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Berserk, Vol. 22



Synopsis

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, Mozgus, 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 Godhand. 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!

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Customer Reviews

I like this series a lot, but it is starting to take too long to get to any climax in the books. The story line is interesting, but as most books do, it portrays the main female as helpless and completely dependent. At first she was amazing, independent and strong (also a b-otch) but now, as usual, she is no longer. I find that aspect frustrating. There are a lot of monsters, sexual oddities, and magic through out the series. But the books can drag at times. Maybe I am just impatient. Still fun to read.

The development of Serpico is welcome at the second half of this volume, and the mercilessness of the Kushans make a good foil for the Band of the Hawk to look welcoming. This said, the return of Griffith and the darker band of the hawk is a mixed blessing and the relationship to the Godhand seems hard to disentangle.

Last volume we saw how Guts and Casca were able to survive the Festival. but the happiness from this accomplishment is short-lived for Guts, since now he is regretting not taking the opportunity to kill Griffith when he had the chance. However, a surprise is waiting for them back "home", and when they get there and Guts ask about Rickert, he soon realizes that Griffith is there waiting for him! But don't get too excited, in order to get to Griffith, Guts will have to deal first with the bodyguard he brought along, and once you see who this is, you will understand that this is easier said than done. Well, Miura can't bring the series to an end yet, you understand. To compensate for this, the author does deliver in terms of moving the plot forward in this volume. This is one that is packed with story aspects. Of course, there is action, but there is also more developments than in your typical volume. I think it took me almost twice as long to read than most others. We also get to meet some amazing new characters that have come to join Griffith in his quest. They were directed to him by the oracle and are ready to wreak havoc to help Griffith achieve his goals. As if this was not enough, we get a brief glimpse of some new characters that will aid the other side of the coin. Moreover, towards the end of the volume we take a detour into the origins of the relationship between Farnese and Serpico, and many questions get answered here. If you want to gain a greater understanding of the overall plot that guides this series, this is a must-read volume!

This story certainly throws the Berserk story MUCH further. Instead of constant battle, there is a sudden confrontation. Guts and Griffith! They stand and meet face to face, and speak words with each other right in front of the now noticeably several-years aged Rickert (who still has no idea what happened during the Eclipse). Then...the second battle between Guts and Nosferatu Zodd happens! Guts vs. Zodd! Finally! Once again, we see how they clash in their built strength, and Guts is much stronger this time around. After this, we get to see how Lady Farnese and her faithful companion Serpico are doing out in the snowy cold. Turns out: we get to see an entire flashback to how they met in the first place. Serpico was a poor boy, turns out the son of her neglectful and wealthy father, and by chance circumstance made him her page (taking all her abuse over the years without giving her the information that he is actually her half-brother), and spends the years dealing with her obnoxious, spoiled tyranny and pyromaniacal habits. Seriously furthers the story on. A "Must Read" for all Berserk fans, like myself. Plus...we get to treasure the introductions to Griffith's new entrants to his newly resurrected BAND OF THE HAWK. And...oh, how freaking perfect they are. Zodd is the only demon of the group, the other three are human (I'd assume) but are so advanced in their skill it's just foreboding that Guts will have quite a struggle in having to deal with these unstoppable fighters. (If you've ever seen "Spirited Away": Well, one of them is much like the weird character No

Face, just to give you a clue. HOW...FREAKING...AWESOME!)

This novel has some of the best art of the entire series, in my opinion. Probably the best fight as well. Guts vs Zodd round 2 is one of the most heart-pounding battle scene I have ever seen. Gut's introspection trends continue giving the reader further insights into the parallels and anti-parallels between our antagonist and protagonist. This novel also marks a shift in the tone of the series from a dark misanthropic fantasy to high fantasy.

Long long time ago Back in the dark ages of europa .A dark swordsman he roamed In that ancient land of gothica .After revenge he sought Against demons , for betrayal From a man he once believed To be a friend with no denial. The twenty second folio : Readers of the twenty first folio Were shown That knight of hawk Upon a demo , flown .Alas he returns not the same With a horrid companion A demon insane And Upon our one eyed warrior Attacks , a murderous cain .And of lady farnese and her servant You will see Their innocent childhoods snuffed off glee .

Berserk is in a class of its own. It is a great story and great classic Manga brought about. Now you can continue where the Anime had originally left off.

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