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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

Series: Sword Art Online Progressive (Book 2)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Yen On (June 30, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316342173

ISBN-13: 978-0316342179

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

(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.

I loved the anime, and will consider the upcoming hollow realization game for ps4. In many ways, I think that progressive is much more fun and interesting than the main storyline though. It fleshes out a lot more of, and in many cases rewrites, what I consider to be the best part of SAO, the first arc.

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.

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.

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