNA JOIN THE CLUB?

HEH? THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS...

Huh?

FEH! THIS SUCKS. I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT OUT OF THE RAIN UNDER SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS. NO SLEEP'S MAKIN' ME STUPID.
...but you'd best get outta here now...

If you don't wanna die.

Don't ya realize the position you're in now?

That's the last thing I expected from this fool.

Leave all your arms and goods and split.

Well... I'll give ya one chance.

Ya won't get away with it.

That's too bad, how ya made my buddy bleed.

Heheh...
SORRY.

BUT ONE ARM’S ALL I’VE GOT.
MADE OF IRON?
A FAKE ARM.
WHA...?

WE'LL BE TAKING IT, ALONG WITH YOUR LIFE.

Y-YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE RARITY THERE, PAL.

WAIT...

YOU BEGIN? 'CAUSE IT'S WAY TOO LATE.

YEAH...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT IS TOO LATE.
*FX. KRNCH KRNCH

*FX. KRAK KRAK

*FX. HNNNNN

*FX. UWAHHH

M-MONSTER!!

RUN....!!
...much too big to be called a sword.

...It was...

Now it's really too wet for firewood.

HEH...

*FX: CLATA CLATA

*FX: FLAPA

*FX: VSSSHHH

*FX: GYAHHHH
MASSIVE, THICK, HEAVY, AND FAR TOO ROUGH.

Indeed, it was like a slab of raw iron.

Conviction Arc
Lost Children Chapter
The Black Swordsman, Once More: END
IN A CERTAIN FOREST DEEP WITHIN A MOUNTAIN RAVINE...

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE THE BLACK SUN APPEARED.

...THERE WAS A MONSTER.
A man bearing a gigantic, slab-like iron sword longer than his own body...

CONVICTION ARC
LOST CHILDREN CHAPTER

CALMLY PLACED HIMSELF BEFORE THE MONSTER.

THE ELVES OF MISTY VALLEY
FX CRACK

W-WOW !!!!

FX. AOHNN

FX WHHH
FIRST I'VE SEEN THE SUN IN THREE DAYS...
THE DEATH-STRIKE BLOODY NEEDLE.

THEY ALWAYS HOWL GOOD N' LOUD WHEN THEY GET ONE A' THESE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I ASKED YA TO BEAT UP THOSE BANDITS, GLITS.

*FX: MBEE

IT'S WHAT I LIKE TO DO, RIGHT?

POKIN' YOUR NOSE INTO THINGS.

SO IT WAS YOU, BUG.

WHO KNEW THAT MONSTER'D BE...

WELL, GUESS IT IS TRUE THAT I USED YA.

*FX: CHUNK

NOOOOOOO!

NOOOOO!

CRY-BABIES.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT AFTER WE SAVED YA...

WHAA...?

I'M NO FREAKY BUG.
Misty Valley...

AN ELF FROM...

Misty Valley...

Misty Valley...?
F-FIRST
A MONSTER,
AND NOW
ELVES?!

IT IS
A FAIRY
TALE.

D-D-D-DEAR
GOD...

THIS AIN'T
SOME KIDS'
FAIRY TALE.
THIS IS A FAIRY TALE FOR CHILDREN.

YES.
PRETTY RUN DOWN...

OVER THERE.

*FX: KAWWWW KAWWWW

THAT'S MY VILLAGE.
*FX.HYOOOMOON*

*FX GREEE*

*FX CLATA CLATA*

*FX.MEOOMMW*

...
TOTALLY RUN DOWN.

LOOKS...

JILL?!

FX SNEAK

FX KREE

FX FLINCH

FX BTAM

JILL...

YOU...
WHAAT? JILL?

WHERE THE HELL YOU BEEN WANDERIN' ALL NIGHT, AHHH?

RUNNIN' OUT LIKE THAT ALL'VA SHUDDEN...

D' sticks, please stop. She's come back safe, after all...

S... SO WHAT?

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL NIGHT, GIRL?!

ALL RIGHT, MOM. SHHH! SHHH!

HUUH.

JILL.

FX REEL

SHAY WHA?...

WASH JUST REMINISHIN' 'BOUT THE GLORY OF THE BATTLEFIELD!!

FX HEYIKK

...STILL DRINKING, THIS ENTIRE TIME...

YE SHTUPID RUNT!! ME AND MUIE WAR BUDDIES HERE...
SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

*FX TWITCH

HI, JILL. GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE OKAY.

*FX HEHEH

*FX HIC

*FX SKRICH SKRICH

YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP DRINKING?!

JILL, STOP THAT...!

DAY AFTER DAY YOU BABBLE ON ABOUT SOME OLD BATTLE YOU LOST!!

ENOUGH ALREADY!!

WHY DON'T YOU THINK ABOUT US SOME...?!

THAT BEIN' SHAD, GO BLY SHOME BOOZE.
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE YOU KNOW MORE THAN A KID!!
LSED BATTLE...? OLD BABBLE...?

*I X KRASSH

I SERVED MY COUNTRY, CRAWLING AROUND UNDER CANNONBALLS, AND CAME AWAY WITH A BLIM LEG.

WE FUGHT OUR HEARTS OUT SO OUR WIVES AND CHILDREN COULD LIVE IN SAFETY.

OUTTA THE WAY!!

WHAT'S THAT LOOK...?

APOLLO- GIZE TO YOUR FATHER JILL!

*FX WHAP

MOM!!

WHAT?

...
WHAT WAS THAT LOOK FOR...?!

WHAT, HUH, WHAAAT !?!

*FX WHACK WHACK

THOSE THE EYES YOU USE TO LOOK AT THE FATHER WHO RISKED HIS LIFE FOR HIS FAMILY ?!

...BE NICER TO ME!!

YOU GOTTA... Gotta...

YOU GOTTA SHOW ME MORE RESPECT!!

*FX WHUP

*FX WHAP

*FX TWITCH

OWA JAHH!

*FX BISH
WHEN DID YOU...?

NEE...

DIE.

BLOODY...

DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS.

IT WAS THIS...

WH- WHO'RE YOU?!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOIN'?!?

LIH, NO.
AN...

AN ELF... !!!

HE'S GOT AN ELF WITH HIM!!!

STAY BACK, STAY BAAAACK!!

YEEE!!

GOOD GRIEF, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THESE PEOPLE?

WHAT DID I DO?

I WON'T HURT YOU AGAIN...

LIM ...

JILL! YOU HURRY AND GET IN THE HOUSE....!

THAT ELF SAVED ME!

N-NO, MOM!

HE'S NOT FROM THE MISTY...
DOES YOUR KIND SWARM ABOUT AND EAT CROPS?
YOU'RE GONNA HAND THAT ELF OVER TO US PEACEFULLY.

DOESN'T SEEM TALKING'S GETTING US ANYWHERE. BLOODBIRTHSTY EYES.

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! SKEEEDADLE!

*FX WHAP WHAP

OH BOY.

BUT FIRST I WANT TO KNOW WHY.

NO IT ISN'T!

HE'S NOT ONE OF THE MISTY VALLEY ELVES...!

YOU'RE WRONG!!

OTHERWISE WE'LL BEAT YOU DEAD!!

SHUT UP!! JUST GIVE IT HERE!!

JILL! JUST COME INSIDE THE HOUSE!!

YEAH!!

DADDLE

*FX SWING
...GIVE ME BACK MY GRANDCHILD

GIVE...

OLD LADY...

I SCREWED UP...

H-HE ATTACKED THAT OLD WOMAN....!

GET IN THE POUCH!!

MAYBE THEY'LL CALM DOWN IF I KILL ONE OR TWO...?

GUTS, DON'T--!!
DON'T LET THE ELF ESCAPE ALIVE!!

*FX DASH

*FX RAHHH RAHHH

D-DON'T LET 'EM GO!!
Why'd it turn out like this?

I mean, what's the big idea?! Catch the charmin' little elf and beat him to death?! They're psychos! A den o' twisted sex offenders!

That's supposed to be an elf's privilege? M'raagh! Don't you get that?! Someone oughta beat your attitides into shape!!

Bizarre character. This one... Usually elves're synonymous with cuteness! When a head or two 'a cattle gets stolen, ain't it a happy old tradition in backwoods joints like this to just smile and say it was just a mischievous elf?!?

Ignoramus.

I'll get them.

Some arson, maybe?

FX CLAK CLAK
MISTER SWORDS-MAN?
LITTLE ELF?

SINCE WHEN DID MY SATCHEL BECOME YOUR NECK?
DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS! JUST THINK OF IT AS HAVIN' PICKED UP A GOOD LUCK CHARM.
MEANS YER LUCK.

"FX WHAP"

WHAT'S LUCKY ABOUT YOU? MY LUCK JUST TOOK A NOSEDIVE.

"FX HNNNN"

THANKS TO THAT, I MISSED OUT ON SOME VALUABLE INFO.
I'M PUCK. ARE YOU OKAY, JILL?

IF ONLY I'D WARNED YOU AHEAD OF TIME...

NO KIDDING.

...THIS WOULDN'T HAVE--

SURE.
I'M FINE.

I'M SORRY...
YOU CAN HIDE IN THAT WINDMILL SHED.

NO ONE'S USED IT SINCE IT BROKE DOWN.

IF YOU COME, DO IT TOWARDS MORNING.

WHEN NIGHT FALLS, I'LL BRING SOME FOOD.

THEN WE'LL TALK... STAY PUT UNTIL THEN.

UHH... HEY JILL, RIGHT?

DO NOT COME NEAR ME BEFORE DAWN BREAKS, NO MATTER WHAT.

I DOUBT YOU WANT A REPEAT OF LAST NIGHT.

HUUH...

HUUH...?
Now, now, you proved your point. I...I'm sorry!

How long wash I shupposhed to wait, y'shugh?!

Don't you shee that?! Discipline her!!

It'sh because you're thish way that jill'sh turnin' out the way she ish!!

I'm gonna take a pish.
UM... UM...

LET HIM BE AWHILE.
A BLACK SWORDSMAN...

WITH AN ELF.

A BLACK SWORDSMAN...

HE JUST FELL ASLEEP A MINUTE AGO.

SOME PLACE I DON'T KNOW, OTHER THAN HERE...

HE'S COME FROM SOME STRANGE WORLD...

JILL: END
CONVICTION ARC
LOST CHILDREN CHAPTER
BY AIR
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD SLEEP, AFTER FOUR DAYS...
 WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME...

...ABOUT THE MISTY VALLEY.

*FX: SPLLLLL

AH...

FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, A MIST HANGS THERE ALL YEAR ROUND... SO EVERYONE CALLS IT THE MISTY VALLEY.

THE VALLEY IS EAST OF THIS VILLAGE, OVER THREE MOUNTAINS.

*FX: DROOL

THERE'S A LEGEND THAT ELVES HAVE LIVED THERE FOR A LONG TIME.
I GUESS SOME WEIRD SWARM DID GO RAMPAGING IN THE FIELDS...

WHY DOES EVERYONE GET THAT LOOK ON THEIR FACE WHEN ANYONE MENTIONS ELVES...?

DID SOMETHIN' HAPPEN?

"OHN RUDE! WE'D NEVER DO DAT!"

"FX MUNCH MUNCH"

FOR SOME YEARS NOW THE VILLAGES IN THIS AREA...

...MIGHT BE RIGHT...

YOU...

...HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY MYSTERIOUS CREATURES.

LOTS OF LIVESTOCK ARE KILLED, TOO.

FIELDS AND STOREHOUSES ARE ATTACKED AND CROPS DEVORIED...

IT MUST BE THE ELVES OF THE MISTY VALLEY...

THAT THEY'RE ELVES.

EVERYONE WHO SEES THEM SAY THE SAME THING.
 Elves naturally do all they can to avoid being seen by humans. It can't be! Elves attacking human villages?!

Yes. My village has been attacked many times.

What are you babblin' about?

It's some kinda mistake! Have you ever seen 'em, Jill?

...And they're shaped like people.

There are insect wings on their backs...

They're small and they glow faintly...

I think something's not right...

I don't think it's true...
...AND EAT THEM.

...THOSE LITTLE ONES...

...ALSO ATTACK HUMANS...

Y'ALL'RE JUST TOO KIND, I DO DECLARE. I AM USEFUL, Y'SEE, Y'SEE.

BUT IT'S TRUE THAT DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE.

"FX, LA LA LA"

AND NOT JUST TO FIELDS AND LIVESTOCK.

IT'S THAT...

THERE'S ANOTHER REASON WHY EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE IS SCARED.

"FX WRING"

...THEY CARRY OFF CHILDREN.

AND...
OH, NO--THEY'RE HEADED FOR JILL'S VILLAGE...

HEY, WHAT'LL YA DO, WHAT'LL YA DO?

THAT'S THEM!!

AIN'T PESKY LITTLE ELVES.

WELL, THEY...

SOMETHIN' ELSE.

THEY'RE...
"FX: WOOF WOOF"

"FX: WOOF WOOF"

"FX: VVVNNNNNN"

"AHH..."

"AH..."

"FX: BTAM BTAM BTAM"

"THEY'RE HERE!!"

"THE ELVES ARE HEEERE!!"
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU THINKIN'?!?

BUT DEAR ...!!

GO OUTSIDE ?!

'FX SLAP

YA HALFWIT !!
IT AIN'T MY FAULT!!

SHE'S IN THE WRONG FOR WANDERIN' AROUND OUTSIDE AT A TIME LIKE THIS!!

LEAVE THE FOOL GIRL BE!!

JILL'S STILL OUT THERE!!

JILL...

"ROUND HERE LISTENS TO A THING I SAY.

"FX WHAP

DAMMIT, NO ONE...

"FX CLAK CLAK

DAMMIT ALL...

"FX SNFF

W- WERE THEY KILLED?

IT'S THOMAS, FROM THE HANSONS!

AH HH!

"FX HYNN HYNN
...KID.

STAY DOWN...
CONVICTION ARC
LOST CHILDREN CHAPTER
BY AIR: END
べリーゼル
CONVICTION ARC

LOST CHILDREN CHAPTER

ELF BUGS
HEY, LOOK!

FROM YESTERDAY...

*FX VVVNNNN*

LET'S PLAY.

LET'S PLAY.
ELVES, HUH...?
YOU WANT REVENGE FOR MOMMY AND DADDY?

HEY, KID.

MOM ...
DAD ...

*FX. SOB SOB

*FX. HIC

...DO YOU WANNA GO WITH THESE THINGS?

OR ELSE...

HELP OUT, THEN.

OKAY.
Hey!
Wait, Jill, wait.

I'm tellin' ya, it'd be best to sit tight in the windmill shed. This's dangerous.

'FX. HAHN HAHN

C'MONNN.
Quit it, this is bad news!

AHHH!
H- HOW DARE HE...

D... DEAR GOD...
TH- THERE HE GOES AGAIN...
*FX RATA RATA RATA

*FX HAHH HAHH

ガチガチガチ

'!'
"FX: BOHHHHH"

Is that the end?

The end, already?

Over already?

"FX: OHHHHH"

Don't move.
I KNEW IT.
SOME KINDA VERMIN.

FX VNNN

FX FLAP

BOOOORING.

BORING.

SHNK

PAK

PAK
*FX: FLUT FLUT

*FX: SHIVER SHIVER

OVER THERE.

...BOY.

YOU MADE A GOOD LURE...
JILL, LOOK!
This story is a submission piece created by Kentaro Miura during college in 1988, which became the basis for what is now Berserk. The establishment of details, world view, and whatnot differs at points from the Berserk series being published today, but the intent is still present in this early incarnation. This story is set after the conclusion of the “Band of the Hawk” story arc.
That's a little much for scarecrows...
DON'T MOVE!!
DON'T MOVE!!
MOVE AND I'LL
SPLIT YA IN TWO,
STARTIN' WITH THE
SWEET SPOT...!

*FX: HYAH HYAH
JUST ON OUR SKEWERS!! HYAAAA...!!

THEN YOU'LL GET SKEWERED!! LIKE THEM UP ON THAT HILL!!

YOU DON'T WANNA BE CUT IN HALF, DO YA?!

*FX WHUNK

EEEEK...!

BOSS ?!

OWWWW AIE ?

*FX ROLL

ARROW ?

ROH ...

OHHH ...

*FX THINK

*FX ZMP
"FX STRIDE"

... ...

"FX FLAP"

ハ!!

"FX STEP STEP"

"FX RUMMAGE"

AH, WHAT THE HELL? THERE'S NOTHIN' HERE!

AT LEAST CARRY SOME FOOD. STINGY LITTLE...

WATCH ....!!
AMAZING SWORD...
A...

SEE YA.

...
I GET FOOD FOR THIS, GOT IT?!

"FX: SKRICH SKRICH"

"FX: FLINCH"

"FX: CLOP CLOP"

"FX: HMPH"

"FX: KEESH"

"HEEEEY!! KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, SHORTY!!"
A LITTLE BREATHIN' ROOM!!

YA DON'T NEED TO GET SO CLOSE, YA JERK!!

ALL RIGHT!!

OH, THIS?

OH!! SO CULULULITE!!

AN ELF? I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE!!

HE'S JUST AN ANNOYIN' PEST...
WE'RE ON A HORSE. HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO DISTANCE MYSELF?

THEN YOU GET OFF AND WALK, GUTS!!

WHAT?

SHUT UP!! I'M HUNGRY HERE!!

KEEP SCREAMIN', I'LL BOIL AND EAT YOU!!

DON'T YELL AT THE POOR THING...

THIS RIGHT.

STUPID

YOU COULDN'T BE A BAD MAN.

BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG, SINCE AN ELF IS THIS CLOSE TO YOU.

DON'T SAY I'M LIKE A PET!

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SCARIER.
I WONDER...

WHY'VE YOU COME BACK...?! WHAT IN THE WORLD...?!

FRIKKA...?! UNCLLLLLLE!

MOM, IT'S FRIKKA...!! IT'S FRIKKA...!!
HOW...?!?

SOMETHIN’ MUST BE UP.

*FX. MURMUR

I THOUGHT WE’D NEVER--

MOM!!

DAD!!

THE WAGON WAS ATTACKED BY BANDITS.

THAT MAN RESCUED ME.

IT WAS WHAT ?!

BET HE JUST WANTED FOOD, THOUGH.
"IT WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO. DURING A WAR WITH A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, THE LORD TOOK FIVE HUNDRED PRISONERS, IMPALED EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM ON WOODEN STAKES, AND LINED THEM UP ALONG THE BORDER. NOT JUST SOLDIERS, EITHER... WOMEN, CHILDREN, PRIESTS, ALL OF THEM."

"EVEN AFTER TEN YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN COMMANDED NOT TO REMOVE THEM. THEY STILL STAND ON THE HILL AT THE BORDER."
THE STORY IS THAT THE LORD GATHERS GIRLS TO BE MAIDSERVANTS!!

FOUR ALREADY CHOSEN FROM THIS VILLAGE... AND NOT ONE HAS COME BACK SAFELY....!!

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, A SINISTER RUMOR STARTED GOING AROUND THAT THE LORD WAS GATHERING YOUNG WOMEN FROM WITHIN HIS DOMAIN AND BUTCHERING THEM, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...

WHEN THE LORD RAN OUT OF ENEMIES, HE BEGAN TURNING HIS HAND AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE.

BUT AFTER A TIME, A GIRL'S CORPSE SURFACED IN THE RIVER RUNNING BEHIND THE CASTLE. A CORPSE SKEWERED... FROM ITS HEAD THROUGH ITS TORSO!!

FRIKKA...

THE FIFTH ONE'S YOUR DAUGHTER, RIGHT?

Hmmm... And so...

THEN ANOTHER GIRL WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN.

She could have just run away... What a fool!!

DEAR!!
ONE MORE, MA'AM.
SO SAD.
I KNOW!! I KNOW THAT... BUT STILL...

*FX KNOCK KNOCK

LIKE A WORD WITH HIM...
WE'D...
MA'AM...

OH, WHAT'S THE MATTER, EVERYONE?
HEY HEY HEY!! YOU AIN'T REALLY SERIOUS, ARE YA?!

HEY!!

KILL THE LOOOORD?!

HAI!! A TINY VILLAGE LIKE THIS COULDN'T REWARD ME WITH MUCH!!

LISTEN UP!! KILLIN' THE LORD MEANS TAKIN' ON THAT ENTIRE CASTLE MYSELF!!

EVEN IF I SNEAK IN, I'M DEAD IF THEY FIND ME!!

GIMME A BREAK!! THAT'S THE LAST THING I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY...

BUT THERE WILL BE A DUE REWARD!

IT'S STUPID!! WHY SHOULD I PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE FOR PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN KNOW?!
I BESOECH YOU!

...MY GRANDDAUGHTER.

AVENGE...

 PLEASE...

THE GIRL WHO WAS FOUND IN THE RIVER... WAS HER GRANDDAUGHTER.

AVENGE...

I'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH "JUST AND GENEROUS CHIVALRY."

I COULDCARE LESS.

*FX: PUSH

SORRY, OLD LADY.
HE CALLS HIMSELF A KNIGHT?!
I KNEW IT'D BE USELESS...
WHAT A LOW THING TO SAY!!

'KAY, I'LL BE GOIN' NOW.

AHH... "FX BTAM!!"

WAAAAH...

"FX' FLAP FLAP FLAP"
JERK JERK JERK JERRRRKK!!

WHAT GIVES?

AHHH, PIPE DOWN.

HOW COULD YOU?! WHAT A THING TO SAY?! WHY NOT HELP THEM?!

YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND HER FEELIN'S THE MOST!!

THE OLD LADY WHO HAD A FAMILY MEMBER KILLED...
I'M SORRY!! I WENT AND TOLD EVERYONE THAT YOU'RE A VERY POWERFUL KNIGHT...!!! THAT'S WHY THEY ALL SAID THOSE UNREASONABLE THINGS...!!

SHE'LL FORGET EVENTUALLY, ONCE SHE GOES SENILE...

LIM... UH...

WHAT?

BLACK KNIGHT!

A-ALSO...

I DIDN'T REALLY CARE.

WHAT?

I'M SORRY!! IT'S MY FAULT!!
Could I take something of yours with me?

WELL, I AIN'T GOT MUCH TO OFFER. JUST WEAPONS. ANYTHING WOULD DO!!

Is that... a no...?
WILL THIS DO?

TH...

THANK YOU.

DON'T CARE.

SELFISH SCUMBAG!!

WHY'RE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS?! ONLY CARIN' ABOUT BITTERNESS....!!

WHAT?

YOU DON'T EVEN GIVE A DAMN FOR WHAT'S AROUND YOU....!!

DONTCHA, MISTER BLACK KNIGHT?!

YOU WANNA SAVE HER.... RIGHT?

*FX. STARE*
YOU'RE GONNA LIVE FOR NOTHIN' BUT DEAD PEOPLE!!

YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT...!! IT'S SAD!!

MY MOTHER HAD HER INNARDS RIPPED OUT AND EATEN BY THEM WHILE SHE WAS STILL ALIVE!! SHE WAS TORN APART!!

SHE BECAME A PIECE OF MEAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!!

...BUT THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

GUTS... HURTS...

FX. PANG

FX. KOFF KOFF

SORRY, FUCK...
Killing them is all that keeps me going.

I ain't got no life to spare for other people.
*FX: CLATA CLATA CLATA

THAT'S...

*FX: GOHHHH

THAT CREST WAS...
WELL DONE. YOU MAY LEAVE, GUARDS.

WELCOME, GIRL.
I can't stop moving!!

Come closer and show me your face.

Hmm... so young.

That's...

VLAD TEPEŠ?!

I can't stop moving!!

*FX GRIN*

Beautiful... and full of life, too.

*FX FLINCH*

Such cold hands....!!
HE'S...

...NOT HUMAN ?!

AND THAT SMELL... IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S ROTTING...

HE'S...

*FX: CLENCH

GAH!! AH... ?!

*FX: BINNG

NO...!
I'D BE HAPPY TO PUT AN EYE-PATCH ON YA.

WOULDN'T IT BE A GOOD IDEA TO SKEWER YOURSELF NOW AND THEN?

BLACK KNIGHT!!

YO! I HAVE A LITTLE BUSINESS TO DEAL WITH...

...WITH BALDY THERE.
HOW GALANT. WHO ARE YOU?

SO IT LOOKS LIKE I AIN'T GOT THE WRONG GUY.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, I WON'T LET YOU LIVE AFTER SHOOTING AT ME.

YOU AIN'T DYIN'...

NO MATTER.
BLACK KNIGHT!!
HOOO... A TRIFLE.

...BUT HUMANS... DIE SOON.

I THOUGHT HE WOULD PROVIDE MORE ENJOYMENT...

YOU REALLY DO SEEM TO LIKE IMPALING, LARDASS.

FX FLUSTER FLUSTER

DON'T GET WORKED UP. THE FUN'S JUST STARTING...

FX GRASP
I'M GONNA MINCE YOU UP, DOG OF VULANA.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
DAMNED WHelp!!

THE LORD OF WE WHO ARE NOT HUMAN, THE MOST POWERFUL GOD OF THIS WORLD...

THE NAME OF THE ANCIENT GOD OF DARKNESS, VUANA!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?!
BOOY!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

HA...

*FX LUNGE
THAT'S CRAZY, GUTS!!

LET'S DO THIS, HOG BULL!!
FX GHOOH

FX HRAHN

FX WHAMM

FX BAONHH

THIS IS YOUR LIMIT!!

WELL DONE... I PRAISE YOU FOR GETTING THIS FAR...

BUT AFTER ALL, YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN!!

NOOO!!

DIDN'T I SAY I WAS GONNA MENCSE YOU?!
FINISHES IT!
IMPOSSIBLE.

There's no way a human could beat me. An apostle of Yuana... no way...

HE DID IT!!
...WOULD HATE YOU BASTARDS THIS MUCH?

WHO ELSE BUT A HUMAN...

GUTS, HURRY! IT'S COLLAPSING!!

...A HUMAN'S...

THAT'S THE BRAND OF SACRIFICE TO VUANA...

GUTS!!
I just killed my enemy, that's all.

It ain't about you.

Thank goodness.

*FX FLINCH

*FX GOH GOH GOH GOH GOH

*FX GAZE

WHAT?
LET'S GO.

A LOT MORE THAN VUANA'S APOSTLE...

GUTS SURE WAS SCARY THEN...

NOPE, IT'S NUTHIN'.

EHHH?! AREN'T YOU EVEN GONNA GET THOSE WOUNDS TREATED SOME...?!?

HE LOOKED SO SINISTER.

THE Prototype: END
The once unbeatable Band of the Hawk is smashed. Their former leader, Griffith, has made an unholy pact with the demon lords of the Godhand, sacrificing his former troops to resurrect his crippled body and ascend to stand in power beside these profane gods. The Invocation of Doom has unleashed a plague of unspeakable horrors upon the earth, and the first battle not only shatters the Hawks, but the hand of their champion, Guts, and the mind of their captain and Guts' lover, Casca. And while time may heal some of Guts' wounds, it will not heal his desire for vengeance. And his discovery of a gigantic, dragon-slaying sword might be just the ticket to deal out some king-sized payback!

Also included in this volume: “Berserk: The Prototype,” the very first Berserk story, created during Kentaro Miura’s college days as his audition that sold the series!

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