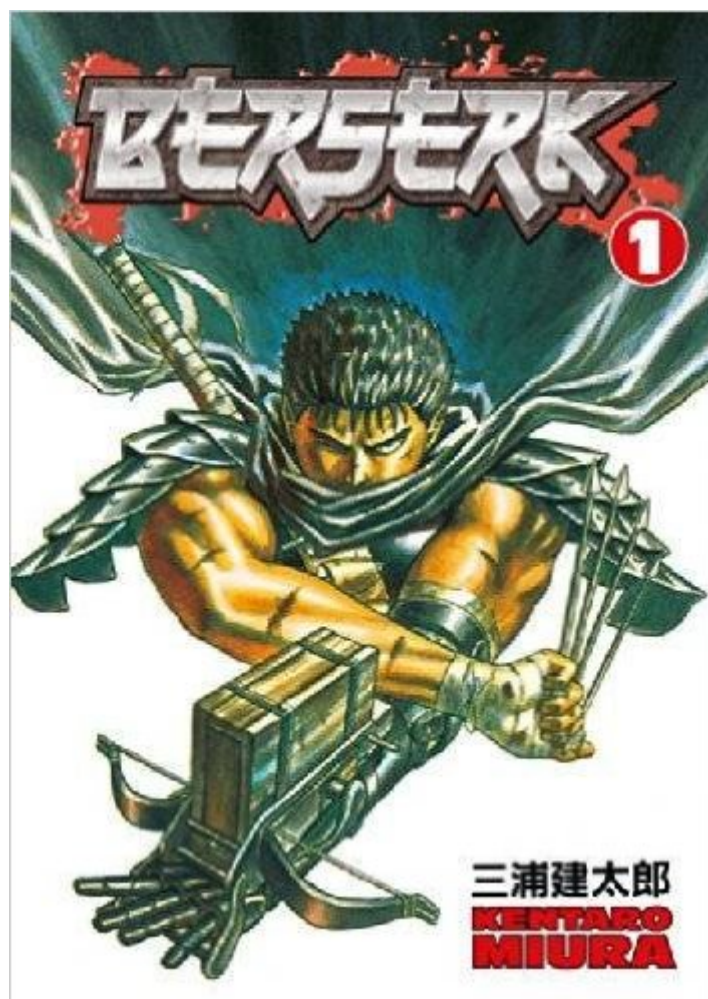


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Berserk, Vol. 1



Synopsis

Created by Kenturo Miura, Berserk is manga mayhem to the extreme - violent, horrifying, and mercilessly funny - and the wellspring for the internationally popular anime series. Not for the squeamish or the easily offended, Berserk asks for no quarter - and offers none! His name is Guts, the Black Swordsman, a feared warrior spoken of only in whispers. Bearer of a gigantic sword, an iron hand, and the scars of countless battles and tortures, his flesh is also indelibly marked with The Brand, an unholy symbol that draws the forces of darkness to him and dooms him as their sacrifice. But Guts won't take his fate lying down; he'll cut a crimson swath of carnage through the ranks of the damned - and anyone else foolish enough to oppose him! Accompanied by Puck the Elf, more an annoyance than a companion, Guts relentlessly follows a dark, bloodstained path that leads only to death...or vengeance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I remember reading just about every Berserk book that came out in 2000. I was addicted to the series. The deep characters with emotional back stories, the character designs in general, the plot that has no happy ending from what I could see, and the drawing style. But back then, it cost about 3 times as much as this little graphic novel here for just one issue. Luckily, Berserk has been getting popular, and Dark Horse picked it up for US shores. And I'm impressed. This is one of very few Japanese comics that is properly translated. I still have some older Berserk comics from when they were first printed, and the translation is dead-on. But enough about that, I'm sure you want to know

what Berserk's about. It follows the story of Guts (or Gattso as so many purists insist), wandering the land for revenge. While the full story isn't even close to being revealed in this issue, I insist that you watch the animated series before getting into the books. Where the series is available on just 6 discs, the books are currently up to volume 27. We've got a ways to go. But Guts is a mercenary unlike any other. He doesn't help others, but he isn't quite a bad guy. He's just looking out for himself. And in the world of Berserk, that's probably the smartest thing you can do. There are bandits, demons, zombies, and spirits everywhere just waiting to attack. And to make matters worse, Guts has a brand on his neck that attracts these demons. It causes him pain or bleeds whenever he's about to be attacked. But Guts is a one-man army. In just the first part of this volume, he blows a hole through a monster's head with his hand-cannon, lops people in half with his 7-foot sword: The Dragonslayer, picks off bandits in groups with his automatic crossbow attachment, and more.

I was first introduced to the Berserk series by way of a videogame for the Sega Dreamcast console entitled "Sword of the Berserk: Guts' Rage." I had no concept of what it was, all I knew is that it involved a guy with a metal hand with a crossbow and cannon inside, who wields a sword bigger than he is, while fighting vicious demons 10 times the size of his sword. A couple of years later I stumbled upon a dvd at the local video store which adorned the same great character on its cover. I had to check it out. What I found was the beginning of an obsession with the best series I've ever witnessed in any form of media. Watching the first episode of this dvd reinstalled all of the emotions I felt when I first played the game. I was in a state of pure awe as I watched Gattso (Guts, as he's referred to in America) tear through his enemies in the same quick, brutal and over the top fashion. The first episode was nothing more than a device to draw you into the intricate story waiting ahead. That one episode let you know that this would be a dark, violent story centering on hordes of demons and their intent of making Guts their sacrifice no matter what the cost. I quickly began watching the rest of the series, and came to find that there was far more going on here. Set in the middle ages in the midst of a great war, the Berserk anime quickly shed the dark and hopeless feel of the first episode and videogame. It showed a variety of things I was not expecting. First and foremost, it concentrates on an excellent story of relationships in a world where life is death. The main characters in this story are very well fleshed out, and it allows you to see what they want out of life and how they hope to achieve their goals.

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