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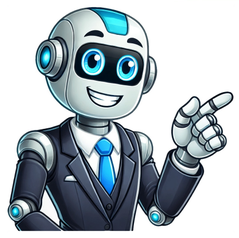

An epic over three decades in the making, Berserk has seen multiple animated adaptations, but nothing compares to the manga. Kentaro Miuras dark fantasy saga is as beautifully drawn as it is masterfully written. Berserk is an incredibly heavy story, one that doesnt shy away from depicting a wide range of graphic violence, sexual or otherwise. With that in mind, its worth treading carefully with Berserk as its content can be overwhelming, but the story Miura tells is second to none and he does approach his heavier subject matter with tact (more so & with greater maturity as the series progresses.) The story itself centers around Guts, The Black Swordsman, whose Mark of Sacrifice summons demons to him. Berserks first story focuses on Guts life & reputation as The Black Swordsman, showcasing a dystopian world where tragedy lurks around every corner. While Berserk might come off edgy at first glance, it doesnt take long for Guts nuances to show as the series flashes back in time to dig through his backstory. A modern manga masterpiece, Berserks five story arcs thus far are some of the best written in the medium. 5 Fantasia Beginning in 2010, Fantasia is Berserks most recent story arc and has so far centered itself on fleshing out the series more mystical elements. Specifically, the arc begins as a result of Griffith Guts archenemy and the storys chief antagonist triggering the Great Roar of the Astral World, an event which spliced the physical and astral realms together. With no distinction between the realm of man and that of spirits, a new age is ushered in which humanity has no choice but to take shelter in Griffiths kingdom, Falconia. All the while he leads the march as humanitys last hope as Guts and his party enjoy the boat ride of towards Elfhelm, in hopes of restoring Cascas mental state (which Griffith himself destroyed.) The Fantasia arc has primarily been moving pieces around Berserks playing board, setting the stage for Guts inevitable confrontation with the God Hand. Theres plenty of intrigue being built, but the slow pace of Guts nautical voyage ultimately did the arc no favors, even with the engaging Sea God distraction. Still, Fantasia is still early goings compared to other arcs. Weve yet to see its full scope. The Black Swordsman arc opens the series and has something of a reputation for being skippable. Ignore anyone who says to move on ahead to the Golden Age arc, as the Black Swordsman arc is not just essential to understanding the full scope of Guts arc (obviously,) its an incredibly unique story in the context of Berserks world. Beginning long after Guts had begun wandering the world as the Black Swordsman, theres an oppressive and lonely quality to Guts journey. He constantly shuns away his only companion, Puck, and he shows very little kindness to those he helps. Guts is a vengeful, almost vile man, but the action is incredible, the atmosphere is second-to-none, and the finale recontextualizes the entire story. The God Hands introduction, hints at Guts & Griffiths relationship, and Guts crying at the very end of the arc sell the Black Swordsman arc as so much more than what it appears at first glance. Guts is far more nuanced than meets the eye, and revisiting the arc with a full perspective of what Berserk becomes makes it immensely enjoyable even if it doesnt shape up to the story at its best. The Conviction arc is notable for almost serving as two arcs: Lost Children and Binding Chain/Birth Ceremony. The Lost Children arc is tonally very much in-line with the Black Swordsman arc, but with the elegance Kentaro Miura developed while penning the Golden Age arc. Great action, somber, and excellent development for Guts, Lost Children leads directly into the rest of the Conviction arc. Conviction fleshes out Berserks world even more by introducing the Holy Iron Chain Knights new antagonist foils for Guts on his lonesome adventure. The supporting cast is also rounded out by Serpico and Farnese, two incredibly memorable antagonists who even go on to join Guts party when all is said & done. The arcs main antagonist, Mozgus, stands out as one of Berserks most memorable villains a character you really love to hate. While the Conviction arc lacks the same punch that the Golden Age and Falcon of the Millennium Empire arcs have, its the only post-Golden Age arc to resemble the Black Swordsman arc, which has immense value in and of itself. The Golden Age arc is widely considered Berserks best story arc, and for good reason. Flashing back from the Black Swordsman arc, Golden Age focuses on Guts entire youth beginning from his birth and ending with his betrayal at the hands of Griffith. Golden Age shows a lighter world, one full of hope and promise that matches Guts youth. But it doesnt shy away from horror. Guts is the victim of a sexual assault very early on, and he hers forced to deal with this trauma as he develops a relationship with Casca. Audiences get to see that while Guts was always jaded to some extent, his time with Griffith and his mercenary group, the Band of the Falcon allow him to grow & find his place in this world. Which makes Griffiths Sacrifice all the more heartbreaking. The Eclipse the Golden Age builds up to remains the most chilling moment in Berserk a systematic killing of every named character other than Guts, Casca, and Griffith. And even then, Guts and Casca are damaged beyond repair. The Golden Age is a tragic, beautiful story, but not Berserk at its best. The Falcon of the Millennium Empire arc is arguably what divided Berserk into before and after. With the Conviction arc over and done with, Guts found himself slowly forming a party. He was taking care of Casca alongside Puck, Serpico & Farnese joined him, and theyre eventually rounded out by Isidro a young swordsman and Schierke a young witch. Theres a very JRPG quality to Guts party, but thats honestly part of the fun. Everyone develops wonderfully as Guts himself warms up to the idea of letting himself connect with a group again. All the while, hes battling his own Griffith-esque demons. This is physically manifested through the Berserker Armor, a suit of armor which greatly amplifies Guts strength at the expense of his body. Filled with outstanding action, plenty of memorable set pieces, and the return of Griffith as an active presence in the plot, The Falcon of the Millennium Empire is the most classically epic Berserk has been. NEXT:Berserk: 10 Differences Between The Manga & The Anime BD-BOX25,000VPXY-719242012118Blu-ray5/625///4:31080p High-Definition1080i/ PCM2.0ch/MPEG-4/AVC 1997101998325Blu-rayHD24p 201224()PARTPART 3000 1997101998325Blu-rayTV12NO.2 3443 56100 78 910 1112 1314 1516 1718 193320 2122 23244 25 ,the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.117,937 active editors 7,001,078 articles in EnglishThe English-language Wikipedia thanks its contributors for creating more than seven million articles! Learn how you can take part in the encyclopedia's continued improvement.GL Mk.II transmitter vanRadar, Gun Laying, MarkI, or GL Mk.I for short, was an early World WarII radar system developed by the British Army to provide information for anti-aircraft artillery. There were two upgrades, GL/EF (elevation finder) and GL Mk.II (pictured), both improving the ability to determine a target's bearing and elevation. GL refers to the radar's ability to direct the guns onto a target, known as gun laying. The first GL sets were developed in 1936 using separate transmitters and receivers mounted on gun carriages. Several were captured in 1940, leading the Germans to believe falsely that British radar was much less advanced than theirs. The GL/EF attachment provided bearing and elevation measurements accurate to about a degree: this caused the number of rounds needed to destroy an aircraft to fall to 4,100, a tenfold improvement over early-war results. The Mk.II, which was able to directly guide the guns, lowered the rounds-per-kill to 2,750. About 410 Mk.Is and 1,679 Mk.IIs were produced. (Fullarticle...)Recently featured: Andrea NavageroNosy KombaMcDonnell Douglas Phantom in UK serviceArchiveBy emailMore featured articlesAboutLieke Klaver ahead in the women's 400 metres final... that a 400-metre race in 2025 (pictured) was won by Lieke Klaver, who pretended that an absent competitor was running in front of her?... that the land snail Drymaeus poecilus is notable for the striking variety of colors and patterns on its shell?... that a forensic investigation of Signalgate has determined how a journalist was included in a group chat about Operation Rough Rider?... that two of the players involved in the 2005 Vietnamese football match-fixing scandal did not accept payment because they felt ashamed?... that a rebellion against a peace treaty with the Yuan dynasty operated out of the Historic Site of Anti-Mongolian Struggle on Jeju Island?... that Nathan Frink fled the United States with enslaved children to settle in Canada, where he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and caught in a smuggling conspiracy?... that Seattle's women's ice hockey team has an expected rival, despite not even having played their first game?... that Cave Johnson Couts was separately acquitted for shooting his foreman, firing on funeral mourners, and whipping a native laborer to death?... that characters' scars in an episode of The Last of Us were made with a paste-based appliance and a food mixer?ArchiveStart a new articleNominate an articleNgg wa Thiong'oKenyan writer and activist Ngg wa Thiong'o (pictured) dies at the age of 87.In sumo, nosato Daiki is promoted to yokozuna.In association football, Liverpool win the Premier League title.In motor racing, lex Palou wins the Indianapolis 500.Ongoing: Gaza warM23 campaignRussian invasion of UkrainetimelineSudanese civil wartimelineRecent deaths: Phil RobertsonMary K. GaillardPeter DavidAlan YentobGerry ConnollySebastio SalgadoNominate an articleMay 30: Statehood Day in Croatia (1990)Johann Sebastian Bach1431 Hundred Years' War: After being convicted of heresy, Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in Rouen, France.1723 Johann Sebastian Bach (pictured) assumed the office of Thomaskantor in Leipzig, presenting the cantata Die Elenden sollen essen in St.Nicholas Church.1922 The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., featuring a sculpture of the sixteenth U.S. president Abraham Lincoln by Daniel Chester French, opened.1963 Buddhist crisis: A protest against pro-Catholic discrimination was held outside the National Assembly of South Vietnam in Saigon, the first open demonstration against President Ng nh Dim.2008 The Convention on Cluster Munitions, prohibiting the use, transfer, and stockpiling of cluster bombs, was adopted.Ma Xifan (d.947)Colin Blythe (b.1879)Norris Bradbury (b.1909)Wynonna Judd (b.1964)More anniversaries: May 29May 30May 31ArchiveBy emailList of days of the yearAboutSeventeen performing "Oh My!" in 2018South Korean boy band Seventeen made their debut on May 26, 2015, when they performed a showcase for their debut EP 17 Carat in front of a crowd of 1,000 people. Since then, the group have held 9 concert tours, 13 fan meetings, and have performed at a number of music festivals and awards shows. Their concert tours include the Right Here World Tour, which sold over one million tickets, and the Follow Tour, which was noted by Billboard as being the top grossing K-pop tour of 2023. In 2024, Seventeen made their first appearances at festivals in Europe, when they were the first South Korean act to perform at Glastonbury Festival's Pyramid Stage and as headliners for Lollapalooza Berlin. Seventeen's live performances are well regarded by fans and critics alike, and garnered them the award for Top K-pop Touring Artist at the 2024 Billboard Music Awards. (Fulllist...)Recently featured: Accolades received by Top Gun: MaverickNational preserve76th Primetime Emmy AwardsArchiveMore featured listsIgnace Tonen (1840 or 1841 15 March 1916), also known as Nias or by his Ojibwe name Maiagizis ('right/correct sun'), was a Teme-Augama Anishnabai chief, fur trader, and gold prospector in Upper Canada. He was a prominent employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. Tonen was the elected deputy chief before being the lead chief and later the life chief of his community. In his role as deputy, he negotiated with the Canadian federal government and the Ontario provincial government, advocating for his community to receive annual financial support from both. His attempts to secure land reserves for his community were thwarted by the Ontario premier Oliver Mowat. Tonen's prospecting triggered a 1906 gold rush and the creation of Kerr Addison Mines Ltd., although one of his claims was stolen from him by white Canadian prospectors. This photograph shows Tonen in 1909.Photograph credit: William John Winter; restored by Adam CuerdenRecently featured: Australian white ibisHell Gate BridgeAnemonoides blandaArchiveMore featured picturesCommunity portal The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements.Village pump Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues.Site news Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.Teahouse Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia.Help desk Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia.Reference desk Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics.Content portals A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia.Wikipedia is written by volunteer editors and hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other volunteer projects: CommonsFree media repository MediaWikiWiki software development Meta-WikiWikimedia project coordination WikibooksFree textbooks and manuals WikidataFree knowledge base WikinewsFree-content news WikiquoteCollection of quotations WikisourceFree-content library WikispeciesDirectory of species WikiversityFree learning tools WikivoyageFree travel guide WiktionaryDictionary and thesaurusThis Wikipedia is written in English. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below. 1,000,000+ articles DeutschEspaolFranaisItalianoNederlandsPolskiPortugusSvenskaTing Vit 250,000+ articles Bahasa IndonesiaBahasa MelayuBn-lm-gCataletinaDanskEestiEsperantoEuskaraMagyarNorsk bokmlRomnSimple EnglishSloveninaSrpskiSrpskohrvatskiSuomiTrkeOzbekcha 50,000+ articles AsturianuAzrbaycancaBosanskiFryskGaeilgeGalegoHrvatskiKurdLatvieuLietuviNorsk nynorskShqipSlovenina Retrieved from " 2EP by Seventeen17 CaratEP by SeventeenReleasedMay29,2015(2015-05-29)GenreK-popdance-pophip hopLength16:48LanguageKoreanLabelPledis EntertainmentLOEN EntertainmentSeventeen chronology17 Carat(2015)Boys Be(2015)Singles from 17 Carat "Adore U"Released: May 29, 201517 Carat is the debut extended play (EP) by South Korean boy group Seventeen. It was released on May 29, 2015, by Pledis Entertainment and distributed by LOEN Entertainment. "Adore U" serves as the lead single for the EP.17 Carat features five tracks written, co-written, and co-produced by Seventeen's group members. "Adore U" was chosen as the lead single for the EP and was performed on multiple music shows by the group. "Shining Diamond" was used as a pre-single on the group's reality debut show. The group stated that the tracklist was chosen to reflect Seventeen's core concept of "boys' passion".[1] The album has two physical versions: one with a "black" themed photo card set, and the other with a "white" themed photo card set. All copies include a CD containing the songs and a fold-up poster/lyric sheet."Adore U" is the lead single of the extended play. It was written by Woozi, S.Coups, and Yeon Dong-geon.[2] The Korea Herald states "'Adore U' is a funky pop song about a teenage boy trying to navigate through puppy love."[3] It marks the beginning of the group's trilogy composed of the singles Adore U, Mansae, and Pretty U about a boy meeting, falling in love and asking out a girl. The track was composed and arranged by Woozi, Bumzu, and Yeon Dong-geon. The music video for the single was released on May 29, 2015, and was directed by Dee Shin. The dance choreography accompaniment to the song was choreographed by Hoshi and focuses on "storytelling, and on highlighting each member's strengths onstage".[4] The single has sold more than 38,000 digital copies and peaked at number 13 on the Billboard US World Chart.The EP has sold over 82,972 copies in South Korea.[5] It peaked at number 4 on the Korean Gaon Album Chart[6] and number 8 on the US World Billboard Chart.[7]Year-end listsCritic/publicationListRankRef.BillboardThe 10 Best K-pop Album of 2015Placed[8]Hoshi participated in the choreography of "Adore U" and "Shining Diamond", Dino choreographed "Jam Jam".[9]Official track list[10]No.TitleLyricsMusicArrangementsLength1."Shining Diamond"WooziVernonS.CoupsKim Min-jeongWooziMasterKeyRishiMasterKeyRishi3:242.""Adore U"" (; Akkinda)WooziVernonS.CoupsBumzuWooziBumzuYeon Dong-geonWooziBumzuYeon Dong-geon3:073."Ah Yeah" (Hip-Hop unit)S. CoupsVernonWonwooMingyuCream DoughnutRishiCream DoughnutRishi3:294."Jam Jam" (Performance unit + Vernon)WooziHoshiDinoVernonWooziCream DoughnutCream Doughnut3:255."20" (Vocal unit)WooziWooziWon Yeong-heonWon Yeong-heonDong Ne-hyeong3:23Weekly chart performance for 17 CaratChart (2015-2023)PeakpositionJapanese Albums (Oricon)[11]46South Korean Albums (Gaon)[12]4US World Albums (Billboard)[13]8Year-end chart performance for 17 CaratChart (2015)PeakpositionSouth Korean Albums (Gaon)[14]47^ "Seventeen hopes to shine like diamonds with '17 Carat'". The Korea Herald. 26 May 2015. Retrieved 30 November 2016.^ "Adore U". Color Coded Lyrics. 29 May 2015. Retrieved 29 November 2016.^ "Seventeen hopes to shine like diamonds with '17 Carat'. The Korea Herald. 26 May 2015. Retrieved 30 November 2016.^ "Seventeen hopes to shine like diamonds with '17 Carat'". The Korea Herald. 26 May 2015. 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Retrieved February 17, 2024.^ "2015 Album Chart". Gaon Chart (in Korean). Archived from the original on May 7, 2017. Retrieved February 17, 2024.Retrieved from " 3The following pages link to 17 Carat External tools(link counttransclusion countsorted list) See help page for transcluding these entriesShowing 50 items.View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)Main Page (links | edit)Pledis Entertainment discography (links | edit)List of 2015 albums (links | edit)2015 in South Korean music (links | edit)Seventeen (South Korean band) (links | edit)S.Coups (links | edit)Vernon (rapper) (links | edit)Wonwoo (links | edit)List of awards and nominations received by Seventeen (links | edit)Seventeen discography (links | edit)Love & Letter (links | edit)Joshua (singer) (links | edit)Seventeen TV (links | edit)17 carat (redirect page) (links | edit)Going Seventeen (links | edit)List of Seventeen live performances (links | edit)Teen, Age (links | edit)Al1 (links | edit)Bumzu (links | edit)Boys Be (EP) (links | edit)You Make My Day (links | edit)You Made My Dawn (links | edit)Jun (Chinese entertainer) (links | edit)List of Stray Kids live performances (links | edit)The8 (links | edit)An Ode (links | edit)Seungkwan (links | edit)Fallin' Flower (links | edit)Heng:gar (links | edit)Semicolon (EP) (links | edit)Your Choice (links | edit)Going Seventeen (web series) (links | edit)Not Alone (Seventeen song) (links | edit)Attacca (EP) (links | edit)Rock with You (Seventeen song) (links | edit)Woozi (links | edit)Hoshi (South Korean singer) (links | edit)Don't Wanna Cry (Seventeen song) (links | edit)Darl+ing (links | edit)Face the Sun (links | edit)Left & Right (Seventeen song) (links | edit)24H (EP) (links | edit)We Make You (links | edit)Hot (Seventeen song) (links | edit)Dream (Seventeen EP) (links | edit)BSS (band) (links | edit)FML (EP) (links | edit)Super (Seventeen song) (links | edit)Always Yours (album) (links | edit)Seventeenth Heaven (links | edit)View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)Retrieved from " WhatLinksHere/17_Carat"Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaFAQGuts, a wandering mercenary, joins the Band of the Hawk after being defeated in a duel by Griffith, the group's leader and founder. Together, they dominate every battle, but something menaci... Read allGuts, a wandering mercenary, joins the Band of the Hawk after being defeated in a duel by Griffith, the group's leader and founder. Together, they dominate every battle, but something menacing lurks in the shadows.Guts, a wandering mercenary, joins the Band of the Hawk after being defeated in a duel by Griffith, the group's leader and founder. Together, they dominate every battle, but something menacing lurks in the shadows.TopTop-rated1 season2 yearsSee all19981997Sign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentBy what name was Kenpuu Denki Berserk (1997) officially released in Canada in French?AnswerYou have no recently viewed pages Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Originally written by the mangaka Kentaro Miura, the Berserk manga has earned lots popular acclaim and an equal amount of notoriety for its violence and gore and its fantastical storylines. It has had the privilege of winning the coveted Tezuka Osamu Award for Excellence. However, the anime adaptations produced in 1997 and 2016 have been widely discredited for their lackluster take on the brilliant manga. Though the 1997 version is considered better than the 2016 version, it still is a victim of the backlash of many fans of the original manga. Do not ruin your love for the amazing plot by watching this anime. Heres why. It is a unanimous opinion that the two anime adaptations are nowhere as good as the original manga. The anime adaptations are abridged versions of the manga, which leave out a lot of crucial scenes. Berserk The atmosphere, the setting, and the fight scenes are not as elaborate and detailed as the manga and will be a huge disappointment. However, on a cautious note, the two anime adaptations also differ in their approaches and must be analyzed separately. READ: Is The Legend of Korra Worth Watching? Complete Review The two art forms manga and anime are completely different mediums which leads to different interpretations of the same thing. While the manga uses paneling, pacing, and strategic shading to highlight the plot, the anime is an audio-visual medium that uses sound and the illusion of moving images to do the same. A manga like Berserk depends on the execution of a dreary atmosphere to make its impact. This is provided by the monochromatic (black and white) color framework employed in the manga. watch berserk on crunchyroll watch berserk on amazon prime watch berserk on funimation Whereas in the anime, the lack of attention to detail can be clearly seen. Also, it fails to capture the same atmosphere and emotions like the manga does. The multi-coloured universe creates a drastically different atmosphere that would take a enormous effort to adjust. This can be a huge turn off for many hardcore fans. While the original manga was created with precision and great attention to detail, the anime yielded a very dull and boring product. While the manga built a very intricate world, the two anime adaptations did not achieve even half of what the manga did. The world-building was not as intricate and hence, was not as believable. Berserk 2016 Official TrailerBerserk Trailer While the 1997 anime adaptation still did a fair amount of justice to the story, the 2016 version was a complete flop. There is absolutely no need to consider watching that version. You will be left with a very bitter taste in your mouth. There were huge complaints about the non-inclusion of certain plot elements that had played a very crucial role in the manga. The 1997 version was under heavy criticism for taking a different plot trajectory and added to that, a poor execution. While the popular anime Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood also explored a different plotline from the manga, both the versions have had overwhelmingly good reception. READ: Is Shironeko Project Worth Watching? A Complete Review The 2016 version was a continuation of the events that had transpired in other movies and the 1997 version, all set in the Berserk universe. It has been at the receiving end of harsh criticism for its unflattering adaptation and its dilution of many beautiful scenes in the manga. If you really want to love this plot and you wonder whats missing after watching the anime, you should first read the manga. The manga addresses every nook and corner of the plot leaving relatively fewer plot holes. Berserk The anime is riddled with a series of plot holes and confusion as crucial scenes have been removed all together. You will be left feeling more confused. The manga is the original product of the mangaka. It does justice to the plot through its emotionally engaging fight scenes and beautifully elaborated settings. While the anime adaptations are very messy and dont do justice to the manga, they should be forgiven as the two are extremely different mediums. The anime adaptations, when taken as a separate independent whole, do make sense and can be enjoyable. In fact, there are some fans, albeit very few who prefer watching the anime version. READ: Is Gleipnir anime any good? Is it Worth Watching? A Complete Review It's not often that fans would want to hunt down an older anime adaptation with a newer one easier to watch but with Berserk, things get a little bit muddier. Many have been mourning the passing of mangaka Kentaro Miura and have been lamenting just how disappointing the 2016 adaptation of his most famous story was. Does this still make it worth it to check out the older adaptation of the show from 1997? There are many differences between it and the modern interpretations of Berserk which are worth discussing so that casual and die-hard fans alike can decide whether it's worth hunting down this older version of the show. The Animation Most anime lovers agree that some studios choice to use 3D animation ruins the viewing experience. Studios often employ this tactic to animate large action pieces for a cheaper price, but it is oftentimes overused and undeveloped in appearance. Back in 1997 however, the classic 2D look reigned supreme. Thankfully, Berserk was given what many agree to be the best animated adaptation it's seen so far right out of the gate. Many fans of Berserk have been fans for years, but even newer fans still find that retro 90s look to be nostalgic. It reminds many of the early Toonami days. Berserk is easily one of the most influential, well-written, and well-drawn manga of all time, and the late Kentaro Miuras work is heralded for the amazing world-building, character development, and polarizing moments throughout the story. From an early age, his ideas for Berserk were seen by others as legendary despite him being a novice. Honoring this level of expertise, the 1997 anime remains pretty faithful to the manga. Despite only having one season and ending on one of the most pivotal moments in all of Berserk, this anime starts off exactly like the manga. Introducing us to Guts in his Black Swordsman stage, fans are treated to a brutal, apostle-slaying monster. This older, grizzled Guts wields the legendary Dragon Slayer, the massive sword that inspired dozens of others to replicate it, and is seen in his all-black garb missing an eye. The story then jumps back and begins the Golden Age Arc. The anime is faithful to the manga all the way up until the moment Guts and Casca get together. In the manga, Guts is visited by the ominous Skull Knight who gives Guts an omen of impending doom. In the 97 anime, the fan-favorite Skull Knight doesnt get to make his debut and is sorely missed. Despite this omission, the event known as the Eclipse is still every bit as impactful and horrific. Speaking of the Eclipse, fans will be pleased to know that the most pivotal moment of Berserk makes it into the 97 anime almost complete. The introduction of the God Hand is every bit as terrifying as it is in the manga. With the horrors unfolding in front of the Band of the Hawk, seeing the Brands of Sacrifice mark the heroes gives fans the sense of dread that Miura intended. Seeing the members being brutally slaughtered will surely leave the fans stunned to their cores. With all this talk about how amazing the 97 Berserk anime is, it would be reasonable to wonder how it compares to the more recent adaptations of the series. The first anime adaptation after the original was the series of movies that most saw on Netflix. These three films also adapt the Golden Age Arc, but stray from the manga in different areas than the original. While the 97 anime started with the true beginning from the manga, showing Guts as the Black Swordsman, the trilogy of films starts with Guts as a young mercenary killing Bazuso. These movies are seen as decent by the Berserk community, thanks to ok animation and a true adaptation of the Eclipse. The next adaptation was the 2016 Berserk anime that has been both critically panned and hated by audiences everywhere. Some of the voice acting is ok at best, but the thing that ruins this adaptation is the atrocious animation. It is all 3D and drawn terribly. Characters dont look like themselves and settings give no life or sense of wonderment like Miura intended when he drew these amazing landscapes. Despite these official adaptations not living up to the hopes fans had for the series, some fans have taken it upon themselves to create the anime theyd love to see. One fan in particular has been working on an adaptation of Guts vs. Rosine from the Lost Children Arc. With no worthy adaptations, the 97 animes respect for the source material, and its pleasing animation, it stands out as an anime adaptation of the beloved Berserk worth checking out. MORE: What Makes Berserk's Golden Age Stand Out In the past month, I have experienced the events of Kentaro Miuras Berserks most widely-adapted arc, The Golden Age, no less than four separate times through three entirely different adaptations of the series. You might ask, hey Tofu, what the hell?, to which I would also say, yeah, I know, what the hell? When it comes to media consumption, Im not exactly a person who frequently revisits series that I love, and I dont really fixate on thinking about them once I have finished them. Ive watched what might arguably be my favorite anime, Yu Yu Hakusho, in its 112-episode entirety about three times, though each watchthrough was separated by a few years. Ive done the same for Psycho-Pass, as well many watches, but its a series that I come back to every now and then. For these and some of my other favorite series, I have watched them, loved them, and been satisfied with simply the experience of doing so. But, for some reason, Berserk is different. Ever since watching the 1997 anime adaptation a month ago, I havent been able to stop thinking about it, and frankly, I doubt I will be able to any time soon. Lets just skip the preamble and get to the bottom line Berserk is a masterpiece, and you owe it to yourself to experience the series for yourself. To go back to my point above about having gone through The Golden Age four separate times, let me go ahead and quantify that real quick. The original manga, which ran in Monthly Animal House beginning in August of 1989, actually started with an entirely different storyline the Black Swordsman arc. The Golden Age arc did not begin until August of 1991, two whole years after the manga began publication. Interestingly enough, the 1997 anime adaptation of Berserk, aside from the first episode in its 25-episode run, exclusively tells the story of The Golden Age arc. From 2012 through 2013, a trilogy of films called, aptly enough, Berserk: The Golden Age Arc, re-adapted the Golden Age arc of the series, as well. It wasnt until 2016 that an adaptation of Berserk showed anything beyond the Golden Age arc, and, wellfolks dont really like to talk about Berserk 2016/2017 (we did get Hai Yo out of it, though, and it fucking slaps, so, silver linings!). With regards to my Golden Age arc watching, I watched the 1997 anime in about four days. Two days later, I went through it again with my partner in about three days time, and we then watched the entire film trilogy the day we finished watching the anime. And THEN, I proceeded to order all seven of the deluxe volumes of the manga that Dark Horse has published as of writing this and read through them voraciously. So, uh, yeah. You could say that it kind of gripped me. I could honestly talk about all of the adaptations for basically as long as you would want, but that would be a much, much longer post than this, and given that Backlog Busters are supposed to be a bit more on the brief and recommend-y side of things, I have to pare this down a bit. If you are at all interested in Berserk, then the best point of entry is going to be the 1997 anime. If you like what you see, then the films and the manga are pretty safe recommendations, as well. As such, thats what well be focusing on here. The manga is really, really good, though, so you should definitely read it. So, what is Berserk (1997), actually? If you ask the internet, much of it will probably tell you something along the lines of haha big swordsman go brrrrr, ultra-violence, or pain, and, to be fair, none of those would be an unfair assessment of the series. Berserk tells the story of Guts, a young orphan in a dark medieval-European-based world raised by mercenaries, who eventually becomes a mercenary himself. After becoming involved with the Band of the Hawk mercenaries, headed by their charismatic, ambitious young leader, Griffith, Guts comes to love, lose, and seek revenge for his found family, the man he called his friend, and his one great love. If that sounds pretty rough to you, it is Berserk is not a series that you should expect good things to consistently happen in, and the 1997 anime adaptation is no different. (On that note, if things like sexual assault/violence, graphic gore, or other things of that nature trigger you, this is probably a series you are going to want to steer clear of.) But with a premise like that, what makes it something that I want to dive back into, time and again? How is that not a grueling, painful experience to throw oneself against, seemingly for fun? The beauty of Berserk is ultimately how, even though it is primarily known for its gruesome violence and its reputation for being an extraordinarily rough watch, it tells such a hopeful, nuanced, and deeply human story, even in the midst of the deep despair it dives into. Part of what makes this such a human story is the emotional core of Berserk emotions and heartfelt feelings are paramount to the world, story, and characters in Berserk, which, again, is not something that you would likely get from just reading general discussion about the series on the net. This is, of course, intentional. Theres this interview from back in 2000 where Miura states that Berserk, has aspects to it that can be downright shojo mangaesque, in that shojo series operate primarily on the idea that emotions come first, and logic comes second. Berserk is a story about chasing ones dreams, finding and fighting for those you love, and looking and struggling for hope, even in the darkest of times. It is, in that sense, one of the most deeply human and emotion-forward shows I have watched in quite some time, and this can be seen with incredible clarity through Guts as the storys protagonist. Were you to simply glance at Guts, youd likely get the feeling that hes a prototype for the anime boy with a big sword that so many series want their protagonists to be, and stylistically speaking, you may be right. Hes a big, strong dude with an even bigger sword that kicks ass. However, hes also a character that experiences an incredible amount of growth. As a person whose childhood was rife with trauma of all kinds, the show sees Guts become a man that deeply cares for and loves his found family, the Band of the Hawk, and he is never afraid to openly express these feelings. Hes the definition of wearing your heart on your sleeve, and it makes everything that Guts does in his struggle for survival all the more raw and real. Get yourself a boy who can look like a monster and be a big ol sweetie. Thats all well and good, but the human, emotional core of Berserk is still a product of the manga what makes the 1997 anime adaptation, specifically, so great? For me, it comes down to three specific elements: the animation, the soundtrack, and the dub cast. Lets talk animation really quick. Berserk 1997 is not exactly the most, shall we say, animated anime, especially for its time. Wild shows like Revolutionary Girl Utena came out in 1997, and Cowboy Bebop came out a year after, both of which are flowing, fluid pieces of animation. Berserk, by comparison, is not so much. The most obvious things one might see from that are the shows fairly consistent use of still frames and its fairly simplistic fight choreography. Despite all of that, however, Berserk really manages to use these to its advantage. Like Miuras own work in the Berserk manga, the anime consistently features these gorgeous fore and background illustrations, which range from incredibly detailed landscapes to gorgeous, dreamlike views that almost feel as though the cast is walking through a watercolor painting. When you couple these backgrounds with pared-down character animation and some of the more heartfelt moments of the series, it makes for some genuinely breathtaking, Ill-never-forget-this kind of moments in watching it. Those sorts of scenes, however, would not be anywhere close to as powerful as they are without the musical genius of Susumu Hirasawa to back them. Hirasawa provides a soundtrack for the show that is, in a word, iconic. They range from blood-pumping electronic pieces like Forces to the dreamlike, hit-you-where-it-hurts Gatsu, and when you layer these on top of essentially any scene in the show, it makes an already compelling and moving story even more so. This last bit is just personal preference, but I just would not feel right in recommending this show without recommending watching the dub. The dub cast really nails the feel of each and every character in the show, and, really, the feel of Berserk, itself. The way that Marc Diraison can deliver Guts small, quiet musings with the same intensity and energy as his blood-curdling screams; how Kevin Collins is able to bring out both the childlike and the deeply malicious aspects of Griffith; and how Carrie Keranen is able to communicate Cascas strength as a leader and her own resentment and self-doubt; all of these characters and more are brought to an incredible realization through the dub cast, and I genuinely cant imagine watching the show any other way. One of these two did everything wrong, and by the end of the series, youll know who! I think that, if anything, the biggest takeaway here is that the 1997 Berserk (and, really, Berserk as a whole) was not at all what I expected it to be, and I am delighted for that. Even as I write this, I still imagine some of the highest and lowest moments, the emotional cores of this show, and I find myself wanting to throw myself back into its world yet again. I love these characters. I ache for them as they grow, and love, and suffer, and struggle, and hope. And if any of this at all has sounded even remotely interesting to you, I urge you to take the plunge. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy.

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