BERSERK

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TRANSLATION
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LETTERING AND RETOUCH
REPLIBOOKS
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...WHO FIRST BEGAN TO NOTICE...

IT IS SAID IT WAS THE CHILDREN...
So don't cry to me if you get eaten by wolves! And lately there's even kushan...!

Don't I always tell you not to go off into the forest?!

Hold up, nico! I'll be the one in trouble if you get lost!

Fairies.

...Fairies.

Big brother.

I saw...

Eh...?

...Don't things seem weird lately?

It's kind of like...

That's why I didn't want to bring this runt along!

Lay off him, toma.

FX: WHEEP

Huh?

But you know, I kind of understand why nico gets that way.
WHAT DOES?

 THEY DO, THEY DO!

OH!

HUUH?

YOU TOO?

IT'S LIKE...

...I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT.

YEAH, YEAH.

WE'VE BEEN COMING TO THIS FOREST FOREVER...

DON'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING, TOO?

WELL...

...I GET THE FEELING I FELT THIS WAY WHEN I WAS LITTLE, TOO...

WELL, IT'S JUST LIKE...

SO WHAT IS IT ?

LIKE WHAT...

...BUT WAS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS ?
...A FOREST IN A DREAM OR SOMETHING...
DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING? SOMEONE LAUGHING...?

IT HAS TO BE THE WIND...

FX: HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE

FX: HEE HEE HEE

FX: HEE HEE HEE

FX: HEE HEE HEE

FX: HEE HEE HEE

FX: HEE HEE HEE

FX: HEE HEE HEE

FX: HI HI HI

Sounds of laughing...
...the hollows of trees,
the ground beneath the bare
the whispers of winds
the lull between waves,
the depths of wells,
the darkness of attics.

UWAHHH!

an evil forest spirit...!!

...ceased
to be mere silence.

...secretix,
at some point,
their silence.

secretix...
LIKE A FOLK TALE TOLD BY ELDERS TO CHILDREN...

...SOMETHING SURELY BREATHED WITHIN THE SILENCE.

...AS IF IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE ALL ALONG...
...DADDY.

GOOD MORNING...

"PSHH" "PSHH"

!
WE'RE BACK.

CASCA...

GLUTS...

OBAH!

FX: UWAHHH

FX: HUG

FX: AHHHH

...WE TOOK TOO LONG...

I GUESS...
IT WAS SOON AFTER YOU LEFT, GLITS.

...HE WAS LUCKY ENOUGH JUST TO SEE YOU BEFORE HE DIED.

DADDY SAID THAT...

NAAHHH.

I'M SORRY.

...HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE HIS FACE ONCE HE WAS GONE.

BESIDES...

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO NOW?

YOU FOUND CASCA, AND IT WAS MY FAULT SHE GOT LOST IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SOOO...

YOU WON'T LEAVE HER AGAIN, RIGHT?

BUT THANK GOODNESS!
Here.

Let's all live together.

Let's all...

We can even all fix up the cave and make it more like a house so it's easier to live in!

...even Casca will be fine!

As long as you're here...
...She won't run off anymore.

I'm sure if you're with her and treat her well...

That's true.

Actually, I only half mean it.

Can ya make that promise so easily?

It's a deal!!

Really?

Really, really?!

Y-Yeah...
JUST AS I GOT HER BACK... NO, IN THE MIDDLE OF SWINGING MY SWORD TO GET HER BACK...

HE LOOKED SO HUMAN.

THE WAY HE APPEARED BEFORE ME... HE WASN'T A DEMON.

AS IF HE'D BEEN STOLEN FROM THE PAST, THE WAY HE USED TO BE.

...I'D FORGOTTEN MY URGE TO KILL.

THE INSTANT I SAW HIM...
...CAN'T BE.

AND THAT...

WANDERING AND PUSHING THROUGH THE DEAD SPIRITS STALKING HIS SHADOW WHEN HE WASN'T EVEN IN THIS WORLD...

WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHERE HE WAS...

IT WAS AN AIMLESS JOURNEY...

...RELYING JUST ON STRANGE RUMORS AND THE SUBTLE SENSATIONS OF THE BRAND...

WHERE MY SWORD CAN REACH!!!

ON THE SAME GROUND WHERE I WALK!!

BUT NOW HE'S IN THE SAME WORLD AS ME!!
A guest?

Oh.

I just remembered, we've got a guest.

Yeah.

It's somebody Rickert knows from way back.

They're at the sword cemetery now.

I could hardly tell he was a man.

He was so pretty...

Do you know him, too?

Long silver hair.

He said he was Rickert's friend when he was a soldier.
MORE LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A FAIRY TALE...
I really still can’t believe it.

Corkus.

Judeau.

When no one but Guts and Casca came back that day...

...of them. Not one... Pippin.

Guts won’t talk about it, and I’m afraid to ask...

I don’t know what happened that day.

...had ended.

Had gone away.

I’d thought...

...that everything...

...and here we are again.

You’re alive...

But...

Hahh... Hahh...
HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
REUNION ON THE HILL OF SWORDS
剣の丘の再会
YOU'RE DEAD SERIOUS!!

I WON'T! WHY'RE YOU ATTACKING ALL OF A SUDDEN...?!

MOVE, RICKERT!!

HE'S OUR GRIFFITH!!

HE'S GRIFFITH....!!

SO WHY?!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THE GRIFFITH YOU KNOW ANYMORE!!

THAT...

THAT'S NOT...

NO!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!

JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

YOU NEVER CHANGE.
...Talk later.

You always swing first...

That same face.

Rather...

No.

You're the way you were when we first met.

That same smile.
DON'T TALK...

...TO ME IN THAT SAME VOICE!!

WHAT THE HELL'D YOU COME HERE FOR?!

YOU ...!!

*EX: GH*

TO SEE YOU.

THERE WAS NO CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALONE.

IT WAS FAR TOO TURBULENT AT THAT TOWER.
THE BAND OF THE HAWK...

THIS PLACE SEEMS MORE FITTING FOR US...

...ASSEMBLING ONCE MORE.

DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT NAME!!
I came here to know for certain...

While I stand before you in this new body of flesh...

...whether anything will shake my heart.
...I AM...

...FREE.

...IT SEEMS...
YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING?!

...AFTER ALL THOSE YOU BETRAYED...

...AFTER WHAT YOU DID...

YOU MEAN...

...YOU DON'T...
...BETRAY MY DREAM.

I'LL NOT...

THAT IS ALL.
...BLACK SWORDSMAN!!

LONG TIME...

WHOA --?!
ZODD
?!
WHAT'S WRONG, CASCA?

*FX: CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

THIS PRESENCE...

...
HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
THE BEAST SWORDSMAEN VS.
THE BLACK SWORDSMAEN

獣剣士対黒い剣士
WHO THE HELL IS HE...?!

HE STOPPED A BLOW FROM GUTS' BIG SWORD?!
IT PLEASES ME, BOY!!

YOU DID WELL TO SURVIVE, DESPITE MY PREDICTION!!

*FX: GROGARR

ZLUNGE

*ZHAAAA
*FX: HAHH HAHH

*FX: GRRRRRR

AMAZING !!!

I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON.

A...
MAGNIFICENT!!
AS A HUMAN
YOU’VE DONE
WELL TO
ATTAIN SUCH
DISCIPLINE!!

I WANTED TO
CROSS SWORDS
WITH YOU
AGAIN THIS WAY,
NOW THAT
YOU’VE LIVED
THROUGH SUCH
CARNAGE!!

WHY’RE
YOU WITH
GRIFFITH
?

WHAT IS
THIS?

MY
BUSINESS
IS WITH
HIM!!

MOVE
ASIDE!!
FORCE YOUR WAY PAST!!

WORDS LACK ELEGANCE!!

あお
HE STRUCK IT DOWN!!

HE EVaded?!
HE'S GOT INHUMAN REFLEXES!!!
WHAT SWORP STRENGTH, HE REALLY IS A GODDAMN MONSTER

I'M DEAD IF I STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE!!

ANY OTHER SWORD WOULD SHATTER!!

HE REALLY IS A GODDAMN MONSTER!!
...I CAN FIGHT.

MY HEAD COULD BE SPLIT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!!

IT’S THE SAME AS THAT OTHER TIME!!

EVERY CLASH RATTLES MY BONES!! THESE AIN’T STRIKES YOU CAN JUST WARD OFF!!

BUT...

...SEARCHING FOR HIM, AND NOW...

I’VE STRUGGLED THROUGH COUNTELESS NIGHTS...
...All you are is in my way!!!
I've never seen anything like this, even on the battlefield!!

The way he handles that massane sword!!

He's grown stronger than I could imagine!!

Is his rancor directed at Griffith? Why?!

But that wrath...

"DSSH"

"HNN!"

That's my--

"GRAB"
HE'S TRYIN' TO END THIS!!

OH, NO! BOTH HIS HANDS ARE TIED UP!!
**Guts** has done unbelievably well, braving death.
A FAINT THROBBING.

THROBBING...

HAVE BEEN FROZEN.

MY BLOOD SHOULD...

MUST BELONG TO THAT INFANT...

THAT FUSED INTO MY VESSEL.

THESE FEELINGS...
HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
UNCHANGED

BERSERK
YOUR STRENGTH HAS GOTTEN YOU THROUGH EVEN BATTLES WITH APOSTLES.

A HUMAN WHO SURVIVED THE ECLIPSE...

SPLENDID...

...BUT IT SEEMS THIS HORSE-SLAYER I STOLE FROM THE KUSHAN DOESN'T QUITE MATCH UP TO THAT DEMON-SLAYER OF YOURS.

"FX: SHLX"

I'D LIKE TO AMUSE MYSELF FURTHER WITH THIS SWORD DANCE OF OURS...

IT IS A SPLENDID SWORD!!

AND YOU POSSESS SPLENDID TECHNIQUE!!

IT ALL STARTS HERE!!

...TASTED ENOUGH!!

I'VE NOT YET...
NO MISTAKE, THAT—THAT MAN’S NOSFERATU ZODD?!

I HAVE NOT HAD MY FILL !!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?!
...Master Godo's mine...!!

That's...!
*BDOOOM*

CAS...

*FX: GAMA

*FX: GCHAK

CASCA!!

...!!

*FX: CLATA
STO...
THAT'S ENOUGH.

LET'S GO.
WHERE'RE YOU...?!

WAIT!!

I TOLD YOU ONCE...

I WILL...

...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.
NOTHING...

...HAS CHANGED.
I WILL...

MY OWN KINGDOM.
...HAS CHANGED.

NOTHING...
...HAS ENDED.

...AND COME TO HATE ME, SO BE IT.

IF YOU LEARN THE TRUTH...

...YOU SAY YOU CAN STILL CHASE THE DREAM...

BLIT...

...IF EVEN THEN...
...I'll have no cause to refuse you.

W-wait!

I don't understand!

What's the truth?!
YOU SAY NOTHING'S CHANGED....!!

MOVE IT, RICKERT!!

GUTS, NO!!
EVERYTHING YOU HAVE KNOWN.

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE.

...YOU SAY NOTHING’S CHANGED?!

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU DID...
THE TRUTH.

TELL IT TO ME.

GUTS...

WHAT HAPPENED TO GRIFFITH AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT DAY?

I HAVE TO KNOW!!

NO!!

...DON'T I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW IT, TOO?!

HOWEVER PAINFUL IT IS...

GUTS...!!
...that's the truth?

How could that...

How could...
...THAT
IMAGE
WAS...

...FROM THEN...

SOMEHOW OR OTHER...

...I'D FIGURED IT OUT...

...

...........

MIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII

AHHHH...
IT'S ALL BURIED.

AND RIGHT WHEN WE WERE ALL TOGETHER...

THIS MEANS GUTS AND CASCA'S HOME IS...

WHAT NOW?

I'M GOING, TOO!!

COMFORTABLE BY MYSELF IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...!!

WHILE I REMAINED IGNORANT!!

...THAT HEAVY BURDEN ALL ALONE...

YOU CARRIED...
NO.

I'M A HAWK, TOO...!!

I WAS...

TAKE ME WITH YOU!!

WHY NOT...?!

BECAUSE YOU...

...COULD NEVER REALLY HATE GRIFFITH.

....!

YOU'RE LEAVING ?!
IS EVERYONE LEAVING?!

ERICA!!

*FX: RUN

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?!

HURRY 'N' CATCH HER!
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?

SO...

...THE TRAIL OF VENGEANCE?

KEEP ON...

...LEAVE HER AGAIN.

I WON'T...
THAT’S IMPOSSIBLE.

I KNOW THAT.

THE FACT THAT TWO BRANDED PEOPLE CAN’T STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR LONG...

AIN’T WE RELUCTANT.

BUT THE ELF CAVE’S BEEN DEMOLISHED.

STAYIN’ HERE’S A BIT OUTTA THE QUESTION, HUH?

THEN YOU’D JUST LOCK CASCA UP AGAIN? THAT’S SAD.

DIDN’T SHE RUN OFF IN THE FIRST PLACE ‘CAUSE SHE HATED THAT?

AIN’T THERE ANY OTHER ELF DWELLINGS AROUND HERE?
*FX: SHH SHH SHH SHH*

“Yeah! There’s a place!"

“Yeah? There’s a place?"

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“My home.
YOU CAN'T EVEN STAY JUST ONE NIGHT?

THEN YOU'LL BE IN DANGER TOO.

LIKE I SAID, AS LONG AS WE HAVE THESE BRANDS, WE'LL JUST ATTRACT THE DEAD AND DEMON SPIRITS.

WEREN'T THOSE GODO'S PARTING WORDS?

AND ERICA...

I, TOO...

BUT STILL...

...WHAT YOU CAN'T REPLACE.

DON'T ABANDON...
YOU'D BETTER BE SURE TO LOOK AFTER HER, GUTS!!

TAKE CARE, CASCA!!

THAT'S RIGHT. THE TIME I LEFT THE BAND OF THE HAWK...

IT WAS IN SNOW JUST LIKE THIS.

SNOW...

THE DAY I QUARRELED WITH HIM...

WAS ON A SNOWY HILL LIKE THIS.

THEM TIME...

I'M THE ONE WHO WAS DESERTED.
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

I TOLD YOU ONCE...

THIS IS THE MAN I AM.

...I WILL...

...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE.
I won't leave you behind.

...I won't lose you.

This time...
OR ELSE BE MADE TO HAVE KUSHAN CHILDREN... IT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO TAKE OVER ANOTHER RACE.

I'M SURE WE'LL BE TAKEN TO THEIR LAND AS SLAVES.

WHO KNOWS?

EITHER WAY, WE'RE DONE FOR.

I HEARD A RUMOR THAT THEY SACRIFICED WOMEN TO THEIR GOD.

THIS TOWN, THIS KINGDOM.

THERE'S NO USE SAYING THAT NOW.

...THIS WOULD NEVER...

IF ONLY HE WERE HERE...

THE BAND OF THE HAWK.

SHE SAW HER PARENTS BURN TO DEATH. SHE MUST HAVE LOST HER MIND.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GIRL?

SOON, NOW.

OUR HELPING HAND.

IT'S COMING.
That's what the wind whispers.

I can hear it.

The hawk of light is coming.
It seems the fear of our army is a bit too strong a medicine.

But, general, they show no sign of accepting our repeated counsel to surrender.

...Could go on living as war slaves if they'd only submit.

The fools call extermination down on themselves when they...

Our forces have already managed to bring down six fortresses...

...and yet here you are...

I'm flabbergasted, Bakiraka.

An entire clan has failed to capture just one man.

How absurd.

What makes you a warrior clan?
I hear that it all started based on an oracle received by the high priest. In that case, any kind of abnormal phenomenon should be possible...

Begging your pardon, but this invasion...

Who would believe such nonsense?

And now you say the hawk flew off on an evil beast.

Ought not to speak as if informed.

Even if our great emperor recognizes people like you as soldiers for amusement's sake, entrusting you with a mission...

From a military standpoint...

...claiming an oracle as the start of a war is no more than a pretext.

You all were driven from the empire for siding with the defeated royal family in the previous struggle for imperial succession, but your original social standing was at the level of slaves. What good will repatriation do you?

You Bakiraka who rely on...

...such muddled tripe are pathetic.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!

*FX: SHRRRL

*SNATCH

*FX: WSHH

*FX: GULP

*FX: VEENNING

IF YOU WOULD PARDON THE URGENCY.
IT DIDN'T WORK !

RUH--!

...HH...

*CROK*

GSSH
WE BEG YOUR PARDON.
AND THEY CRUSHED IRON ARMOR WITH THEIR BARE HANDS?!

S-SO SWIFT!! WHAT SKILLS!!

WE NOW RETURN TO OUR MISSION OF SEARCHING FOR THE HAWK.

ARE THEY MONSTERS?!

*FX: CLOP CLOP*
FIERCE KUSHAN ATTACK: END
HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 1
IMPOSSIBLE!!
WHY IS HE HERE...?!

THE HAWK OF LIGHT!!

FX SHH

FX AH

FX CLOP

YOU...
Y...

WHAT...?
Uh?!
WH- WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

E... EXCELLENCY.

FIRE!!

FIRE YOUR ARROWS!!

WAIT ....!!
BLIT...
A COINCIDENCE...?

IMPOSSIBLE!!
NO WAY COULD
HE--NOT THAT MANY!!

DID HE DODGE?

NOT ONE ARROW...

WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?!

OF COURSE IT'S MERE COINCIDENCE!!

F-FOOLS!!

SECOND VOLLEY!!

FIRE!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?!

WHA --?
WH-WHAT IS HE...?!

SLAY HIM AS WELL!!

IS HE WITH THAT MAN?!

*GRARRR

*FX ROHHH

[Panel showing a battle scene with warriors and monsters]
HB'S AI

MON-1
a
THBY'RB

JUST TV0
HORSSMSN

I

STAND YOUR
GROUND

STOP DAWDLING

THAT WARRIOR

ARGH!!
HURRY AND
BRING HIM
DOWN!!
...for being on horseback.

My enemies, your pardon...
I have ridden here guided by an oracle.

My name is Locus.

I recognize you as the hawk of light.

Is this the truth?
I ACCEPT YOUR SWORD.

THE MOONLIGHT KNIGHT, LOCHS.

DELIGHTED!!

I SAW HIS FACE IN THE VICTORY PARADE AT WINDHAM. IT Couldn'T BE ANYONE ELSE!


HE IS MIDLAND'S GUARDIAN ANGEL...!!

BUT THAT CAN'T BE...

"HAWK"...

I HEARD HE DIED.

NO, THERE'S NO MISTAKING HIM...!!
...INSANITY!
WITH JUST
THREE
HORSEMEN
!!!
HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 2

BERSERK
STOP THOSE TWO HORSEMEN!!

STOP THEM!!
WHAT BENEFIT IS THERE IN BEING LOYAL TO THESE?

WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CHAOS TO CAPTURE THE HAWK.

YOUNG MASTER.

WAIT.

*FX: OHHHHHH

オオオオオオオオ

IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN.

HE'S INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.
"WHOK

"SH-SH-SH-SH

SLOW.

"KRÍK

OBLUSE.

...THE TAPASA, INQUIRE IN AMAZE-
MENT.

THE SUMMIT OF THE BAKIRAKA ...

IMPOSSIBLE ...!!

WE TAPASA WERE KNOCKED DOWN ?!
So you're the hawk of light.

I heard the Oracle.

That mask...!!

You're Raksas!!

...Exile here?! Why is our clan's...

...Lovely... You're...
Someday I’ll lop off your head...

...and make it mine.

“FX: Cackle Cackle”

“FX: Sway”

“I’ll let no harm come to you."

“FX: Swish”

“Until then...”
I'll play with you.
BAR THE GATE!!
CUT OFF THEIR ESCAPE!!
HE'S BY HIMSELF!!

ATTACK!!

STAND ST... YOUR GROUND!!

A NAGA...

G-GIANT?!

FX URAHHH

FX HEAVE

FX CHOK
FX. GS HAK

FX. JOKI

IT SPAT FIRE...!!!
ALL FORCES IN THE STRONGHOLD, DEPLOY!!

*RAHH RAHH*

MESSAGE!!

WHAT IN THE...?!

WH ...

FX GCHAK

WHO GOES THERE?!
THAT'S THE HAWK OF LIGHT.

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.
OR PERHAPS...

AH, YOU'RE BACK.

*FX FLAP FLAP

*FX CHIRP
Thank you.

Why'd you have ta use a bird?

Thank you.

*FX. Zmmm

*FX. Fm

Geez, Schierke, you're so tough to understand.

Nearing that force field as a luminous body was perilous. One mistake and I'd be lost in the astral world...

The one who shall call down upon the world an age of darkness.

The angel is the hawk of darkness.

The master of the sinful black sheep, the king of the blind white sheep.
“WHOOOOOO

EVERYTHING RED, RED IN THE SETTING SUN SHINING UPON THE BLOOD...

DYED RED..

A CHOKING STENCH...

...OF BLOOD HANGING IN THE AIR!

MINDS GONE NUMB WITH THE STENCH...

THIS SCENE WHICH SHOULD BE ONLY GRUESOME...

HOWEVER...
...AN INIMITABLE PAINTING. ...

...IT WAS LIKE...

...NESTED...
Tale extraordinary, in the midst now swiftly we were
It is nice not to have to move with so many people--nice and quiet.

It truly feels like a journey.

Thank goodness we found a place where the snow and wind are tolerable for the time being.
THEN SHALL WE RETURN TO THE HOLY CITY?

I HAVE NO SUCH INTENTION.

DO YOU SUGGEST I REPORT TO THE COURT SUPREME THAT THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS AND REFUGEES WERE SWALLOWED BY MONSTERS?

WONDER IF THE VICE-COMMANDER'S OKAY. HE'S AN OVERLY LITERAL MAN.

DON'T WORRY. WE CAN'T AFFORD KUSHAN OR THE LIKE TO SHOW UP, SO I WILL KEEP WATCH.

I'LL NOT HAVE ONE WHO SUPPLIES MY FOOD COLLAPSING!

COME AND WARM YOURSELF!

WHO WOULD BE OUT IN THIS SNOW?!
COLD AND HUNGER CALL FORTH THAT CHILDHOOD DAY.

IT WAS A SNOWY NIGHT JUST LIKE THIS WHEN I HAPPENED TO MEET LADY FARNESS.

FROM NOW ON WE'RE THE ONES WHO SAY WHO GETS FOOD AROUND HERE! RUNTS LIKE YOU DON'T GET A SHARE!

NOW GET LOST!
THE CAPITAL WHERE GOD DWELLS.

THIS IS THE HOLY CITY.

HERE, EVERYTHING EXISTS FOR GOD, AND ALL IS OFFERED UP TO HIM.

THE Bells RESOUND HIS GLORY.

THE MYRIAD TOWERS ASPIRE TO PRAISE GOD.

...THIS CITY COULD PROVE TO BE A HARSH PLACE.

FOR THOSE WITH NOTHING TO OFFER...

*FX KREEEEL

OPENING THAT DOOR WAS ALWAYS DEPRESSING.

A DIM ROOM AT THE REAR OF THE SECOND FLOOR...

...I SPENT MY YOUTH TOGETHER WITH IT...

*FX KREEE

IN A ROTTING HOVEL ON THE EDGE OF SAID CITY...
...it reminded the young me of death.

I have your meal, mother.

My back aches. Rub it for me.

Where have you been? While your mother suffers here so...

How did you get those bruises?

Oh, um, I got into a fight with boys in town...

...made her seem like some strange monster.

Her protruding, twisted spine and ribs...

Fighting with commoners is absurd!

You must have pride!
HOW IN THE WORLD A CHILD NOT EVEN TEN HAD TO MANAGE TO SUPPORT HIMSELF AND HIS MOTHER ON HER SICKBED.

YOU OWE MY BROTHER ONE FOR YESTERDAY.

IT SEEMED SHE COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE...

...AND LIVED VICARIOUSLY BY BURDENING ME WITH HER DREAM.

MOTHER CLING TO HER SWEET MEMORIES...

AND EVERY DAY THE CITY ROBBED ME OF THAT PRIDE COMPLETELY.

BEAT HIM HALF TO DEATH!

EVERY DAY MOTHER FORCED ME TO BEAR MORE PRIDE THAN I EVER COULD.
...AND NO LONGER FELT ANYTHING.

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D LOST ALL EXPRESSION...

"FX: GONNING"

"CLATA"
"CLATA"
"CLATA"

"GONNING"

MAYBE THAT'S JUST AS WELL...

"GONNING"

AT THIS RATE I'LL BE BURIED IN SNOW...

"SHFF"

I CAN'T MOVE.

"CLATA"

STOP THE CAR RAGE!

MIGHT BE EASIER...

MY LADY?!
"ARISTOCRAT."

THE WORD WAS A CURSE TO ME.

SILLY RABBIT...

PERFECT FROM HER HEAD TO HER TOES.

WHAT GAZED DOWN ON ME WAS, UNLIKE MYSELF, NO IMPOSTER. A GENUINE DAUGHTER OF NOBILITY...

WHAT IS IT? IS THIS FILTHY CHILD DYING IN THE STREET?

WHAT IS IT, MY LADY? WE WILL BE LATE FOR HOLY COMMUNION.

PUT THAT BOY IN THE CARRIAGE. WE'RE TAKING HIM TO THE MANSION.

HOLY COMMUNION CAN WAIT.

INSOLENT WHELP!
So she thinks she's found a wounded puppy or something...

I will look after this boy!

My lady, we shall see to him...

No, you shall not!

All of you may leave!

Heed this.

So you now belong to me.

I am the one who saved your life...

...my ability to fathom.

Pledge yourself.

At the time, it was beyond...

I would be lying if I said it didn't lift my heart.

Do not worry—my wages will allow me to hire a housekeeper to care for you.

Now I'd be liberated from this melancholy monster.

I was told I would live and work there starting tomorrow.

I was so excited, I failed to ask.

I was able to find unexpected employment.

What is the name?

But thanks to that...

This is your one chance to touch noble society.

Although hearing what she said...

...I became aware of my sin.

Serve them well.
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE MY PERSONAL PAGE.

HOUSE VANDIMION. ITS ASSETS ARE RUMORED TO SURPASS THE BUDGET OF AN EMINENT NATION. ITS BLOODLINE IS APPARENT IN THE ROYAL FAMILIES OF SEVERAL KINGDOMS. IT IS THE NOBLE FAMILY OF NOBLE FAMILIES, CENTERED IN THE HOLY CITY AND BOASTING TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE EVEN IN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.

BUT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO COMPREHEND SUCH SIGNIFICANCE.

LOOKING AT IT AGAIN, IT'S HUGE!

UNREASONABLE COMMANDS...

I WAS ABLE TO BROOK...

...THE SOMEWHAT...

YES, LADY FARNES.

YOU ARE TO OBEY ME ABSOLUTELY. SERVE ME WELL.

AND WITH THAT IN MIND...

AND WITH THAT IN MIND...

OF MY NEW MISTRESS.

I WAS RELEASED FROM THOSE ABOYABLE DAYS.

MIND YOU DON'T GO AND PUT THE YOUNG MISTRESS IN A FOUL MOOD.

SHE EVEN SET FIRE TO ONE GIRL'S DRESS, BADLY BURNING HER.

ALL OF LADY FARNES'S SERVANTS GET FED UP WITH HER DISPOSITION AND RUN OFF.

YOU PUT UP WITH IT WELL.

POOR THING.
...THIS LITTLE TYRANT.

THE LADY FARNESSE WAS LITERALLY LEFT TO HERSELF IN THIS EXPANSIVE MANSION.

AND HER MOTHER, LOSING HERSELF IN DISSIPATION, ABANDONED HER DAUGHTER DAILY.

...BURIED HER IN THINGS TO EXPRESS THEIR LOVE.

ALL IN THE MANSION TREAD FEARFULLY AROUND...

BUT SHE HAD A FITTING REASON TO BE AS SUCH.

HER PARENTS...

HER FATHER, THE LORD VANDIMNON, WAS ZEALOUS FOR HIS WORK AND RARELY RETURNED TO THE MANSION.
A grave and gloomy labyrinth.

The solemn statues looked down upon her.

...she would rarely pass even one of them.

While there were dozens of servants employed...

...melancholy hovel in which mother and I lived.

Something about it reminded me of the...

...she lived alone, as she saw fit.

In this huge prison...

Maybe it was not mere pity and selfishness... maybe we both sensed the same scent upon one another.
LISTEN TO ME. YOU WILL STAY HERE ALL NIGHT AND HOLD MY HAND.

ONE STORMY NIGHT...

YES, MILADY.

FX: FLASH

FX: WHOOOOO

LADY FARNES, IT IS ALL RIGHT.

EEEEEK! NOOOOO!

FX: BRMMMELLE

DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT THUNDER!!

OH, NO!

THE WINDOW....!!

FX: CRASSSH

FX: RUN

LADY FARNES, WHERE ARE YOU...?!

FX: GHHHHH

FX: GIT

LADY FARNES!!
...she was dancing in circles, crying out in a queer voice that was neither a scream nor a laugh.

There in the storm...

Something ghastly compelled her...

'FAX AHA HA HA HA CRASSSH

?!?

Lady Farnese!!

Repulsed the people around her.

It was this abnormal behavior that...

You just need to become a storm yourself!!

It's a storm!!
...existed a tiny clearing.

...were what looked like the bones of small animals...

...then before long fell into silence.

She led me into the woods behind the mansion.

There, deep in the forest...

Suddenly, I realized that scattered around us...

Fetch me some twigs.

For but a moment, it fluttered furiously and cried out...

Just recently Lady Farnese had been doting upon it.

This small bird...

It wouldn't become attached to me at all.

Lady Farnese...?
I burn all the bad ones here.

...Her smile illuminated by the flames.

That story about the burned servant wasn't a lie.

She spoke, absorbedly...

...then why...?

But...

...in doing this, she intended to frighten people and drive them away.

...she went out and threw torches personally.

I heard that when she was younger...

It was used for stake burnings during the height of an inquisition.

It was used for stake burnings during the height of an inquisition.

The plaza overlooked by Lady Farnese's bedroom.
I can order as many new ones as you’d like. Anyway, run along for right now.

Just a minute, Farnese.

I was just discussing business.

Oh? What is that filthy doll? Eh?

Throw that out.

One snowy day, the master of the mansion returned home. It had been over a year since I was hired, but this was the first time I had seen him.

Yes...

...Father.

Lady Farnese?

Lady Farnese nagged her father to buy that rabbit for her.

Years ago, the one time that the family took a trip together...

According to my fellow servants...

It seems to have been a precious memento.

Go away. *Snap*
...YOU LIP AS WELL.

SHE IS AFRAID. SO SHE INJURES THEM. SHE IS AFRAID, SO SHE ESTRANGES THEM.

SHE IS AFRAID. AFRAID OF BEING LEFT ALL ALONE IN THIS VAST PRISON...

HE MUST BURY THAT PART OF HIMSELF, ADAPTING TO REALITY.

BEFORE A CHILD CAN EVER GRASP FOR HAPPINESS...

...HIS TRUE SELF VANISHES...

HOWEVER, BEFORE LONG...

...PILES UP IN THE LABYRINTH.

...AS THE SNOW...
WHAT IS IT, MASTER?

ONE TIME I WAS HALTED BY THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE.

WHAT IS THAT HANGING FROM YOUR NECK...?

I THOUGHT HE WOULD ACCUSE ME OF STEALING IT.

OH, I THOUGHT SO...

LET ME SEE IT CLOSELY.

THIS?

IT CONTAINED AN INLAID PICTURE OF MY YOUNG MOTHER AND FATHER.

...I CAME TO MEET HIM.

THUS...

IT WAS RATHER UNDERWHELMING.

HE’S THE ONE...

THERE WAS NOTHING ESPECIALLY MOVING ABOUT IT FOR ME.
However, the truth that Lady Farnese was my younger half-sister... shook me more than a little.

He explained that, in order to avoid any more useless squabbling, there was no way he could allow me, as a bastard, to assume the family name, Vandimon.

Father said that there were three men—my half-brothers—each vying to succeed him as head of the family.

...be willing to meet with my mother? Would you...

...and my circumstances would be dealt with in an appropriate fashion.

If I promised to protect the secret thenceforth, I would be granted a title of nobility...

A polite dismissal...

In time...

My poor mother...

It is God’s guidance...

With so many assets, finding me and mother should have been trivial...
HONESTLY, I'M QUITE AT A LOSS AS CONCERNS FARNES SE. SHE FEIGNS INNOCENCE BEFORE ME...

I ACCEPTED FATHER'S CONDITIONS.

BUT I HEAR FROM THOSE IN THE MANSION THAT THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN MADE MUCH EASIER SINCE YOU BECAME HER COMPANION.

VERY WELL.

I HOPE TO REMAIN IN THIS MANSION.

THAT WAS WHAT THE FATHER, WHO SAW HER ONLY ONCE ALL YEAR, SAID SHAMELESSLY.

Perhaps we wanted merely to feel the warmth in each other, a warmth we had in common.

We do not have the power now to melt the snow that lies thick about us.
OF SNOW AND FLAME
FINAL ACT

BERSERK
...bearing curious fruit.

And without their knowledge, trees begin to extend...

...their branches beyond their miniature garden...

Time passed within the labyrinth.

The two saplings beneath the snowy drift became bent and entwined as they grew...

Serpico, be my partner. Excuse me.

Rather, would you with me...

Lady Farnese, if you would join me for this dance.
IS SHE AGAIN GOING TO DANCE WITH NONE BUT HER ESCORT?

WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?

THEY'RE ALL DESPERATE TO GET UNDER THE VANDIMION UMBRELLA.

EVERY-ONE AIMS TO BE CLOSE TO HER.

SO MUCH FOR THAT.

SHE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE.

HE WAS BORN COMMON?!

...HE BELONGS TO THE PEERAGE BUT WAS ORIGINALLY LADY FARNESI'S PAGE.

I HEARD...

IT SEEMS HER FATHER, LORD VANDIMION HIMSELF, IS HIS SPONSOR. HE SURE PICKED THE RIGHT PLACE TO WORM INTO.

LADY FARNESI?

HOWEVER, AS I AM A LADY, THE VERY ONE YOU INSULTED SHALL BE YOUR OPPONENT.

A DUEL!!

LADY...

I'LL NOT FORGIVE YOU FOR INSULTING MY COMPANION!!
WELL, THEN... I GUESS THIS IS A DRAW.

VERY WELL FOUIGHT.

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY EARLIER IMPOLITENESS, LADY FARNESE.

YOUR SKILLS BELIE YOUR COMMON ORIGIN. NO WONDER, AS YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE GUARD FOR YOUNG LADY VANDIMION.

COME NOW.

*FX: BLASH

THIS WOUND IS LAST WEEK'S.

THIS AND THIS ARE FROM LAST MONTH.
YOU GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.

NOT AT ALL.

WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT SERIOUSLY?

HIMPH ...

FINE, THEN.

YOU MAY BE MORE EXCITING ...

YOUR SWORD SKILLS SHOULD'VE BEEN ENOUGH TO WIN ANY OF THOSE DUELS EASILY!

AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL ONE DAY BE LIKE A RAGDOLL.

...AS A RAGDOLL ...

...SINCE WHEN WAS IT ...

...THAT DESPITE HER BENT SHAPE, LADY FARNESSE CAME TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME BEYOND THOSE OF A MISTRESS FOR HER SERVANT?
...FOR THE TWO RAISED IN THE CRADLE OF THE LITTLE GARDEN.

MAYBE THAT WAS A NATURAL THING, RATHER...

*HYNN HYNN*

...I OFTEN CAUGHT SIGHT OF WAIFS....

THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE LADY FARNESI'S HONOR, WITHOUT SOWING DISCORD...

WHEN I WAS A CHILD IN THIS CITY, I WAS TAUGHT TO THE POINT OF REVULSION THAT RETRIBUTION IS A FOOLISHNESS THAT INCURS ONLY RETRIBUTION.

THAT YEAR IN THE HOLY CITY....
...WHO I WAS...

...EVEN KNEW...

SHE NO LONGER...

...HAD VANISHED FROM HER FACE...

THAT SEVERITY ...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

AHH, DEAR HUSBAND.

...AND I HAD TO SEND HER TO A SANITARIUM.

MOTHER'S CONDITION PROGRESSED...

...IN TIME SHE CAME TO LIVE WITHIN THAT DREAM. THIS MUST HAVE RELIEVED HER...

GAZING AWAY AT A DREAM ...

IN THE END, FATHER NEVER ONCE CAME TO SEE HER.

MARRIAGE?

THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE CAME BACK AFTER SEVERAL YEARS.

BEING SIXTEEN, YOU MUST ASSUME THE DIGNITY OF A LADY.

IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE NOT INTERVENED ENOUGH IN THE LIFE OF MY ONLY DAUGHTER.

I'VE HEARD TELL EVERY TIME YOU GO TO A BALL, A DUEL ENSUES.

I'M DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE, FARNESE.

YOU OBJECT?

...BUT ... SO SOON?!

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, BUT THIS IS ALSO FOR THE SAKE OF THE VANDIMON FAMILY. YOU DO UNDERSTAND?

YOUR FIANCÉ IS A CERTAIN GENEROUS MEMBER OF ROYALTY WHO HAS ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL DESPITE BEING AWARE OF YOUR NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR.
...FATHER.

YES...

CURIOUS FRUIT, LEFT TO BE RAISED BY ANOTHER. BUT WHEN IT IS RIPE, THE ONE WHO PICKS IT IS THE OWNER OF THE FOREST.

LADY FARN-EESEE.
OUTSIDE...

I CAN'T LIVE ANYWHERE OTHER THAN HERE.

NO...

I CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE.

BLIT...

IF YOU WERE TO TAKE ME AND RUN AWAY...
BECAUSE YOU...

...AND I ARE...

...BENT TOGETHER...
...FROM ALL THE YOKES THAT BOUND US...?

WHY WAS I NOW UNABLE TO ESCAPE...

FATHER'S, MOTHER'S, SIBLINGS...

THE MANSION....!!
THE YOUNG MISTRESS HAS GONE MAD!

YAH HA HA HA HA

A FIRE....!!
THE WEDDING IS CALLED OFF.
IT WOULD Smeer THE VANDIMION NAME IN MUD.
I PERMIT ABSOLUTELY NO ONE TO HEAR OF THIS.
TO THINK SHE COULD GO SO FAR.
THAT FOOLISH DAUGHTER.
ONE OF THE MANSION'S HOUSES BURNED DOWN IN THE FIRE.

I CANNOT DEAL WITH HER.
SHE'S A DEVIL CHILD.
LADY FARNESHE WAS SENT TO A MONASTERY.

UNDESIGNEDLY, HER WISH HAD COME TRUE...

ON THE MASTER'S ORDERS I WAS SENT AS WELL TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD AND TO OBSERVE HER.

...LADY FARNESHE AND MYSELF BUT A MISTRESS-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP.

...BUT EVER SINCE THAT DAY, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANYTHING BETWEEN...
...DID NOT LONG AFFORD HER SUCH LEISURE.

...BUT THE VANDIMON NAME...

...BUT HOW GRAND FOR IT TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF THE GLORIOUS VANDIMON FAMILY.

IT IS TRADITION THAT THE LEADER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS BE A LADY...

WE ENTRUST TO YOU THIS DUTY.

YOU SHOULD FIND HIM MANY THINGS REGARDING A KNIGHT’S FRAME OF MIND.

IT IS AN HONOR TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

YOUR VICE-COMMANDER, AZAN, WILL SEE TO ALL PRACTICAL MATTERS, SO YOU NEED NOT WORRY.

OH, HOW GALLANT.

MHMM.
...RAMPANT HERETICS BEGAN SETTING FIRES TO TEMPLES AND MANSIONS OF THE NOBILITY.

THEN, BY CHANCE, THAT WINTER...

...WERE SENT TO COMPULSORILY CAPTURE AND SUPPRESS THE HERETICS.

EVEN THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, WHO WERE PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL GUARDS...

...WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE EVEN THE COURT SUPREME MARVEL.

THAT DILIGENT DISCHARGE OF DUTY...

...TOOK PERSONAL CHARGE OF ROUNDING UP THE HERETICS.

AS IF POSESSED, LADY FARNES...

...That Rundown Building! All Forces, Charge!!
IT WAS THE ONE FROM THAT TIME.

LADY FARNESI'S EXPRESSION, ILLUMINATED BY THE FLAMES.

...HAD FOUND THE PLACE SHE BELONGED.

PERHAPS LADY FARNESI...

THEY SCORCHED HER HEART.

FLAMES...

THE FUNDAMENT OF HER CHILDHOOD...
They were members of a heretical sect. Heretics. They weren't "devil worshipers."

It was denounced as heresy by the Holy See.

They protested against the wealth of the world being monopolized by the church and nobility.

They preached "all are equal in the eyes of God."

If even one relative was exposed as a heretic, an entire family would be coerced into a trial.

In reality, it meant an entire family wiped out.

The oppression against those who threatened their social status and authority reached the extremes of violence.

...Who lacked even their daily bread.

...Were poor third-class citizens.

...Who I once was.

...Nearly all who were arrested.

...Could manage to shake my heart...

...They were... But no gruesome spectacle I witnessed...
WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO STRIKE THEIR HEADQUARTERS. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A SANITARIUM WOULD BE THEIR DEN?

WELL DONE, LADY FARNES.

...UNTIL THEN...

MOTHER...
Why is she here?

Oh, God...

Why?

...understands anything...

Mother no longer...

This is some kind of mistake. I mean, Mother...

BADUMP

BADUMP

BADUMP

...!

Is your mother among those?

Did he just say "mother"?
...because I left you all alone in that house...?

Is it...

A relative of a member of the Holy Iron Chain Knights, a heretic...?!

That would be impossible!!

Is it my fault...?

Well yes, but he did just...

If this is true, it constitutes a major problem.

I chanced to meet father, and joined the peerage as you wished.

Dear husband.

Ohh!

But was not your wish fulfilled, thanks to that decision?

Isolated... clinging to god while living in your dream world...

Oh, how long it has been.

Have you been despondent nonetheless since?
IS THAT THE REASON?

HE HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING TO DISGRACE THE FAMILY NAME?

I HATED YOU. I SOMETIMES WISHED FOR YOUR DEATH SO I MIGHT ESCAPE YOUR YOKE.

...YOUR REVENGE?

HAS OUR SON BEEN OF USE TO YOU?

IS THIS...

YOU THROW THE TORCH.

FAR --!
PROVE SHE'S NOT YOUR MOTHER.

PROVE IT TO ME.

WHAT DID...

...WE BURY AND HIDE?

...AND FOREVER.

ALWAYS, NOW...

ONLY I.

I AM YOUR MISTRESS.

SWEAR IT ONCE MORE.
WHAT WERE WE DELIVERED FROM?

WHAT DID WE BURN TO ASHES?

WHAT WERE WE ENCHAINED BY?
"...the footprints continue on..."

"...upon the snow..."

"...as if trying to meet the same plane..."

"...we left that holy city..."

"...and now we're beneath the sky of that journey..."

"...that black swordswan will follow..."

"...that we never escape..."

"...that mansion..."
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!

1. I know all about it.
2. I know it all too well.
3. And I know that you continue to provide him with his meals.
4. How he's a monster that eats human flesh.
5. I passed them at the gates of the city.
6. A prison wagon full of women and children.
7. Protect this town? Don't you mean protect myself?
8. I... I am the mayor!
9. It is my duty to protect this town!
The world of Guts, the Black Swordsman, is changing in a hurry. Though a demonic maelstrom has leveled the dreaded Tower of Conviction and ended the reign of terror of its grand inquisitor, Mazgus, peace has not returned to Midland. The Tower’s fall has heralded the unexpected return of Griffith, Guts’ former leader, last seen transformed from a shattered husk into one of the demon lords of the Gadwall. But Griffith looks like his old self again—and with his dreams of carving out a kingdom by his own hand still intact. He’s raising a new Band of the Hawk, but this time he’s recruiting from the dark side to fulfill his deadly destiny!

Created by Kentaro Miura, Berserk is a towering manga monolith, a crushing slab of bone-rattling action, teeth-chattering horror, and rule-breaking humor that has conscripted thousands into its legion of the damned and tossed the unbelievers from the battlements. Awake the iron!

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