



Sword Art Online Progressive, Vol. 4

Kiseki Himura (Illustrations) , Reki Kawahara

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While Nezha attempts to atone for his misdeeds, the battle against *Sword Art Online's* second-floor boss begins! Kirito's uneasy alliance with the other front-runners seems to be holding, but what will happen when the floor boss corners them? Can Nezha rise to the occasion and seize a hero's prize?

Sword Art Online Progressive, Vol. 4 Details

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Author : Kiseki Himura (Illustrations) , Reki Kawahara

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From Reader Review Sword Art Online Progressive, Vol. 4 for online ebook

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

Another good series. Love the art style, story and characters.

S.Q. Eries says

In Summary

I am truly impressed with how the creators wrap up the Level 2 arc in this volume. Great action, solid plot, excellent character development, and several surprises to keep things exciting. If the rest of the floors in SAO: Progressive are like this, then I'm in for the whole journey.

The Review

Asuna has been the star of Progressive, but in Volume 004, she leaves the stage for nearly two chapters as the story shifts to the fighters on the front line. While Kirito plays a big part in this section, it's as much about Agil, Lind, and Kibaou as it is about our black swordsman. This is still early in SAO so the players are still figuring one another out, and it's amusing to watch egos clash as they collaborate toward the common goal of defeating the Second Floor Boss.

Fortunately, lessons were learned in the previous boss fight, and it's a very interesting moment when Kibaou, of all people, suggests to the entire raid party that they hear what Kirito has to say about the beta test version. Kirito does have the "beater" stigma hovering over him, but he's not the ostracized lone-wolf he was in the anime. Instead, most players realize what he has to offer and would rather have those skills working alongside them. As such, Kirito's pretty much part of the team as the raid party opens the Boss' door.

Unlike the first boss fight, this is new material, and the battle completely sucked me in. I don't often categorize battles as "epic," but I wouldn't hesitate to call this one as such. It's got several unexpected twists along the way, including Asuna's grand return to the front line. The panels sometimes get a bit squished because so much is happening, but the illustrations do an excellent job of conveying action and emotion. And although heroics and desperation dominate in heat of battle, the creators manage to fit in appropriately funny bits and a romantic moment as well. While I could personally do without the gratuitous Asuna panty shots, this boss fight and its aftermath made me want to stand up and cheer.

Extras include the title page and table of contents in color and bonus illustration.

For more manga and book reviews, drop by my blog [Keeping It In Canon!](#)

Anna says

Maybe the LightNovel version is better, but the manga is just not working. Especially since for a ~~loner~~ SOLO PLAYER Kirito sure is present for freakin everything!

The artwork is very uneven, the action scenes are terribly laid-out AND the slippage on "this is not how games work dammit!!" keeps really getting annoying.

Or maybe that's just a very Japan thing? The whole "oh look, this RPG has NPCs full-out sexually harassing the female avatars for the Quest"

Eddie Maybury says

This fourth book took a slight dive in quality for me. There were noticeably more awkward dialogue scenes and less clarity with action panels. Some plot twists were still interesting, and the overall theme wasn't bad. I simply had a tougher time paying attention to the story straying so far off the characters I cared about. Not awful, but likely the last I'll pick up for a while.

Marcus Gilfert says

Loved this anime, and the redux manga is even better, delving into the lives of the side characters, while keeping true to the original. How can you not fanboy for Asuna?

Nic says

My full review of the first four volumes appears on No Flying No Tights.

Amanda Kern says

Awesome reboot

I really like this series. I so believe in buying the manga if comes to my area. The greatest part is I wonder how what they are going to do next.

Sarah Hayes says

Looks like I'll be dropping the manga version of SAO Progressive and keeping to the original light novel series. This latest volume did not hold my attention like previous books, and I greatly disliked the artwork (facial expressions? what are those?) and the action sequences. I also found the usage of flashbacks to be choppy and distracting; the training scenes did not fit well into the main narrative. So far, I've dropped the

manga adaptations of both SAO and the Progressive remix/redux/whatever. I wonder if I'll ever find a SAO manga I actually like? Girls' Op, maybe?

Jennifer says

Wow, really enjoyed this volume! am really enjoying the SAO anime and manga series! Love Kirito and Asuna & definitely recommend watching the anime on Hulu, crunchyroll or Netflix and reading the Aincrad manga volumes first if you want to get into the series :)
