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Berserk, Vol. 8



Synopsis

The century-spanning war between Midland and Chuder continues unabated. The two warring kingdoms, vying for supremacy, launch headfirst into what will become the final battle. Leading the Midland forces are the Band of the Hawk, lead by the charismatic Griffith, with the fearless Guts as his trusted champion. But should the Hawks triumph again on the battlefield, the war with Chuder may end, but the secret war within Midland may begin as those who seek to rise within the court see the ambitious Griffith as an obstacle to obtaining power. And nothing is more formidable than an enemy unseen!

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Customer Reviews

At this point I am sure that I will never find a manga that can compete with Berserk for the top spot on my list. This manga has it all, breathtaking art, a mesmerizing and complex plot, multiple themes intertwined in the story, and a great dose of violence, gore and sensuality. But above all, it has a character that fans love and can empathize with. The transformation Guts has suffered throughout this series is mindboggling, and it feels like this volume is a crucial one in this evolution, kind of like a fork in the road. At the end of the previous volume the Hawks were still fighting to capture the strategically important Doldorey castle, and both Guts and Casca were in deep trouble. Guts had a broken sword and was facing the fiercest soldier in the Chudan army and Casca was in dire straits once more, against the "immortal" Adon. On top of all this, the duke in charge of the castle is the one that got Griffith to sleep with him years ago in exchange for money for the Hawks, and now the duke wants another taste. In this setting, an interesting character from Guts' past reappears and

has, once more, a considerable impact on Guts' destiny. Fans of the series will love this. Politics are still an important part of the story, as Griffith and the Hawks continue to make enemies among the nobles and royal family. The conspiracies abound, and the Machiavellian Minister Foss is still an instrumental part in the plotting of the nobles. He is the brain and puppet master behind the whole operation. But also, in the previous volume we saw a hint of romance appear in the story, and this is augmented now, especially with the relationship between Griffith and Charlotte.

Intro/Synopsis Berserk, often hailed as one of the premier examples of adult manga, began publication in 1990. Written and illustrated by Kentaro Miura, the title is set in a dark fantasy inspired medieval Europe, following the exploits of wandering mercenary Guts. Weaving great action with eye popping art; it also features excellent characterization, sweeping epic storylines which span years of the characters' lives, and intense violence/horror. Berserk gained popularity in America from the limited 25 episode anime, and has spawned 3 movies, 2 videogame, and numerous action figures. New chapters of berserk are still released, unfortunately its on a fairly erratic schedule. This is one of the most emotionally engrossing manga series I've read, and comes highly recommended to fans of seinen manga, and graphic literature in general. **Story/Content** Volume 8 (preceded by Berserk, Vol. 7) begins in the midst of the century long war between the Midland and Chudder empires. Despite this chapter drawing the story of the Chudder War to a close, there is fairly little in the way of action. Instead we get some great characterization, developing the relationship between guts and the various members of the Band of the Hawk, further revealing Griffith's dark side, and a mysterious appearance from a previous antagonist. The machinations of political intrigue also come into play, setting the gears in motion for the end of the Golden Age story arc. While not the best volume in the series, its still quite enjoyable in its own right, but to give away more would spoil the complex story.

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