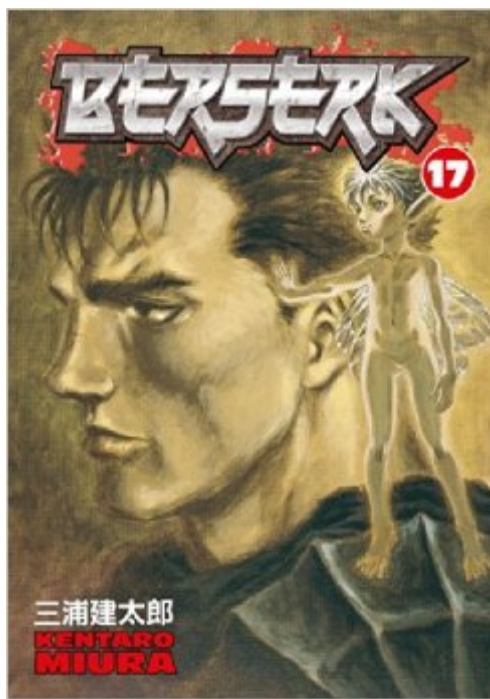


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## Berserk, Vol. 17



## Synopsis

Warrior supreme Guts, the Black Swordsman, has seen better days and more popular in the kingdom of Midland, a land he once defended as captain of the Band of the Hawk. But the Hawks were betrayed and slaughtered, and now the holier-than-thou Holy Iron Chain Knights have captured Guts and plan to whip some repentance into him literally. But Guts isn't so easily held at bay, at when he manages to escape with the Holy Knights' leader, Farnese, as his hostage, the demons that are drawn to Guts' Brand of Sacrifice are all too willing to show her the teeming darkness in her own soul!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**\*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 videogames, 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\*** Once again, this story picks up immediately after the occurrences of Berserk, Vol. 16 with absolutely no pretext of past events. The conviction arc picks up its pace, as the events of the previous few

volumes are resolved, and startling new details come to light. Volume 17 has everything one could want from a great Berserk chapter; dark fantasy horror, strong character development, and a truly provocative storyline. While a little light on action, what's on display is of typical high quality. The story finally starts kicking back in to gear, tying new and old elements together. There's more direction to the tale again; Instead of ass kicking with a threadbare plot, there's some solid character growth, and meaningful narrative progression.

...and Guts realizes that while he's been on his quest for vengeance, he's left someone near and dear to him to suffer on alone. This volume starts us off with Guts being held captive by Farnese, Serpico and the Knights of the Holy Chain... the so-called elite order of the Papacy which is filled with sons of nobility. Of course, they're nowhere near as resourceful as Guts, who has his own elf to help him whenever he's in a jam. One kidnapping later and Guts has Farnese hostage with Serpico in hot pursuit... but darkness falls and the demons come out to play. Later, Guts makes a return trip to Godo's smithy for rest and repair only to find Casca is missing. The mundane world of men is certainly given a dark slant as the corrupt council of cardinals is only interested in politics and money when Farnese is forced to report her failure in capturing the Dark Hawk, the inquisition is in full force killing any of the accused as witches and heretics, and the world is certainly going to pot with Midland being overrun by the Kushan army and plague everywhere. On top of that, though no actual apostles of the Godhand are seen, the spirit world is also in motion as the deformed ghostchild that haunts Guts and Casca appears to warn our vengeful hero. It is a time between battles as old characters are relegated to supporting roles and new characters are given depth... and new villains are introduced. It is good to see several familiar faces have brief scenes to give a wider view of the darkness that is infecting the land and show that while the world is turning around the axis of a few select characters we know and love/hate, the ripples of effect are wide and far reaching.

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