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Sword Art Online Progressive 2 - Light Novel



Synopsis

"There's no way to beat this game. The only difference is when and where you die..."Having cleared the first and second floors of Aincrad at great cost, Kirito, Asuna, and the rest of the players ascend to the third floor. Tenuous new allies await them--most crucially, Kizmel, the elven knight. Kizmel is supposed to be a minor NPC with low-level AI, but she soon reveals herself to be much more. With new allies come new complications, though, and the elves of the vast third-floor forest are no more united than the players who have just arrived there. The intrigue deepens when a mysterious figure challenges Kirito, and what begins as a simple contest of skill may actually be something far deadlier! Sword Art Online: Progressive is a new version of the Sword Art Online tale that chronicles the entirety of Kirito and Asuna's epic adventure through Aincrad--from the first level all the way up!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reki Kawahara is an award winning author best known for his light novel series, Sword Art Online and Accel World.

(Note: this is a review for the novel - I think is lumping both the manga and novel reviews to the same page)SAO Progressive 1 had a couple of short stories / novellas about the first and second floor of Aincrad. This volume is a bit different since it contains one longer story focused on the events of floor 3. I won't reveal too much since there are spoilers galore, but the story centers around Kirito and Asuna (of course) and a mysterious NPC elf who seems to be more than just any

regular NPC. Their journey takes them through the massive forests of the 3rd floor and they meet and interact with the other 40 odd front line players who are starting to organize into guilds. Kirito and Asuna have tough decisions to make, decisions which will impact their relationship and their future in the world of Aincrad and the game of death. Though I enjoyed having a couple of stories in SAO Progressive 1, I really did like the single story format of this light novel. The reader really gets to know the secondary characters, so things have much more dramatic impact when some 'events' transpire. Overall I highly recommend this for fans of SAO - even more than the manga versions.

After just reading the first 100 pages it's amazing how interesting and pleasurable the book brings as you continue the death game of SAO. No spoilers but I do love how they touch the sophistication of a particular AI (not Yui) that Kirito and Asuna meet. I haven't finished it yet but it is still an amazing book. Reki Kawakara is a great author.

This series covers the period skipped over in the original story. This is the part where the story starts to diverge from the original, though, because the skipped over parts were inherently going to have been boring (Kirito by himself fighting monotonously). The way it's handled so far has the potential to be a stronger story than the original, though it will be far too long to be adapted into an anime, and the story would outlive its author if he doesn't pick up the pace a bit (I have a sneaking suspicion we'll see levels still get skipped). That said, this is the story I wanted to hear. The epic, long journey from experienced player starting out in a new realm with the rules changed and his life on the line, all the way up to the inevitable "final boss" battle.

The story was an enjoyable read if not shorter in comparison to the first installment. There is no jaw dropping event taking place here that will make this groundbreaking for the storytelling for Aincrad. The virtual world is given a chance here to be a bit more flushed out in detail with both lore and social interactions with other players. The interactions between Asuna and Kirito are allowed to play out more within the confines of their character; her being the powdered warrior and he the solo player working together to progress forward on the third floor. Their moments together were cute, for the lack of a better word. Kirito's reasoning or desire for going at this game alone is a constant inner focus for him throughout which added some anticipation to when he would elect to dissolve the party. Given the abandonment of the series plotline in this, that seems unlikely for a while still. The reasoning for continuing onward with Asuna is acceptable as stories go, seeing her as this potentially great leader who would do far better over what Aincrad currently has to offer in leadership.

Adding the third character to the mix made for some fairly amusing events and situations between the lot as the difference between an actual AI and a simple NPC in this game blurs. Minor characters in the show were given more light to shine in this novel, crafting the virtual in game society the main protagonists had to interact with. Overall, it is a good read that left me wanting more contents to this particular story but to get what you get with Sword Art Online.

I love the SAO anime series so naturally I am devouring these books as quick as that can be delivered. I have had experiences with other books that were translated to English that had a noticeable 'English is not my native language' feel to the story. However, the person that translated this book did an excellent job and if I didn't know any better I would think that English is the author's native language.

Review of the light novel. I don't normally take notice of the price, but \$10 is pretty expensive for a paperback of this length. If you don't know whether you like SAOP LN or not, buy the first progressive book first. The story is a continuation of the first. You basically get more of the same. The... pacing... is unfortunate. The author even acknowledges it in the afterword. But in hindsight I suppose that inevitably had to happen sooner or later, given we're actually going through every floor. Plus, I can hardly believe he maintains his release schedule without ghostwriters. Not surprising that there is a hard limit on word count. I think new characters will continue to be a major selling point for these progressive novels. But with the books' length, it will take multiple volumes to meaningfully develop each new character. Not a huge fan of that, which is why I typically only read epics. Still, SAO is SAO. If you liked the original SAO arc, then this book will be an enjoyable addition.

Just as the first book, this one provided the same excitement and fun making it a book that is practically devoured. If you loved the first one, you will love this one. The story line that this book is following is exciting and interesting, giving you more information about how Aincrad was formed, what happened and other stuff. The book sometimes repeated some things quite a lot, but it isn't a big deal. Also I would like that the books would be a little bit longer, like the first book, advancing two floors at a time so you don't have to wait a year to get the next book and get more content, which I don't refer that it should shorten the actual story, but the book could be longer so that the floors advance faster. Either way, the book is great, fun and worth every cent it costs. 100% recommended.

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