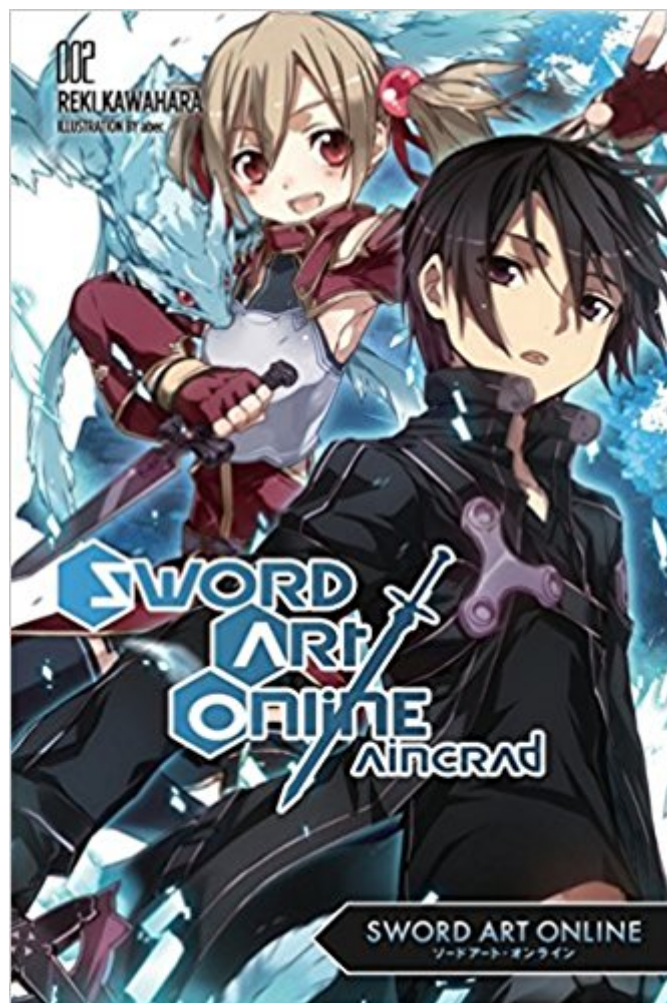


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Sword Art Online 2: Aincrad - Light Novel



Synopsis

Linked up and logged into the deadly VMMORPG "Sword Art Online" in both the real and virtual worlds, Kirito is stuck in a hell of one man's making, and like everyone else, unable to escape until the game is beaten. But while some players are crippled by fear and others throw themselves into completing the game, still others relax into everyday life in the face of their cruel predicament and live to the best of their ability...laughing, crying, but always enjoying the game. Among them are four women who make a mark upon the solo adventurer that Kirito has become: Silica, the beast-tamer; Lisbeth, the blacksmith; Yui, the mysterious orphan; and the tragic Sachi, never to be forgotten by the black swordsman...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The second light novel in Reki Kawahara's Sword Art Online series is very different than the first, but in some ways even better. The first novel was a standalone story, not even intended to become a series. Book two is a set of 4 novellas that he added to fill in some of the time-skip that was present in the first novel. One major criticism of the first novel with that time-skip, was that the lead character, Kirito, did not get to experience a character arc showing him changing as he spent years inside of the Virtual World. Book 2 helps to fix this by showing him at different points, experiencing friendship, happiness, family, and sorrow. It is also different with two of the four novellas being written from different points of view. If you are familiar with the Anime, these four were all interwoven into the plot from the first book. Personally, I find they work better on their own. Here's a brief

summery and review of each one.1. The Black Swordsman - Written from the point of view of a young girl, Silica, the story is about the loss of her dragon companion and the boy who helps her in a quest to revive it. 8/10 - Well written with an interesting twist at the end.2. Warmth of the Heart - Written from the point of view of an older girl, Lisbeth, this story contains much humor and the start of romance while on an adventure to find materials to construct an exceptional sword. 9/10 - A story that can make you laugh and cry with what might have been.3. The Girl in the Morning Dew - Set between chapters 17 and 18 of the first novel while Kirito and Asuna are resting on a lower floor after their in game marriage, this story starts as a slice of life tale before jumping into the mysterious appearance of a young child in the middle of the woods.

I have to admit that I'm still pleasantly surprised by this series, as I wasn't expecting to like the first volume and I was also somewhat unsure that I'd like the continuing volumes of the series since I don't always like ongoing series. However this really is a good follow-up to the first volume in that readers could still read this and not have to worry about continuing the series if they didn't want to (although odds are that you probably will). Rather than have a volume with one story straight through, this is a collection of several shorter stories that center around Kirito's interactions with others during his time in SOA (so it's somewhat of a prequel instead of a sequel). I will admit that anyone familiar with the typical tropes of Japanese works of this nature (anime, manga, light novel) will be able to predict how many of these will end for the most part, but knowing the destination of the short stories doesn't ruin the enjoyment of them. They're just nice light stories that make for a pleasant read. I will say, however, that if you didn't like the first volume then odds are that you probably won't enjoy this one much more since it's the same type of dynamic here. Things will change up slightly in the next volume since the game field is also changing, but for now this volume's plot and motivations are the same as the ones in volume 1. Now many may be tempted to skip this in order to start reading the second part of the SOA story that begins with volume 3, but I'd like to caution you against that since this volume does introduce a few characters that will show up in volume 3. (I peeked.

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