 Berserk

28

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**キャスカ  Casca**
The experiences of the eclipse completed regressed the mind of the former commander of the Band of the Hawk. Now, she has neither the ability to talk or convey her feelings. Flora's amulet is just barely protecting her from the brand which attracts evil spirits.

**ファルネーゼ  Farnese**
Formerly assigned as the commander of the Vatican's knights of the holy iron chains, and heiress to the rich and prestigious Vendemion house. She cast off her life to learn about the ways of the world from Guts.

**ガッツ  Guts**
The main character of this book. He has taken his stand in the world of the hazama. The Black Swordsman who continually resolves his soul to protect Casca and challenge Griffith. His struggle is, in one word, heroic.

**イシドロ  Isidro**
His dream is to be the "ultimate swordsman." However, his ability disastrously fails him time and again. Never the less, this boy strives toward that dream. Currently, he wields an artifact blessed by the fire elementals.

**パック  Puck**
An elf who has long traveled with Guts. The powder from his wings has the power to heal wounds. Also, it was recently revealed that he is a wind-spirit, one of the four kinds of elemental spirits.
While he acts as Farnese's valet, he is actually her older brother. However, their blood relation is unknown to Farnese. Skilled in battle, he currently wears an artifact blessed by the wind elementals.

Schierke

Apprentice of the witch Flora of the Spirit Tree Manor. Using many arts, she provides support for Guts and the others. While some of her techniques prove more than she can handle, she has also braved danger to rescue Guts' friends.

Griffith

Undergoing the Eclipse by the Crimson Behelit, he became God-Hand Femto. Later, he was incarnated at a mock eclipse caused by the egg-shaped Apostle, and returned to the material world. He has become the "Absolute One," unparalleled on earth.

Zodd

The apostle also known as "Nosferatu Zodd." An invincible being who craves battle with powerful opponents. But he was defeated by Griffith and he now brings himself to the new band of the hawk.
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**JETS COMICS**

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件
などにはいっさい関係ありません。
Hey!

The sea at night is kinda creepy.

Hey Schierke, let's go back.

It really is hard to sleep.

Out for a walk.

Under this moonlight.
IT'S A HABIT. I DON'T FEEL CALM WITHOUT IT.

BUT WHY ARE YOU STILL CARRYING YOUR SWORD? IT WILL AFFECT YOUR BODY.

YOU COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER?

THE SEA AT NIGHT MAKES ME SHIVER.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT FROM MY SIDE...

YOUR WOUNDS MAY HURT, BUT YOU SHOULD FORCE YOURSELF TO REST...

IF YOU STARE AT IT,

IT FEELS LIKE YOU'LL BE SWALLOWED INTO THE DEPTHS.

OF THIS DARK WAVE.
THIS... IS MY FIRST TIME AT THE SEA.

MY MISTRESS SAID TO ME,

THAT THE SEA IS CONNECTED TO THE ASTRAL WORLD.

A PLACE LIKE THAT IS ALWAYS CONNECTED TO THE ASTRAL WORLD.

BEAUTIFUL AND KIND. CREEPY AND TERRIFYING.

A SIGHT CONNECTED TO THE HEART-STRINGS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE'S.

BUT NOW THAT I STAND ON THIS BEACH, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT MY MISTRESS MEANT.

ONLY A FEW DAYS HAVE PASSED, BUT IT FEELS LIKE I HAVE COME A VERY LONG WAY.

AT THAT TIME, I COULD ONLY IMAGE......

I AM IN AN UNKNOWN PLACE NOW.
ON A JOURNEY THAT I CAN NEVER TURN BACK FROM.

I HAVE GONE

OVERBURYOURSELF.

YOU SHOULDN'T

AND ONLY WORRY ABOUT OTHERS. IT TAKES YOUR MIND OFF THINGS, BUT... WELL.

YOU TRY TO SETTLE EVERYTHING CLEVERLY IN YOUR MIND.
IF YOU KEEP DOING THAT WHILE YOU'RE STILL A KID, I'M NOT....

YOU'LL BECOME A TWISTED ADULT.

QUIT A THING FOR A TWISTED ADULT TO SAY.

INTO A NEW GREATER LIFE..... AND IS NOT....

DEATH DOES NOT MEAN THE END..... BUT MEANS A CHANGE....

TO US MAGIC USERS, A LOVED ONE'S DEATH IS SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME!

THAN WHEN IT HAPPENS PEOPLE IN THE REAL WORLD
SOMETHING TO BE SAD...

IS NOT...
I'm kind of relieved now.

Oh yeah?

Sting from the salt in the wind.

My eyes and nose.

Hey, you're over doing it.

Me too.

All over my body.

To be quite honest.

...fufu.
OH YEAH, SCHIERKE, YOU'RE AROUND THAT AGE NOW.

HUH ...?

BUT COMPARED AT LEAST YOU PICKED THE BEST ONE OUT OF THE BUNCH. ONE IS A NICE PERSON, BUT HE'S A SERVANT...... AND THE OTHER ...... IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

HE'S JUST A MONKEY.

MAYBE YOU HAVE A LITTLE 'FATHER COMPLEX'?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!!

KAAAANN! IT TICKLES.

LOVELING O

THE FIRST FAINT FEELING THAT BUDS TOWARDS THIS WILD OLDER MAN.

ELVES

SO YOU WERE ALIVE.

...... YOU.

A GUEST.

HAT'S THE MATTER?
I would say the same thing to you.

This person...

You didn’t come to visit, did you?

... What is it today?

But I’ll still thank you.

I’ve racked up a lot of debt to you lately.... And that’s in addition to what happened before.

That an apostle is near.....?

The fact you’re here means,
Fingers start to tire from the shaking.

The tongue loses taste.

Your vision starts to lose certain colors.

How do you...?

What?!

That is an omen.

You will lose many things.

Light, voice.

Wearing that armor and fighting more battles as the Berserk.
NO

WOW, THE CURSED ITEM FROM OUR HOUSE IS QUITE RUTHLESS.

YOU STILL SOUND LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.

I JUST DON'T LIKE HOW YOU TALK.

HEH!

NEXT TIME,

I'LL USE IT WHILE I'M STILL SANE.

THANKS FOR THE WARNING, BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN.

I'LL NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

YES, THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.
IT WAS YOU WHO HELPED US OUT IN GLIPHOOTH AND THE SPIRIT TREE.

WON'T LET IT HAPPEN.

I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE.

I SAW THAT DISAPPEAR?

If we didn't need your help...

...excuse me, but what kind of relationship

DID YOU AND MY MISTRESS HAVE?

BUT ALWAYS LOOKED AT IT TENDERLY.

MY MISTRESS ALWAYS SAID THAT THE ARMOR OF BERSERK WAS A DANGEROUS CURSED ITEM AND CAREFULLY SEALED IT,
Was that armor something you wore long ago?

You are quite intelligent.

Being the beloved student of the Witch of the Spirit Tree.

When we were still in the reason of time.

That armor is something I once more.

It is true:

Then this person .......!!
Just like you two are now.

We were friends.

If it ever gets a chance, it will become a massive flame.

The od that resides in that armor is a flame that never burns out. Even if you hold it off, it will always smolder.

Even with the charm on it, do not let your guard down.
To retain your humanity.

If you wish

WHY DID THE APOSTLES ATTACK THE OLD WOMAN'S MANSION?

WHY DID THOSE FREAKS...

WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME...

THANK YOU KINDLY.

The Hawk only has one goal.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BEST.
It is like in a tale where the people would destroy them. There is not a single being who can threaten him here.

You too must be one who resides outside the tale.

Has more dangerous than an army of ten thousand.

He must have thought that one magic user.

It's even more so for strong magic users.

And that's why they attacked my mistress......!

I can't forgive them......

NO

SCHERKE...
You will encounter many apostles.

If you continue on your journey,

And the one who

What do you mean?!

The Hawk.

Guts...
GUTS!!
But there is still hope in the end.

That is the destiny of the one who stands alone on the Interstice.

To protect or challenge.

Keep asking yourself.
The king of elves is incredibly strong and mentioned in many legends.

Hanafubuki king?!

I have heard of him before. You know him?

Who?

Guy never said a word...

His name is written in not only the grimoire but in many poems and tales.

With its powers.

It was careless of me... that such a strong elf would rule the Puck's homeland...

It may be possible.

For her.

The land of the elves you seek.

The lord of the elves lives there.

He is the Hanafubuki king.
For the Branded girl

To regain her heart.
CASKA WILL...
YOU STILL HAVE MANY PERILS THAT LIE AHEAD OF YOU

AND MOST OF ALL...

BUT DO NOT FORGET.
What you wish for may not be what she wishes for.
CASKA!!

BUT...
FARNEZE, PUT THIS COAT ON... YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
Isn't it too hard for you? Being a babysitter and learning magic...

I HAVE NO EXCUSE...

SHE GOT LOST GOING TO THE BATHROOM? YOU'RE SO SLOW AS USUAL.

WHERE DID GUTS AND SCHIERKE GO?

There.

CAS...

HUH?
EVERY-ONE.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

AHH OOHNN

HUH

WELL ...
I sense a strange 'od'.

What is it?

I don't know who it is. Is he lost?

Who's that child?

Naked and alone in a place like this... I wonder if he was robbed?

...this child?
Anyway, let's get back to the hut. If we stay out here the child will freeze to death.

I want to tell everyone my good news too!

Good news?

Is something the matter?

No.

My imagination...
I am quite sure of that.

'Hanafubuki King' is a legendary king of fairies that is sung of in legends.

CASKA...!?

Yes.

Seriously!?

Isn't that great guts?

You didn't even say his name! You stupid chestnut!

Why didn't you say anything!? A show off like you!

Your king is pretty great!

Maybe he didn't know.
What you wish for may not be what she wishes for.
...YEAH?

GUTS......?

What's your name? Where'd you come from?

Let's ask around the nearby villages tomorrow. What a different attitude. Not cute at all.
WHAT?

Hey! H-

W-

WHAT...?
Hey...

Ahhhh

Don't just sit there and watch. Do something...

Who cares, it's not like you're gonna lose it.

Maybe he's interested in the armor?

Daa hhh

Wait, on on on...
Hey Schierke! You get in there too! Take some! It's Strategic Love!
IT WAS ONLY FOR A SPLIT SECOND.... BUT I'M SURE OF IT.

THAT LAST TIME I SAW HIM WAS AT THE TOWER OF RETRIBUTION.

IS HE STILL WANDERING THE NIGHT SOMEWHERE BY HIMSELF.....
BERSERK
FOG...

GUTS!

WHAT'S WRONG?
MORE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, I GUESS?

ALL RIGHT! IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD SOME ACTION!

MY WARD IS PERFECT, SO IT CAN'T BE THAT...

SOMETHING'S COMING.

SOMewhere IN THIS FOG...
APOSTLES !?

YES, I KNOW THIS FEELING...

IT FEELS VERY CLOSE TO THAT OF THE MONSTERS WHO ATTACKED US IN THE TREE SPIRIT.

THIS OD ISN'T OF SPIRITS...

THEY'RE COMING!
NO!! IT'S AN ALLIGATOR... AN ANIMAL FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY!!

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT HUGE-ASS LIZARD!? A DRAGON ...!!?
IT... STOOD UP!

ALLIGATORS SURE DO KICK ASS...

IT'S EVEN GOT A HARPOON!

UH?

DAH!
WHAT ON EARTH...

EEP!

WHAT ON EARTH...

EEEP!

スースデュラ!
IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED A "FAMILIAR". BUT WHO COULDN'T...?

IT'S A TYPE OF MAGICAL LIFE-FORM.

THIS WAS CREATED BY IMPLANTING A SPIRIT INTO A LIVING ANIMAL...

WE'RE IN TROUBLE!!

THEY'RE COMING IN DROVES!!
EVEN THOUGH THIS ISN'T A TEMPLE OR HOLY GROUND, I CAN STILL CAST "FORMATION OF THE FOUR KINGS".

TONIGHT IS THE FULL MOON...

A TIME WHEN MAGIC EXHIBITS GREATLY INCREASED POWER.

I'M ON IT!

OK

PLEASE TRY TO BUY ME SOME TIME UNTIL I FINISH THE SPELL.

I GET PRETTY SICKLED UP DURING FULL MOONS, TOO!

R-RIGHT!

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF CASCA AND THE CHILD.

KEEP IT TOGETHER, SERVANT-GIRL!

FARNEZE.

uuu...
... THERE.

WAY NOT LET THOSE TWO TAKE CARE OF IT?

IN YOUR STATE...

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T, YET...

GUTS...
I'm fine.

It's the perfect chance to let this dulled body loosen up a bit.

Take care.

On the night of the full moon, there are times that even human souls can be driven mad.
OKAY THEN, HOW ABOUT GIVING 'EM A LITTLE TREAT?

SO MANY FREAKS, I CAN BARELY GET OUT THE DOOR...

URAH!

AWESOME! THEY EXPLODED! JUST LIKE THOSE BOMBS!
HE'S FLYING!!

JUST LIKE LAUNDRY DANGLING IN THE BREEZE!

DEFINITELY FEELS BETTER THAN USUAL.
INSTANT KILL?

WHOOA!

DAMN LIZARD!!
HE READ MY MOVES...

YAAAAH!
ISIDRO-STYLE
SWORD METHOD!!

STUN HIM WITH A MAGIC BERRY, THEN ATTACK!

SUCH A DINKY MOVE...

NAAH!

YOUR ENEMY WAS STOOPING FROM THE BEGINNING SO THE DESTINATION OF YOUR ROLL WAS HIS MOUTH. JUST LIKE HIS FOOD WAS ROLLING IN...

I DON'T THINK CROCODILES EAT VERY FELING YOURS HITS-IT?

DAA AHH!

HYAA AAA!
Hello! It's still moving!

Holy shit!

Damn, they're everywhere.

This could be a little bit of a pain.

They're slower than the trolls, but they've got huge frames, and they look tough.

Now to keep it up......

You're actually behaving a little like a master for a change!

Hehe...

Never make the same mistake twice.
WOW, IT'S LIKE HE'S FULLY RECOVERED OR SOMETHING!
LET'S GO!!
I feel it...
He's looking for the chance to free himself.

I must freeze my inner consciousness.

Do not bend my soul.

Enough so my body is free and able to withstand the pain of the scars.

Pull out the powers of the armor to the very utmost.

The one who holds the bridle...

...is me.
You, do something! Turn it into a bag! An alligator skin bag!

Ahhhh! It's here, it's here, it's here!

What are those guys doing?
SEEING IT AT NIGHT MAKES IT LOOK LIKE AN AURORA.

BEAUTIFUL.

SHE'S SHOWING OFF AS USUAL!

HMMPH!

SAFE?

IS EVERYONE?

OF COURSE.

FOR NOW,

THIS SHED IS SAFE.

BECOME DULL TO THE FEELINGS OF SPIRITUAL TOUCH.

SPIRITS THAT ARE WRAPPED IN A PHYSICAL BODY.

IF THEY KEEP COMING, EVENTUALLY ......

THERE IS A LIMIT ON HOW LONG THIS WALL WILL LAST.

BUT THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM TROLLS, WHO ARE PURE SPIRITS.

THEY ARE ENTITIES WHO HAVE AN ACTUAL BODY.
IF THEY ARE DEFEATED...

SOMEONE WHO CONTROLS THE PACK MUST BE NEAR.

SO BASICALLY, WE JUST NEED TO KILL THEM ALL RIGHT!?

THAT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG!

DO NOT HAVE A STRONG ENOUGH INDIVIDUAL WILL TO ACT ALONE.

WHERE ARE THEY!?!

I'M SEARCHING RIGHT NOW.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, MISS WITCH!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.

HOLD ON!

STILL .... !?
TRACING THE FLOW OF OD...

I FOUND THEM!

IN THE ROCKS BY THE SHORE...
DID HE DO IT?

THE FAMILIARS

NOT YET.

ALRIGHT! IF WE'RE GONNA RUN, NOW'S THE BEST TIME!

WAIT....!
THEY'RE KUSHAN?

MIST?
WHAT!? DID FISH START WALKING THIS TIME!? 

EVERYONE, GET AWAY FROM THERE NOW!!
海猟（マカラ）
BERSERK
IT IS A MAGICAL LIFE FORM CREATED BY IMPLANTING A SPIRIT INTO A ANIMAL!

I- I DO NOT KNOW... BUT IT IS THE SAME AS A FAMILIAR.
It's coming this way!!

If it were a spiritual creature......! But my shield cannot stop such an enormous physical being! If it comes through, it will crush the cabin and us!

It's bigger than an ogre!?

We can't even run. It's blocking the only road leading to the beach!

A creature like that exists!? 
IF I AIM FOR ITS EYES...!
I was saved by the wind elementals.

...... I was careless.

Serpico!!

The ones who are controlling it...

On the ocean.

No... it's too far.
YOUR MAGIC ISN'T WORKING AT ALL!
QUIET MONKEYS!

I HAVE TO USE A SPELL THAT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A PHYSICAL PHENOMENON...

THE SHIELD ISN'T EVEN AFFECTING IT... IT'S TOO DULL!

WHAT STRENGTH IT HAS.

SPIRITUAL SPELLS WON'T DO IT!
I think he can do it, right?

By the looks of it, he's the usual guts!

He's not flinching at all against that monster!

W-Wow...!
ガアア...

OH SHIT....!

DAMMIT!

終戸.
SHIT! IT'S COMING OUT!
HIS WOUNDS WILL...

BUT...

HE'S INHUMAN.

WOW...... INCREDIBLY STRONG!
PULL HIM BACK.

I WILL.
FROM THE OCEAN WITHIN THE DARK NIGHT...

THE BLACK WAVE,
It pulls me into the depths.

A roar like a groan.
W-WOW...

AT THIS RATE, HE'LL CLEAN THEM ALL UP IN NO TIME

...BUT IT'S QUITE GROSS.

...I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE.

KILLING THINGS THAT DON'T HAVE ANY WILL TO FIGHT BACK..... MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE.

ARE AN OBJECT OF FEAR NOT ONLY TO THE ENEMY, BUT FOR THEIR ALLIES AS WELL. NOT BECAUSE THE ALLIES FELT FEAR IN THE SEVERITY OF THE BATTLE...

BE IT ENEMY OR ALLY,

THEY WOULD BE KILLED.

ACCORDING TO THE LEGENDS, THOSE WHO ARE CALLED BERSERK,
NOT GOOD...!!

N-
SCHIERKE!

HEY, ISN'T IT DONE YET?!

SERPICO....!

EVERYONE STAY BACK....!

NO.
超者（ジャンアーニン）

BERSERK
NOT AN ENEMY

NOTHING TO FEAR
I DON'T KNOW!!
WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW!? DID HE RETURN TO NORMAL!?

LISTEN CAREFULLY WITH YOUR EARS

LOOK CAREFULLY WITH YOUR EYES

LIGHT
GUTS

SURFACE OF THE WATER?

REACH YOUR HANDS OUT
... DAMMIT!!

IT TURNED OUT JUST LIKE HE SAID IT WOULD
YOU'LL BECOME A TWISTED ADULT

IF YOU KEEP TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING BY YOURSELF

RIGHT?

RIGHT

... YOU'RE
IT'S THE SAME AS IT'S ALWAYS BEEN

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ISSUE? ONE MISTAKE AND GUTS'S LIFE IS...

AS LONG AS WE HAVE HER MAGIC, YOU CAN COME BACK TO NORMAL RIGHT? THEN IT'S ALL OKAY THEN!

T... THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT!

DANGER ALWAYS COMES WITH A SUPER MOVE, THAT'S WHY IT BURNS!

WE MAY HAVE BEEN IN A LOT OF TROUBLE, BUT YOU DIDN'T GET CRUSHED BY THE MONSTER BECAUSE OF THAT ARMOR RIGHT?

I... I THINK SO TOO

EVERYONE KNOWS HOW DANGEROUS IT IS AND WE WERE ALL ABLE TO SURVIVE

WE SHOULD BE HAPPY WITH WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED
JUST LET IT BE

WE'LL...

COME FROM SOMEONE WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING, THAT'S QUITE THE SPEECH

REALLY?

SHE'S NOT COMPLIMENTING YOU

LADIES, YOU TWO ARE QUITE ALIKE.

......MAN, WHEN A BUNCH OF KIDS AND WOMEN TRY TO CHEER ME UP, I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

I......
WHAT WAS THAT......!

THAT MOMENT

THAT LIGHT THAT STOPPED ME...

WE HAVE TO TEND THE WOUNDS THAT OPENED UP FIRST...

WHAT?! TO WE NEED TO FIND FOOD SUPPLIES WITH THIS MUCH MEAT, WE'LL BE ABLE TO EAT MULTI-FLA VORED...

ISHIDORO, FICK, GIVE ME A HAND

WE NEED TO FIND THE EQUIPMENT OF MINE THAT GOT BLOWN AWAY
AHHH

AH...

WHAT'S WRONG?

CASKA...

WHY ARE YOU CRYING, CASA?

OH YEAH!

WHERE'S THE CHILD...

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HIM BY FOLLOWING HIS OD, BUT FOR REASON...

WE CAN'T SEEM TO FIND HIM.

WE EVEN SEARCHED UNDER THE CROCS.

NOTHING HERE EITHER.
IT'S OKAY. HE PROBABLY RETURNED HOME.

CAN'T BE...

THE MAGIC WORE OFF AND IT HAS RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

LET'S GO CASKA.

...? HEY, DID THAT THING CHANGE SHAPE?

AHH

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THEIR ALLIES WON'T ATTACK AGAIN.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED NOW, WE HAVE TO LEAVE.
I KNOW

TELL THE GENERAL ON THE MAINLAND TO ADVANCE THE ARMIES

YES

WITHIN ONE NIGHT, ALL THE VILLAGES ON THIS ISLAND WERE BROUGHT UNDER OUR CONTROL...

THINGS WOULD NOT HAVE GONE SO SMOOTHLY WITH THE ROUGH METHODS OF THE ARMY

WITHOUT LETTING A SINGLE PERSON LIVE... THEY WILL BE EXTERMINATED WITHOUT A TRACE OF THEIR FLESH LEFT BEHIND

VERY DISCREETLY, WITHOUT LETTING A SINGLE FIRE FLARE UP

THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYONE ON THIS ISLAND ABLE TO DEFEAT THE PISHACHA'S I RECEIVED FROM THE EMPEROR...

BUT ONE THING BOTHERS ME... THE OD FROM ONE OF THE HARASHADA'S WAS CUT OFF
OR,

COULD THERE ...
This is just a sample of the Vatican Order's army.

Are those all soldiers? Amazing.

Serpico was a heraldic official.

How do you know all this?

The up and coming Randel Republic's national armed forces, Raana of the Vanelia Alliance's national armed forces as well as Varris Niise and Vritaniis's mercenary bands.

There's horsemen from the Chulder Empire's and Kingdom of Balden's, and over there are the eastern Duchies of Morgal and Waratoria Lord's horsemen.

He has all countries, lords, and army's coat of arms in his head.

Ah, so noisy, my eardrums are going to burst.

Whooaaa! My blood is boiling.

It's... just barbarous.

It's like thunder.

...No, it's nothing.

What is it?
As far as heavy armored knights go, there are no other countries that have such large standing armies.

Midland's army is pretty much destroyed now, and as a matter of fact, so is Chuder's regular army. I can't really go along with their style.

Hm... Say, which army is the strongest?

Balden's military's equipment doesn't lag behind Chuder's, but

Because that country is presently totally engulfed in a peasant uprising, they can't really spare as many soldiers on this war.

Their national character is rough, and they're here hoping to use this war to showcase their toughness among the other countries.

Randel recently won their independence from Balden. They ushered in criminals to develop the lands and start up settlements.

They have strong warriors who've crossed blades with the Kushan's many times in the past.

Morgal and Waratoria are small countries, but because they are on the easternmost border of the Vatican order.

Unlike other countries, their national armies' strength is low. Except for Raana they don't have standing armies and usually hire mercenaries during wartime.

The countries in Vanelia are now an alliance, but until recently the groups of city states continuously skirmished over territory.
WEREN'T YOU JUST A SERVANT?

I WAS A SERVANT, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU GUYS TO THINK OF ME THAT WAY.

YOU'RE AMAZING.

THE OLD SMELL OF THE BATTLEFIELD

SOMETHING FAMILIAR TO ME.

THIS UNSETTLED SMELL...
Originally, Vritania was one of the most important trade cities of the Vatican Order, but... This city looks like it’s turned into one big military canteen.

WOW! It's like a nation of soldiers!

But with so many people swarming around, then

Are you all right?

I'm feeling sick from all the crowds. All the smells make me nauseous.

That's because you're a country bumpkin! If you don't get it together people will make fun of you.

Stealth mode: *Sigh* This is fine.

Why does that seem familiar?

...Nya?
INDEPENDENCE, THE CRUSHING OF BALDEN'S HEAVY ARMORED CAVALRY ARE ONE OF OUR MANY MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND HERE WE STAND!!

WE ARE THE BAND OF THE NEW DAWN'S FANG!! WE WERE INVINCIBLE IN THE WAR FOR RANDEL'S INDEPENDENCE, THE CRUSHING OF BALDEN'S HEAVY ARMORED CAVALRY ARE ONE OF OUR MANY MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS!

THE GUY STANDING ON THE PEDESTAL IS THE LEADER OF THE GROUP

THAT'S HOW MERCENARY BANDS FIND SOLDIERS

THEY'RE TRYING TO ENLIST PEOPLE

WHAT THE HELL? WHO ARE THESE ODDBALLS

AND MOST OF ALL, IF HE GETS ALONG WELL WITH HIS SOLDIERS

THIS GUY THINKS TOO HIGHLY OF HIMSELF

IT GOES BEYOND SEEING WHETHER THE MERCENARY BAND IS STRONG, IT'S ABOUT SEEING WHETHER THE LEADER IS ONE OF THE TROOPS OR JUST AN EMPLOYER

TO A MERCENARY, FIGHTING FOR A NATION OR FOR HONOR MEANS NOTHING. IT'S SIMPLY THE WAY HE PUTS FOOD ON THE TABLE.

THEY SAY THAT THE MERCENARIES ARE HAPPY TO HAVE A LEADER THAT WOULD LOSE A BATTLE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF HIS SOLDIERS RATHER THAN A LEADER THAT WINS REGARDLESS OF THE COST, RIGHT?

YES, TO A MERCENARY WAR IS NOTHING BUT A TRADE. IT'S USUALLY PEOPLE WHO WERE CHASED FROM THEIR HOMES BY THE UPEHAVALS OF WAR OR HAVE BECOME SO POOR THEY HAVE LITTLE OTHER CHOICE

BUT RISKING IT FOR YOUR FRIENDS OR AS A PAWN ARE VERY DIFFERENT THINGS

IT'S THE SAME LIFE THAT YOU'RE RISKING
IN THE MIDLAND-CHUDAR 100 YEAR WAR, THEY WENT UNDEFEATED AGAINST CHUDER’S ARMY

A MAN MUST RISE USING JUST HIS WIT AND SKILL

THE MAIN THING IS TO HAVE A STRONG CHARISMATIC AND LOVED LEADER

WHO LED THE LIKELY BAND OF “THE BAND OF THE HAWK”

SIR GRIFFITH

AFTER BECOMING A REGULAR MIDLAND ARMY, THE LEGENDARY BAND LEADER FINALLY BROUGHT AND END TO THE CARNAGE BY CONQUERING THE IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS DOLDREY, WHICH WAS PROTECTED BY WHAT WAS SAID TO BE CHUDER’S STRONGEST ARMY, THE HOLY PURPLE RHINO KNIGHTS.
THAT I CHOSE MY WAY OF LIFE. THAT'S NO EXAGGERATION.

IT'S BECAUSE I HEARD THAT STORY.

I KNOW ABOUT THAT TOO! IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE AMONG MEN!!

THAT GRIFFITH GUY WAS INCREDIBLE, BUT

IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT ONE MAN THAT CHUDER'S STRONGEST ARMY WAS DESTROYED, OR SO THE STORY GOES.

'CAUSE SUPPOSEDLY, HE KILLED 100 NO 1000 MEN BY HIMSELF!

WHAT'S HIS NAME... THE BAND OF THE HAWK'S RAIDING COMMANDER WAS RIDICULOUSLY STRONG.
Ironically, it's said that the strife between Sir Griffith and the King is the cause of Midland fate today.

I forgot.

That was a long time ago.

What mercenary band was it?

Say, Guts bro., you were in a mercenary band too, right?

Whatever the truth is, I don't know.

Or some rumors say they are still fighting the Kushan's inside Midland.

After that, it is said that the band of the Hawk was annihilated through one of the King's schemes.

As a soldier of the Band of the Hawk,

I wish to challenge the Black Swordsman to a one-on-one duel.
TEACHER

Now that you mention it, we did forget about that. We just got completely used to it.

AW SHIT

WHAT'S WITH THAT GETUP

ME?

WE WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO ENTER IN THAT KIND OF INSOLENT OUTFIT

GEEZ!

WAIT GIRL!

This is a citadel of the Vatican Order.

It's the same as if you were in the sacred land.

MR OFFICIAL, THAT'S AN ARTISTIC COSTUME

Even if you are performers, you have to leave.

YOU'RE TRAVELING PERFORMERS?
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN MANIPULATE PEOPLE'S OP TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION
WHAT IS IT??

DON'T INTERRUPT!

HEY, COME WITH ME

SHE'S THE CENTER OF ATTENTION

MIGHT AS WELL PUT UP A MAGIC CIRCLE

OH MY! JEALOUS? HOW UNEIGHTLY

THOSE CLOTHES ARE DEFINITELY HORRIBLE!
IF WE DON'T GO SOMEPLACE TO BUY SOME NEW ONES...

THIS IS NORMAL FOR ME

NO WAY

WHY ARE YOU SO STUBBORN

YOU'RE THE ONE MORE LIKELY TO BLUNDER INTO THAT KIND OF THING

YOU WANT TO BE BURNED AT THE STAKE!?

AH...
HOW CRUEL

SORRY
AH, UHM

I WAS JUST GIVING YOU SOME ADVICE

WHAT! 'CAUSE OF A TATTERED OLD HAT!

IT'S COMING! A MAGIC ATTACK

SHE'S GONNA DO IT!
THAT HAT AND HER CLOTHES WERE HAND MADE BY FLORA!!

A MEMENTO! ME-MEN-TO!!

SCHIERKE WAIT!!

TO MAKE A GIRL CRY, YOU REALLY ARE A MONKEY!

ISIDRO ...

EVERYTHING ELSE SHE HAD BURNED TO THE GROUND
WE HAVE MIND TALK, AND I DOUBT THERE'S ANYONE AROUND THAT CAN HARM A REAL WITCH

YOU GO AND GET HER

I'LL GO TOO

IT'LL BE BAD IF HER SUPPER GETS COLD THOUGH

SOMEBODY WITHOUT PEOPLE

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WAIT UP, SCHIERKE

WITH STONE ENTIRELY ENCIRCLING US, IT'S STIFLING. AH, THE DEAR FOREST

HEH HEH, GET A LOAD OF THAT!

WHAT'S THAT? HOW CUTE!

I REALLY DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE. SO MANY PEOPLE SCURRYING AND IT HAS SUCH A GAUDY OD
人間の都市

BERSERK
HEE, WHAT ARE YOU...?

SCHIERKE!
NO, WHAT IS THIS...?

THAT'S HIS BODY

STAND AWAY FROM ME FOR A SECOND, EVA-RELLA.
WHAT'S WRONG!?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT SIN WERE THESE PEOPLE EXECUTED FOR?

AND WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO BE A WITCH?

THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR A KID TO HANG AROUND.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

YES.

THESE GUYS ARE KUSHANS.
These are slaves who settled in Vritanis.

Although you could say they're Kushans,

In other countries the Kushans are enemies, but in this city they're products. Kind of like livestock.

Vritanis is a city of merchants. They sell anything that makes money, no matter what it is or who the buyer is.

The city couldn't just leave them free to roam the city anymore, so they were used as sacrifices.

Since Vritanis was chosen to be the garrison for Vatican order, they can't do that anymore.

They're not sinners.

For that reason...

They were just unlucky.
DO PEOPLE KILL EACH OTHER SO UNREASONABLY?

BRING THEM DOWN NOW AND WE WILL BURN THEIR CORPSES.

YOU TWO WILL HELP US.

IT IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE FORGIVEN.

LEAVING BODIES EXPOSED IS BLASPHEMOUS TOWARDS THE DEAD.

ALRIGHT
MAN...... WHERE IS THAT WITCH WANDERING AROUND AT!!

I GUESS WE HAVE TO JUST WAIT FOR SCHIERKE'S TELEPAS HUH?

WITH SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND I GUESS NO ONE CARES.

I THOUGHT HER APPEARANCE WOULD MAKE HER STAND OUT

AND TO MANY BUILDINGS ARE IN THE WAY TO SEARCH FROM THE SKY

SAME HERE

WITH SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND, SCHIERKE'S PRESENCE IS BROKEN UP AND HARD TO DETECT.
EXCUSE ME

JUST SAY SOMETHING ABOUT A WITCH?

DID YOU

COULD YOU PLEASE

TELL ME IN DETAIL
THE SUN IS ABOUT TO SET.

HEY SCHERKE.

HEY.
I feel like I'm going to be crushed...

It scares me...

All the trees in a single forest wouldn't be enough for this...

But there are so many...

Making something so large...

Wow, what is this?

It's huge.

What could be so large that a ship this massive is needed?
Were all those people gathered just to kill?

The world they live in

Is this

And the voices of the elementals are weak...

Mistress, the voices of humans are strong here!
棧橋のトンピとフクロウ

BERSERK
CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE CAN I FIND THAT WITCH?

ASKING SOMETHING LIKE THAT OUT OF THE BLUE....

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
Sorry about that.

Why don't you get off your high horse?

In order to make your stock go up with them...

Oh-ho!! I got it. You intend to catch her and hand over to the authorities?!

Why would someone like you be looking for a witch?

If you know anything that would help me find that witch, could you please tell me?

I'm looking for someone.
I'm no idiot, ya know...

By the looks of it, you're some noble's kid trying to become a knight.

You think that if you do a meritorious deed, they'll make you one, doncha?

But...

Wait! Listen to what I have to say...

As if I'd let you do that!

Whoa!

Was that a...
WE HAVE TO FIND THAT WITCH BEFORE THAT BASTARD DOES. DAMN IT!!

I WAS IN STEALTH MODE.

HOW COULD HE AVOID THAT?

SHE'LL BE BURNED AT THE STAKE.

NO, SHE'LL DROWN MOST OF THE CITY IN HER MAGIC.

THIS IS SERIOUS.
SCHIERKE, I'M HUNGRY
SOMEONE'S COMING

THERE REALLY IS A WITCH

INCREDIBLE
A WITCH, RIGHT?

YOU ARE
LOOK LIKE ONE?

DO I

MAINLY

TALKING TO ANIMALS AND

THE POINTY HAT AND STAFF

YOU DO. YOU DO

A GIRL WITH AN ELF HAS TO BE A WITCH

HER

THIS PERSON

YOU CAN SEE ME
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SET THEM FREE, RIGHT?

THOSE HANGED KUSHAN PEOPLE

YOU COULD SEE THAT?

IT WAS BEAUTIFUL, LIKE FISH SWIMMING IN THE SUNSET

IT WASN'T ANYTHING GREAT...

WAS THAT MAGIC?

IT WAS SO COOL HOW YOU LED THOSE BIG MEN BY THE NOSE

IT'S SOMETHING LIKE HYPNOSIS

WASN'T IT GREAT!
NO...
BY YOURSELF?
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOURNEY
SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS CITY
A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED

OH...

BEING DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE

MUST BE HARD
Once upon a time, there was an ugly duckling.

The weak ducks were not able to fly away, and merely quacked and wept.

The little kite, thinking itself a strange duck, didn't know how to fly and thus was also caught.

* Kite the bird, not the object on a string.
** The words for crow and raven are pronounced the same (afaik), and since it's written in katakana, it could be either or.

Everyone was caught.
The hawk and the kite look like relatives.

So from that time, the little kite met a friend.

Before you even knew it, the white hawk's dragon retainers had defeated the crows completely.

And it knew it could fly.

Did you hear that! Dragons are some incredible hawks!

Then, the ducks were rescued by the king of birds.

It was a white hawk.

The white hawk traveled the entire country exterminating the crows.

It wasn't just dragons who followed him, but also the ducks and even some stray crows who had a change of heart.
SOMETHING NOT EVEN THE HARSHEST DRAGON NOR WEAKEST DUCK COULD DO

A ROMANTIC SITUATION'S COMING

AHHHH

ONE DAY

BUT

TO STRENGTHEN THEIR BONDS WITH THE HAWK

THE TIMID DUCKS WANTED


THE LITTLE KITE WAS SO PROUD!

IT ALONE COULD FLY THE SAME SKY AND FEEL THE SAME BREEZE AS THE HAWK

OH! OH!
It could feel the same skies
and so...

Thought that gazing at the sea might distract it.

The sullen little kite.

A little forest owl surrounded by seagulls.

At the sea the little kite met. Hmm, well.

Well, and then? And...

Somehow looked lonely that little owl.

That even surrounded by so many seagulls and the little kite thought.
WE LOOK SOMEHOW SIMILAR

WHILE LOOKING AT THE SAME SUNSET

I WONDER IF WE COULD BE FRIENDS ...

I THOUGHT

THINKING THE OWL WAS THE SAME THING

SIGH

HEHE
I spotted that girl going towards the pier a while ago.

Arms merchants for pirate dens are always docking there.

Because after dark, that area is dangerous.

Really!?

If things go badly, she'll be carried off and sold to a foreign land.

Since my companions are a bunch of normal humans,

Well you see,

They can't understand a magic user's feelings.

So, is there someone who understands your feelings traveling with you?
IT'S JUST THAT SINCE HE'S AN ADULT, SO HE THINKS OF ME... AND UNCONSCIOUSLY REGARDS ME AS JUST A SPOILED CHILD

DEFINITELY IN LOVE

EHHEHEHEHE

WHY MUST YOU TAKE IT THAT WAY?

WHAT IS IT THEN?

IT'S NOT THAT...
YOU'RE RIGHT
TO THE PERSON THAT'S ON YOUR MIND,
TO WHERE THE PERSON THAT CARES FOR YOU IS
YOU SHOULD GO BACK
LOOKING AT THE SEA MAKES ONE FEEL BETTER
OH WELL
STOP YOU BRATS!!

WHAT? KIDNAPPERS? PIRATES?

THAT'S...
You gave us a hard time, but you have no place to run to anyways. Quit yer bawling. Wriggle all you want, but you have no place to run to anyways. Huh?

Stop! We're gonna whip you raw. Alright alright we're going back!
A SCENE EVEN MORE DISGRACEFUL THAN THIS

PLEASE DON'T EXPOSE ME TO
●初出一覧
告げられし兆し…………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年7号）
月下の少年…………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年8号）
使い魔…………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年9号）
怪霧…………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年10号）
海獣（マカラ）………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年11号）
海鳴り………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年12号）
超者（ジャンアーニン）……………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年13号）
鎮守府………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年18号）
人間の都市………………………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年19号）
桟橋のトンビとフクロウ……………………●ヤングアニマル（2004年20号）

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