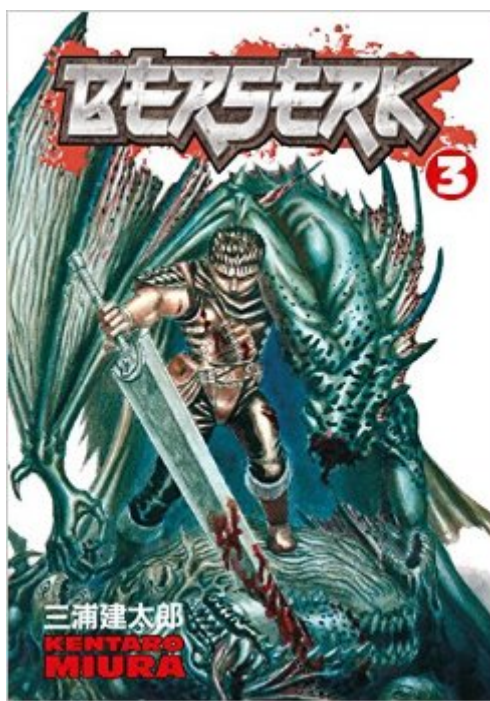


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Berserk, Vol. 3



Synopsis

Guts, the feared Black Swordsman, finishes his desperate battle with the monstrous Count, cutting and blasting him to gory scraps when the presence of the Count's daughter makes the monster hesitate. But Guts won't even have the time to clean his gigantic sword when the Count's dying pleas activate the Behelit, summoning the five God Hands, demon lords of immeasurable power. Guts' journey so far has been a long road of pain and death, but that's a walk in the park compared to fighting his way out of Hell itself!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oh, how it pains me to read a volume of Berserk, each one leaving me pining even more so for the next one. For fans of the anime series, volume three is THE volume to own! Where the first two books started off showing a bit more of Guts life right at the moment, not much reference is really made to the part of the story shown to us in the anime, which was pretty much one giant flashback. However, in this volume, we get to see Griffith!! Already a proud member of the demonic Godhand (and loving it, may I add), the interaction between the two is absolutely fascinating. And, there is also a flashback to when Griffith and Guts used to fight battles together, back when Griffith was still Guts' Idol. And, might I add, I really like Puck, a character unique to the manga alone. With the story being as graphically violent as it is, it's kind of nice seeing a little compassion coming from somewhere at least. This little Elf is pretty darn cute and he does add a bit of comic relief. But best of all, in this volume, we get to see baby Guts!! He's so cute!! And 3 year old Guts, and 6 year old Guts, and 9 year old Guts! (I'm sure you see a pattern here). After finishing the

exciting story arc of the mad ruler turned demon slug type creature, we are shown a flashback of Guts' birth and past growing up. Most of this was depicted in the anime, but we see slight variations. His adopted father, while being depicted in the anime as being moderately cruel all throughout (not counting when he totally loses it at the end), he is shown here with a wider variety of personas, going from horribly cruel, to surprising moments of kindness. However, the end leaves you hanging with a part of his past that wasn't in the anime at all, so I'm absolutely dying for the next volume. This is a series that you won't want to miss. Berserk is my all time favorite manga and anime ever!

Berserk, amazingly, continues to get better, and for a series that was already a five in my book, that makes it very difficult to rate this, as five is the highest it can go here. With this volume, I'd give it a six easily, and possibly a seven. The artwork is great, the characters and their interactions are well-done, and the dark atmosphere that surrounds the story of Guts is enough to gag on, but in a good way, to be sure. In this volume, Guts's battle with the Count continues, only now there is a witness to this fight of blood and madness, the Count's daughter and pride Theresia. And, of course, the ever present Puck. But just as the conclusion seems to be coming, the fight is interrupted by the God Hand, and among this group of five demon gods is Guts's hated rival, Griffith. This is probably the highlight of the manga, especially if you've seen the anime series, as it finally links Guts's past to his present. After that, the story goes deep into the past, and to the tortured childhood of Guts under the mercenary Gambino. I'd recommend this volume and all of the Berserk manga volumes to anyone who is a fan of mature manga. In fact, I highly recommend buying not one or two but three at a time, money permitting, because you'll find yourself finishing these books in short order. Advance Warning: This volume contains some very mature content (including an orgy scene and implied molestation), so for anyone who feels uncomfortable about things of this nature, do stay away. This is definitely a manga for adults and should be read with care. Treat this like a bottle of prescription medicine: keep it high on a shelf where no children can reach it.

This review is strictly for the Manga: 'Berserk'. This review and the text it is laid out in is the opinion of the author. The Berserk manga is one of the best stories I have ever read. I initially watched the old anime and decided to read the book and I must say I am blown away by the depth of the story. The hero will take some getting used to, but he grows on you. The villains will leave you in disgust, and you will not be able to stop turning the pages. This is a great series, and it is definitely a worthwhile read. Don't miss this story!

Guts is in rare form as he confronts the target of his search in this volume. Berserk is a violent and disturbing book. Guts seems to no longer care about anything or anyone except revenge on the one who betrayed him. In many ways, this reminds of Conan (dark, bloody fantasy where magic is both rare and feared). The TV series was largely a flashback except for the first episode. In volume 3 of the manga, is still focusing on "the present" though there are elements of the flashback present. Having watched the TV series and yearned for an actual ending, I began buying these volumes. As only maybe 7 of these have been released and the manga is something like 28 volumes, I don't know that it will happen. However, I am seeing much more of his further adventures (that take place after the final episode of the TV series) even in just these first few volumes.

Berserk was thrilling from the beginning of this volume until it's end. It delves into the darkest depths of human nature that nearly breaches that macabre line of devolving into a heartless demon. The battle scenes are epic as Guts' superb use of his great sword leaves the reader in awe. The history of the black swordsman begins to be unearthed as he encounters an old, mysterious ally. The plot begins to thicken from a random string of demon slaying toward an objective of revenge rather than simply the escape from the constant onslaught of demonic entities. Guts' complex personality begins to be unravelled through the telling of his history which leads us to think that he may not be as cold as he wants everyone to believe. The horrifying image that this volume ends on leaves you anxiously pining, while hoping against hope, that all will turn out well in the following installation.

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