

Brownsheep  
Additional Materials



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**Warning: Spoilers**

# SWORD ART ONLINE

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Sword Art Online (ソードアート・オンライン, Sōdoāto Onrain) is a light novel series that currently has ten (10) volumes. It was written as a Web novel with the penname "Kunori Fumio" since 2002, and was published in 2009 at the same time as *Accel World*, in the label Dengeki Bunko.

Escape was impossible until it was cleared; a game over would mean an actual «death»—.

Without knowing the «truth» of the mysterious next generation MMO, «Sword Art Online» (SAO), approximately ten thousand users logged in together, opening the curtains to this cruel death battle.

Participating alone in SAO, protagonist Kirito had promptly accepted the «truth» of this MMO.

And in the game world, a gigantic floating castle named «Aincrad», he distinguished himself as a solo player.

Aiming to clear the game by reaching the highest floor, Kirito riskily continued alone.

Because of a pushy invitation from a female warrior and rapier expert, Asuna, he teamed up with her.

That encounter brought about an opportunity to call out to the fated Kirito—.

# E-Books

## Listed In Suggested Reading Order

### 1. **Sword Art Online Volume 1 - Aincrad**

The solo player: Kirito, who had the luck-of-the-draw to play the beta version, was imprisoned along with many other players of «Sword Art Online» (SAO) inside of a game, unable to logout; the only way to live is to win. Death in-game means death in the real world, due to tampering with the Nerve Gear; the console that simulates the in-game character controls by redirecting brain signals. Escaping the death game requires the defeat of the final boss on the top floor, two years later; out of the original 10,000 players at the start, only 6000 remain and 26 floors left to clear.

### 2. **Sword Art Online Volume 1 - Aincrad + Extra**

**WARNING!** Chapter 16.5 is NSFW

Same as previous, only with a physically intimate scene as chapter 16.5 included.

### 3. **Sword Art Online Volume 2 - Aincrad**

This volume consists of four short stories that take place before and during the events of Volume 1.

#### **The Black Swordsman (Aincrad 35<sup>th</sup> Floor, February 2024)**

After getting into a fight with her party, Silica the beast tamer soon got herself lost in the «Forest of Wandering». She is later attacked by multiple Drunk Apes and it resulted on the death of her familiar: a «Feathery Dragon» she named Pina. She was soon rescued by Kirito who happened to pass by. Both Silica and Kirito then journey together to «The Hill of Memories» on the 47th floor, hoping to obtain the familiar revival item «Pneuma Flower». After retrieving it they are stopped by the orange guild Titan's Hand, where Kirito reveals his intentions in helping Silica were not only to help her but to lure out this guild and trap them at the request of one of their victims. After imprisoning them successfully, Kirito and Silica part ways.

#### **Warmth of the Heart (Aincrad 48<sup>th</sup> Floor, June 2024)**

The story introduces a female blacksmith name Lisbeth who spends her days running her own weapon shop on the 48th floor. One day, a certain «Black Swordsman» enters

her shop and just broke her best sword. With her pride of a blacksmith enraged after losing her best «Player Made» sword against a Drop weapon, she forms a party with him on a quest to obtain a Crystalite Ingot; to forge a sword that can rival the «Elucidator».

### Morning Dew Girl (Aincrad 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, October 2024)

Takes place during the honeymoon period of Kirito's and Asuna's marriage. After following on the rumor of a wandering ghost, they find an unconscious young child name Yui; which the couple soon cherished as their own daughter. Seeking to find the child's origin, they journey to the 1st floor and learn of the tyranny of «The Army». Along with Yulier's help, they later have to adventure on a quest to locate the originator of the Army: Thinker. In the end; after eliminating the secret boss; Kirito and Asuna soon discover their departing daughter's true identity. Before her complete elimination, Kirito hacks the game with the hidden console unit to save Yui from the world system: «Cardinal».

### Red-Nosed Reindeer (Aincrad 46<sup>th</sup> Floor, December 2023)

Christmas Eve is rolling around and the special event boss, Nicholas the Apostate arrives with the promise of special drops one of which is the revival item. Kirito sets out to claim this item in hopes to revive Sachi, his dead guildmate. Klein encounters the distraught and despairing Kirito and tries to talk him out of engaging Nicholas alone to no avail. Kirito then recollects on his former guild «Black Cats of the Full Moon». Kirito finds the place where Nicholas will appear, and notices he's followed by Klein and his guild, and them by the Divine Dragon Alliance, so he takes Nicholas alone while the others fight. At the end of the battle, which almost kills him he collects the item he wanted, just to discover that it can only revive players 10 seconds after their HP reaches 0, devastated he gives the item to Klein and returns to the Inn, Kirito then stumbles upon a record crystal left behind by Sachi in their shared inventory space tab, Sachi then relays her message to Kirito that if he would read this that means she has died and that she never blamed him for her death and to survive and see the world end and to find out why this world was created. The song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was also sung by her and her final goodbyes gave Kirito the strength to live on.

## 4. **Sword Art Online Progressive Volume I**

The start of the reboot of Sword Art Online, a light novel series by Kawahara Reki. It was released on October 10, 2012.

The volume contains Kirito's adventures at the first and second floors of Aincrad, including a rewrite of two side stories.

## Aria in the Starless Night (Aincrad 1st Floor, December 2022)

It has been a month since Kayaba's tutorial; Kirito is in a dungeon and found himself watching a person fighting a Ruin Kobold Trooper. Kirito decides to approach the player and tries to give some advice on how to fight more efficiently, soon realizing that the player was female. The rapier user decided to end the conversation with Kirito as the monsters were going to re-spawn soon and begins to walk away before fainting. Kirito quickly transport her outside the dungeon. After the player had finally rested on the grassy field, she wakes up and notices Kirito who saved her; she responded to him by stating that saving her was an "Unnecessary Effort". After the rapier user reminisced about how her old ordinary life changed when she borrowed the «Nerve Gear» from her older brother: «Yuuki Koichiro». Kirito notifies the player about the upcoming meeting for the boss raid at the town call «Tolbana». When they reach to the town, they parts ways.

Kirito finds Argo and learns that the buyer had raised his price 29,800 «Colls» for his Anneal Blade however Kirito again refuses the offer. Kirito later met up with Asuna as she was having lunch by the fountains at the town centre. During their brief conversation, Asuna realizes that the meeting was about to start and they both head to the meeting.

## Interlude – Reason for the Whiskers

Kirito has just opened the gate of the second floor of Aincrad, while hiding, he sees Argo running from some guys, he follows them and identify that the guys were part of a guild from the Beta test period that simulate to be ninjas. He enters in action and stops them until a monster attacks them and they run off, Argo thanks Kirito and he tells her that he wants to know the reason behind her whiskers. She instead decides to give him the extra skill hidden in that floor.

She takes him to a hut in the mountains of the second floor, where an NPC is waiting for a disciple, Kirito accepts the quest, and the NPC takes him out of the hut and tells him that he has to break a big rock with just his palms, and before starting he paints his face and tells him that he won't be able to take off the paint until the breaks the rock. That's when he realizes that Argo tried to do the quest on the Beta period, but wasn't able to clear it, so she kept the whiskers.

After three days Kirito breaks the boulder and clears the quest, obtaining the Martial Arts extra skill.

## Rondo of the Transient Sword (Aincrad 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, December 2022)

N/A

## 5. **Sword Art Online - Gaiden: Rondo of the Transient Sword**

A side story which starts on December 8, 2022 and narates the adventures of Kirito and Asuna on the second floor of the Floating Castle: Aincrad.

The first chapter was released as Material Edition 08, it got a reboot as part of the Sword Art Online Progressive series.

Upon clearing the 1st floor, Kirito is on the run as the first person ever to be called a Beater. He arrives at the market place to see one particular person complaining about a failed upgrade to his sword. He later finds Asuna, who also wanted to upgrade her rapier, so Kirito accepts the challenge to help her collect the materials needed to enhance her rapier.

Asuna takes Kirito to hunt wasp monsters and since they needed to kill 100 she decide to make a challenge to see who can kill 50 faster, being overwhelmed by Asuna's ability to connect critical hits, Kirito starts using his, until then secret, Martial Arts skill to regain some terrain, but at the end he loses to Asuna by one monster, so he had to treat her dinner.

While looking for a place, Asuna selects one that Kirito knows very well, it had the most expensive dish in the game yet, and she ordered it, the cake was delicious and Asuna told him that the information was provided by Argo, and teases to ask her about Kirito's information, to what Kirito responds telling that he'll do the same, but Asuna misunderstood.

After an awkward moment they they finish eating and exit the restaurant, while walking and notice a new luck buff from the cake they just ate, while thinking what to do, Kirito decides to take Asuna to the blacksmith and try upgrading her Wind Fleuret. She gives the blacksmith Nezuha the materials needed and the Wind Fleuret, and Kirito and Asuna cross their fingers and the success rate increases to 97%, the process starts, but at the last moment the Wind Fleuret breaks in a thousand polygons, Asuna becomes speechless and Kirito asks Nezuha what happened, he explains that when the game was released a new penalty was added, Weapon Disappearance.

With tears on her eyes and an empty mind, Kirito takes Asuna to a bench where he proposes to buy a new rapier in another city, Asuna declines, and he takes her to an Inn, waits for her to check and enter her room. Then he decides to investigate and follows Nezuha to a Bar.

In the bar, Nezuha reunites with some friends, who congratulate him, while he informs of the items he got that day, then Kirito thought of something, but one of Nezuha's friends detected him and tried to follow him. Kirito managed to escape with his hiding skill and then checked the time, and started running toward the Inn in which Asuna was staying, he enters abruptly into her room and tells her to materialize all her items and gives her instructions on how to do so. He starts looking in her pile of items and on the bottom he finds her Wind Fleuret.

Asuna receives the Wind Fleuret as things calm down and Kirito explains about the methods to lose a weapon, the items propriety and the Materialize All function in the Menu. Asuna decides to thank him, as she was about to hit him for entering her room so abruptly, but she was happy of recovering her beloved weapon.

The next day they head out to the field and encounter two parties formed from members from the 1st floor boss raid fighting a field Boss and other 3 waiting in the back. After an abruptly change of events one party is in trouble and one of them, named Orlando enters in action wielding an Anneal Blade.

## **6. Sword Art Online - Sound of Water, Sound of Hammer**

Aincrad 48th floor; August 2024

After three months of using «Dark Repulser», Lisbeth realizes that the sword will eventually become less useful. As Kirito gets to higher dungeons, he will be able to find a better sword from a rare drop. Plus, Dark Repulser had already used 42 of its 50 reinforcements and was currently +39. That would mean that there were only 8 more chances for reinforcement, and Kirito had asked her to get the blade to +40 today. She understood that Kirito had spent countless of hours hunting for the required materials (well over a hundred materials) so that he could continue to upgrade the sword. Kirito also mentions at this time that he got his dragon leather cloak from a famous tailor in SAO named Ashley. Lisbeth understands that Kirito's sword is out of reinforcements, he might not come back to see her again. Seeing the worry on Lisbeth's face, Kirito tells her that he has a hunch that he will defeat the final boss with Dark Repulser. It seemed only right given the name of the sword. Filled with confidence, Lisbeth finishes reinforces the +40 sword. After saying that she doesn't think she could handle another stressful reinforcement like that, Kirito pulls out «Elucidator» and asks for it to be reinforced to +40 also. Lisbeth lets out a long sigh.

## **7. Sword Art Online - The Day Before**

A side story on Kirito's and Asuna's day after Kirito proposed the marriage.

Kirito had just proposed to Asuna, and she had accepted, now he tries to figure out what marriage means for him now as SAO is a MMO, before actually going through with it. They visit the 22nd floor looking for a house Kirito found when the frontlines were there, but when they arrive, they find that the house has disappeared.

They try to figure out what happened with the house, and in the process they found the house flying in midair, with someone trapped inside. They approach the house and find a dog named Toto, which Asuna immediately likes, but Kirito is wary about, when Asuna tries to pet it, the dog makes them start a quest, and both are sent flying to the house, where they find Argo. Argo explains that she has been trapped two days in the house because she started the quest but couldn't continue, Kirito and Asuna figure out that the key to continue the quest was the dog: Toto, and that Argo was afraid of dogs so she ran away from it, entered the house and the event started, but she couldn't continue.

Now with Toto with them, the next event starts, taking them to an isolated part of the 22nd floor, where they meet some monsters acting as NPCs and identifying themselves as a lion, a scarecrow and a tin man, they explain that the Witch of the West took their friend, along with their courage, brain, and heart, respectively, and ask them for help. Asuna and Argo immediately figure out that it's a quest based on the Wizard of Oz story, but Kirito doesn't know anything about it, so, despite his doubts, he decides to follow Asuna and Argo.

They arrive at a big castle, where the boss should be, despite Kirito's and Argo's reasons, Asuna brought the dog with them. Taking advantage of their higher level and Argo's agility, they easily arrive at the boss room, where a girl was trapped and an event starts, they're paralyzed as part of the event, but also as part of the event they're freed by the lion, then, they attack the Witch of the West, but not dealing much damage. Asuna lets Toto run free and it makes the Witch fall on its pot, defeating her and they proceed to liberate Dorothy. On their way back Asuna explains the story of the Wizard of Oz to Kirito and he understands that the lion, scarecrow, and tin man had what they needed inside them, and he also had the answer he had been looking for.

Before leaving, Argo gives the thanks to them and promises to keep the secret of their engagement.

## **8. Sword Art Online Volume 3 - Fairy Dance**

Kirito returns from «Sword Art Online», only to find Asuna still asleep, and her appearing in a new game «Alfheim Online».

## **9. Sword Art Online Volume 4 - Fairy Dance**

After thwarting the would-be ambush, Kirito and Lyfa set out for Aarun, towards the world tree, only to be sidetracked by an event and end up in the Underworld, «Jötunheimr». With some help from an unlikely ally, they reach the city only to find that the way to the world tree is locked. In the end, Kirito saves Asuna, they along with other SAO players are in high school, and start playing ALO but with the new feature, a new Aincrad and Kirito vows to complete all 100 floors.

## **10. Sword Art Online Volume 5 - Phantom Bullet**

A year has passed since Sword Art Online «SAO» was cleared. «Kirito» is asked by Kikouka to investigate Gun Gale Online, specifically «Death Gun», a weapon which seemed to link deaths in the virtual reality (VR) world to those in the real world. Upon entering the game, Kirito meets Sinon who teaches him the ropes around the game. They both enter the Gun Gale Online tournament, Bullet of Bullets (BoB) . Kirito displays his amazing skill although he is only a newcomer to the game. As the story continues, Kirito finds out that the mysterious deaths were linked to a red guild named Laughing Coffin in «SAO».

## **11. Sword Art Online Volume 6 - Phantom Bullet**

Kirito enters the finals of the Bullet of Bullets tournament to find the truth about the mysterious Death Gun. Assisted by the sniper Asada Shino (a.k.a. Sinon), he fights for his life and others to stop a mysterious but lethal force.

## **12. Sword Art Online Volume 7 - Mother's Rosario**

When a mysterious swordsman appears offering an unheard of 11-hit Original Sword Skill to whoever can best him, Asuna takes up the challenge. Only to find that Zekken is a girl and needs her help in more ways than both know.

## **13. Sword Art Online Volume 8 - Early and Late**

A collection of three side stories.

### **A Murder Case in the Area (Aincrad 57th floor, April 2024)**

Upon returning to the city Kirito and Asuna witness a murder within the city, an anti-crime prevention area. A man thrown out of a window while impaled by a spear, dies right before their eyes. Both bewildered they try to find a normal cause for the murder, but none appears so they find themselves starting to investigate a murder case. First they interview a witness, a girl, Yoruko, who was supposed to meet up with the victim,

Caynz. They also retrieve the murder weapon, Guilty Thorn, which they take to Egil to find out more about it. After Asuna and Kirito call it a day, Schmitt from the Divine Dragons Alliance shows up with a group of people from his guild and robs Kirito of Guilty Thorn. The next day, Asuna and Kirito pay Schmitt a visit; he was willing to assist them as long as he was able to talk to Yoruko again. Yoruko is suddenly murdered during the conversation and Kirito attempts to capture a hooded man on the roof. Schmitt gives Kirito a list of names of the members who were part of the «Golden Apple» guild. Kirito realizes that the real perpetrator was actually the spouse of the dead guild leader of the Golden Apples. He had been after a ring that granted amazing bonus stats that could sell for a lot of gold. Schmitt feels guilty for being an accomplice in the death of the guild leader and decides to visit her grave only to find Yoruko and Cayne still alive. Kirito explains that Cayne and Kaine were similar names when spoken and that Yoruko had lied to both him and Asuna. Three members from the killing guild «Laughing Coffin» show up at the deceased guild leaders' grave and attempt to kill Schmitt, Yoruko, and Cayne. Kirito steps in to save the day. Asuna catches Grimlock, the spouse, hiding in the bushes. He admits that he was the mastermind behind the death of his wife; he did not want her personality to change from what it was originally in the real world.

### Caliber (Alfheim, December 2025)

The quest to retrieve «Excaliber» from the base of Jötunheimr was revealed to the public. It was not the way Kirito and Suguha saw, but another mission which is to slaughter all beast type evil-gods. Kirito and his party of seven enter the floating castle of the frost giants. They are given a quest by «The Queen of the Lake», Uror. She tells them of a once beautiful Jötunheimr where the roots of the Yggdrasil touched the floor and the endless void in the center of the land was filled with water of the purest quality. The Frost Giants had used the sword «Excaliber» to cut off the roots of the great tree and turned Jotenheimr into a frozen wasteland. The party enters the upside-down pyramid to clear its four floors and obtain Excaliber. Along the way, at the end of the third floor, they run into Freyja, a captured beauty. During the battle with the final boss, Giant King Prym, Freyja transforms into the God Thor after retrieving his Mjöltnir, the lightning hammer. After defeating Prym, the group heads into a narrow staircase and finds «Excaliber». After much effort, Kirito pulls the blade out while the fortress begins to collapse. While falling, Tonkii saves the group but to Kirito's dismay, «Excaliber» was lost. Suddenly, Sinon sends a retrieval arrow towards the blade and has Kirito swear that he would think of her every time he uses his sword before giving it to him. They are then met by Uror and her sisters to receive the reward for completing the request. The group is loaded with treasure and then decides to log out and have a party at Agil's cafe.

### First Day (Aincrad, 1st floor, November 2022)

As the SAO death game begins, Kirito rushes to the village named Horunka to get a headstart on the quest which will reward him the «Anneal Blade» which is strong enough to last him for the first 3 floors. During his quest, Kirito finds another beta tester like him. Coper, who proposes that they try to complete the quest to obtain a new sword together. After Kirito gets the item needed to complete the quest, Coper purposely activates a trap which releases a horde of monsters. Kirito realizes that Coper was trying to kill him. After a tough fight, he manages to escape but Coper dies; this heavily affects Kirito as he realizes he can die in this game. Kirito returns and completes the quest, in the scene after he remembers his sister Suguha.

#### 14. Sword Art Online - A Spot of Sunshine in the Winter

A side story about Silica set in New Year's Eve.

Silica fulldives into ALO after having an argument with her parents because despite they agreed to visit her grandparents for New Year, she wanted to stay in home, so her parents left her.

She logs in and enters Kirito and Asuna's house along with Pina, she checks if there's someone but doesn't find anyone, until Pina flies off her and lands on Kirito, who's sleeping. He wakes up and she asks why is he logged, and he answers that he wants to prove the Excaliber he just got against Eugene. Kirito asks Silica why she logged on and she explained that she didn't want to go to her grandparent's house because she didn't want to talk to her cousins about the Sword Art Online incident as she disliked the way they looked at her when she spoke about it. Silica then says she's scared that their situation might change and one day she may be separated from Kirito and her friends. Silica then takes a deep breath and asks Kirito to a new years' eve date at «Ikebukuro» in the real world and after some argue net he agrees.

#### 15. Sword Art Online - Caliber SS

An alternate ending for Sword Art Online Light Novel Volume 08. It answers the questions: What if Klein decided to not save Freyja? What would the outcome be?

#### 16. Sword Art Online Versus - Accel World and Sword Art Online Crossover

Kirito tests the «4th-Generation FullDive Experimental Unit» and enters the Umesato Middle School Local Network by accident. Haruyuki Arita reflexively attacks him and they fight. Ultimately, the battle is stopped before either land the decisive blow, and both think that the other would have won. After the fight Kirito talks about Humanity evolving wings, and Haruyuki talks to Kuroyukihime about the color black being the warmest color.

## **17. Sword Art Online Volume 9 - Alicization Beginning**

Kirito is thrown into the Underworld through FullDiving at first, and he and his friends Eugeo and Alice goes on an adventure that goes awry. At the Underworld, seven years later, Kirito reappears, and this time, Kirito, Eugeo and Alice's sister Selka goes on a quest to bring Alice back to her hometown.

## **18. Sword Art Online Volume 10 - Alicization Running**

After Kirito is attacked by Johnny Black, an old player of SAO, he is rushed to the hospital. He falls into a coma due to his injuries, and then mysteriously disappears from the hospital. Asuna tries to find his location with help from her daughter Yui and Koujiro Rinko (the deceased Kayaba Akihiko's lover).

They discover that he is currently in the custody of Kikuoka Seijirou and Takeru Higa, who is currently experimenting with Soul Translator, the fourth generation FullDive technology.

Meanwhile, Kirito and Eugeo journey south to the town of Zakkaria in order to find the location of the abducted Alice.

## **19. Sword Art Online Volume 11 - Alicization Turning**

Kirito and Eugeo are now second years at the Master Sword Art Academy and are placed fifth and sixth in the top twelve. One day they are requested by their valets to help another valet who is being made to do embarrassing tasks. They break the Taboo Index and are arrested by Alice who is now an Integrity Knight and are sent to the Axiom Church prison. In prison they realize that they can break out but are intercepted by the Integrity Knight Eldrie Woolsburg.

## **20. Sword Art Online Volume 12 - Alicization Rising**

N/A

## **21. Sword Art Online - Gaiden: Cradle of the Moon**

Set after the events of the Alicization Arc. It is now some time after the events of Volume 11 and the world has gained peace. The people of the Human World, the people of the Dark Territory, the Goblins, Orcs, Ogres, and Giants have all signed a unity peace treaty and the Dark Territory and the Human World have opened up for trade. After the War of the East Gate and Rebellion of the Four Empires the four Imperial Noble Families (assumed to be the Ancestor Families mentioned in the Alicization Arc), who had been oppressing the common people had finally been

overthrown and Underworld seems to be at a state of peace. The Underworld Fundamental Law has been introduced and the Taboo Index revised. In a few years the Integrity Knights will become the largest fighting force in all of Underworld and among them will be Ronie, Teiza and their dragons: Tsukigake and Shimosaki who are currently Integrity Knight Apprentices.

## 22. Sword Art Online - Gaiden X2: There is but One Ultimate Way

Not canon.

Kirito awakes in a bed in Underworld, moments later he realises that he's surrounded by Alice, Asuna and the other girls. After they wake up they start talking and Kirito asks for answers about what's happening. In the conversation they reveal that they all are in the STL running at 10000 times faster to enjoy their last five hours of vacation, and confess that they all love Kirito and want to marry him in the game before the whole group dissolves and each one of them take their own separate way.

## 23. Sword Art Online - Material Edition Compilations

### Sword Art Online Material Edition 1

The Progressers (攻略者たち Kōryaku-sha-tachi?) is the first Material Edition of «Sword Art Online». Kawahara Reki published it under his pen name Kunori Fumio. It was published in November 2007.

After a failed attempt by Klein and Kirito to defeat the field boss using food. Asuna and Kirito argue over the way on how to defeat the 56th Floor Boss, with the former propose using a massacre of NPCs in the village to defeat the boss. They end up dueling each other, with Kirito emerging as the winner using an outside system skill as a feint to win. Asuna mulls over her defeat outside at midnight. She unknowingly triggers a flag that gives her a clue on how to defeat the floor boss.

Later Asuna realizes that even though they are in a VRMMO, she realizes that Kirito thinks of SAO as reality as well. Asuna watches Kirito celebrating with Ruru over the defeat of the floor boss, but gets an in-game harrassment warning for holding her into the air.

### Sword Art Online Material Edition 2

Early Characters is the second Material Edition for Sword Art Online. It consists of the descriptions and stats of the characters in Sword Art Online.

### Sword Art Online Material Edition 3

Ceramic Heart (セラミックハート Seramikku hāto?) is the third Material Edition of «Sword Art Online». Kawahara Reki published it under his pen name Kunori Fumio.

Yui doesn't understand human "love." She ponders the meaning of the word, when one day while in ALO, she meets a boy who confesses to her. She tells him that she will not be his, but the boy says there is no need for an answer, and that he is happy either way. Confused, Yui asks Asuna what the boy had meant, and she says that she should ask him the next time they meet. As it turned out, he had deleted his account the next day, so she accessed the remaining information, and tracked him down to his place of residence. Asuna goes and finds that the boy was actually an elderly man who had recently died, and had taken up a hobby of going into VRMMOs. Before the elderly man died, he last told his adult daughter that he had actually met his deceased wife in ALO.

Later Yui begins to realize, and assessed that the feeling of loss, is what it truly means "to love."

#### **Sword Art Online Material Edition 4**

Cold hand, Warm heart is a material edition that narrates another of the stories Kirito gets involved.

After a hunting day Kirito returns to his house in Algade, but keeps feeling strange and thinks that it's a new negative status, with a huge effort he manages to reach an Inn room and decides to call Klein for help. After typing a desperate message with a blurry vision he sends it and falls unconscious. Hours later he awakes and hears a voice different from Klein, it was Asuna who was taking care of him and realises that he sent the message to the wrong person. Asuna takes care of him and tells him that his real body just caught a cold. The next day strangely Asuna is now sick and Kirito is nowhere to be seen, she realises that Kirito must be training, but then a portal appears and Kirito emerges from it with a basin with ice, then she realises that he made something almost impossible, he went to the fifty eight floor, climbed a mountain, defeated a dragon, took the ice and returned in less than two hours. For the rest of the day Kirito takes care of her.

#### **Sword Art Online Material Edition 5**

Salvia is the fifth Material Edition of Sword Art Online. It is one of the two stories set in the real world rather than VR one.

Kazuto and Suguha finish training and while resting they start talking about their childhood and how much they like Salvia. Suddenly Kirito remembers something and takes Suguha for a ride in his bike. After a few minutes they stop before a vacant lot and a luxurious house. Suguha finds blue Salvia flowers and a young lady appears from

the house and after a little chat, the lady takes a plastic bag and gives them some Salvia before they leave. While leaving, Kirito tells Suguha that he planted those flowers to give them as a birthday present to her long ago but he forgot where the lot was, so after many attempts he gave up and it was until now that he remembered where it was.

## **Sword Art Online Material Edition 6**

Algade Showdown is the sixth Material Edition for Sword Art Online.

Kirito and Asuna are in their home on Floor 22, when, suddenly, Asuna brings up the topic about the cook of a restaurant. Although, at first, Kirito is clueless to what Asuna is referring to, he soon realizes that she's talking about Algade House, the restaurant they went with Heathcliff six months ago. They start discussing whether the chef is a actually player or just an NPC. After discussing for a while, as Kirito is unable to let the topic go, they devise a plan that would help them confirm whether the chef is an NPC or a player.

They wait for the cook to exit his shop, but after six hours of fruitless waiting, Kirito and Asuna realize the need for a different plan. They plan to enter the shop and eat until the chef runs out of supplies and has to exit the shop to buy more. If the chef does not run out of supplies, then the chef is an NPC.

Kirito and Asuna then enter the shop and eat up to the fifth bowl before Asuna loses consciousness from being too full. Kirito continues up to the eight bowl before reaching his limit. It is just then that he remembers the soy sauce Asuna had made, and pours it into the bowl, and with it, he finishes the bowl. The cook notices the sauce, and asks to taste it, discovering that it is soy sauce.

After this pleasant discovery, he rejoices while thinking about his shop in the real world, Kirito realizes that the chef is a player before falling unconscious.

## **Sword Art Online Material Edition 7**

Continuation: Aria in the Starless Night is a Material Edition continuation of the main story, Aria in the Starless Night.

Kirito decides to hide until the celebration on the second floor died down. Because if he were to show himself to the public, he would be in serious trouble since the information of him being a Beater had spread amongst the players. While in hiding, he notices «Argo the Rat» running from two people towards the outskirts of town. He immediately chases after them until they come to halt. The two men were from a Beta test ninja guild, Fumaningun. They were after Argo for information on a certain Extra Skill that could be acquired on the second floor. Kirito leaps down from the side of the cliff and confronts the two players. They are then chased away by a Trembling Cow

monster. Kirito, using Argo's promise for a free piece of information of his choosing, asks Argo as to why she has whiskers on her face, but instead of telling him that, she shows him the location of the NPC for the «Martial Arts» Extra Skill quest. After accepting the quest, Kirito's new sensei paints whiskers on his face. Apparently, he would not be able to remove the paint until he had broken a demonic rock into two with his bare hands. Argo during the Beta test had given up on this quest and thus she had permanent cat-like whiskers on her face. After the Beta test, she kept the whiskers with make-up because it had become a part of her own image. At the beginning Kirito also wanted to leave, but when he asked Argo how he looked like and she started laughing, he decided that he won't leave until he completed the quest. After 3 days and 3 nights, Kirito finally managed to break the rock, acquiring the Martial Arts skill.

### **Sword Art Online Material Edition 8**

"Rondo of the Transient Sword" is the eighth Material Edition of Sword Art Online. The first chapter was released as a Material Edition, and the rest as side stories. It narrates Kirito and Asuna's adventure through the second floor of Aincrad.

This story also got a reboot as part of the Progressive Series in its first Volume.

Four days after the second floor of Aincrad was unlocked, Kirito is disguised getting items to continue training, since his fame as a beater has now spreaded. He finds a scene in which someone is complaining to a blacksmith because it failed upgrading his Anneal Blade four times and now the sword was useless. While watching the scene he begins spacing out thinking about the probabilities of such an event happening. While he spaces Asuna arrives and talks to him, he explains her what's happening, and they talk about the enhancement system in SAO. The scene was solved when the player's friend arrived and calmed him down. Everyone apologized and the blacksmith, Nezuha, bought the now useless sword for 8 thousand col.

Kirito and Asuna sit on a bench and talk. Kirito was hesitant about trying to upgrade his sword and was caught in a train of thoughts until Asuna made him return to reality. She tells him that she also wanted to upgrade her rapier, so Kirito accepts the challenge to help her collect the materials needed to enhance her rapier.

### **Sword Art Online Material Edition 9**

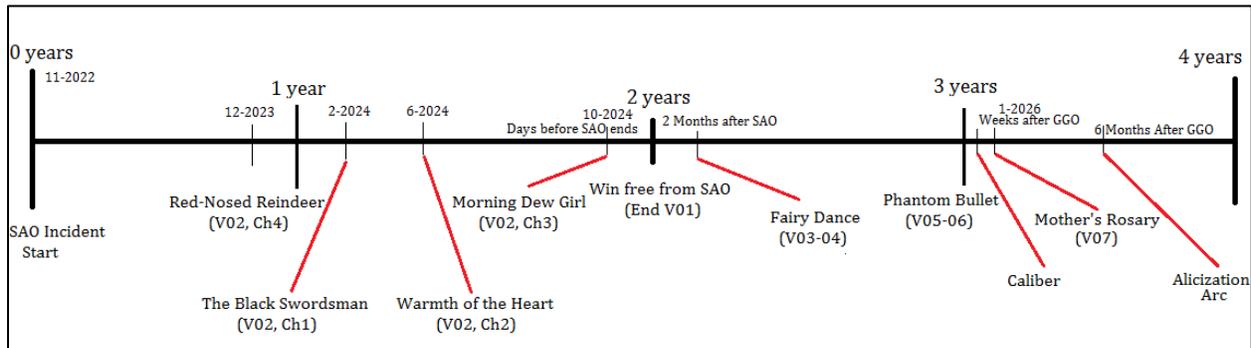
Monochrome Concerto is the ninth material edition of Sword Art Online.

Kirito and Asuna finally make their way third floor after clearing the second floor boss. Kirito explains Asuna about the new monsters that will appear and how Kayaba Akihito considered SAO a "Concerto of life and death". While talking, they arrive to the door leading to the new floor, Kirito doesn't notices it and hits his head with the door, missteps and losses his balance, falling in the new unlocked floor. While Kirito mourns

on the floor, Asuna enters and admires the scenery, Kirito interrupts her and allows her to decide to continue in a party or to disband it.

After Asuna tells him that she doesn't want to disband the party, Kirito starts walking, and explaining the situation in the forest they were. While explaining about the map, Kirito is attacked by a «Treant Sapling», they defeat their enemy in three minutes, and continue. Kirito explains that he wants to start a quest, but it'll require to find an NPC in a random location, so they start searching for the sound of swords colliding, they follow the trail and finally arrive to the desired location. Kirito explains the procedure of the quest and they start attacking, surprisingly they defeat an elite NPC.

# Timeline



## 2008

- *Kazuto adopted by the Kirigaya family after his birth and his parents' death (2008, IRL)*

## 2011

- *Birth of Konno Yuuki (May 2011, IRL)*
- *Konno Yuuki was infected by AIDS (May 2011, IRL)*

## 2018

- *Kirigaya Kazuto found out about his parents' death (2018, IRL)*

## 2020

- *Asada Shino involved in a hold-up (September/October 2020, IRL)*

## 2022 - SGO

- *Creation of Nerve Gear (May 2022, IRL)*
- *Konno Yuuki was admitted in a hospital (Summer 2022, IRL)*
- *Sword Art Online Beta (August-September 2022)*
- *SAO Launched (November 6th, 2022)*
- *Volume 1 - Chapters 2 and 3 (November 6th, 2022, at 17:30, SAO)*
- *Volume 8 - "First Day" (November 6th, 2022, SAO)*
- *Volume 1 - Beginning of Chapter 4 (December 2nd, 2022, SAO)*

- Gaiden - "Aria in the Starless Night" (December 2nd-4th, 2022, SAO)
- *First meeting between Asuna and Kirito (December 2nd, 2022, SAO)*
- *2nd Floor of Aincrad (December 4th, 2022, SAO)*
- ME7 - "Continuation: Aria in the Starless Night" (December 4th, 2022, SAO)
- Gaiden (ME8) - "Rondo of the Transient Sword" (December 8th, 2022, SAO)
- *3rd Floor of Aincrad (December 14th, 2022, SAO)*
- ME9 - "Monochrome Concerto" (December 14th, 2022, SAO)
- *Suguha found out about Kazuto's parents' death (December 2022, IRL)*

## 2023-2024 - SLO

### 2023

- *Konno Yuuki began using the MediCuboid (Winter 2023, IRL)*
- *Kirito joined the "Black Cats of the Full Moon" (April 2023, SAO)*
- *Creation of AmuSphere and ALfheim Online (May 2023, IRL)*
- *Disappearance of the "Black Cats of the Full Moon" (June 2023, SAO)*
- *Kirito acquired "Dual Blades" (October-November 2023, SAO)*
- *Suguha joined ALO (November 2023, ALO/IRL)*
- Volume 2 - "Red-nosed Reindeer" (December 19th-23rd, 2023, SAO)

### 2024

- *50th Floor of Aincrad (Beginning of 2024, SAO)*
- *Kirito acquired the sword "Elucidator" (Beginning of 2024, SAO)*
- *Birth of the red guild "Laughing Coffin" (January 2024, SAO)*
- Volume 2 - "Black Swordsman" (February 2024, SAO)
- ME1 - "The Progressers" (March 2024, SAO)
- *Duel between Asuna and Kirito (March 2024, SAO)*
- *57th Floor of Aincrad (March 2024, SAO)*
- *Serious meeting between Asuna and Kirito (April 2024, SAO)*
- Volume 8 - "A Murder Case in the Area" (April 22nd-23rd, 2024, SAO)
- Volume 2 - "Warmth of the Heart" (June 2024, SAO)
- *Kirito acquired the sword "Dark Repulser" (June 2024, SAO)*
- Gaiden - "Sound of Water, Sound of Hammer" (August 2024, SAO)
- *Coalition against "Laughing Coffin" (August 2024, SAO)*

- *74th Floor of Aincrad (2024, SAO)*
- ME4 - "Cold Hand, Warm Heart" (September 2024, SAO)
- Volume 3 - Beginning of Prologue (First days of October 2024, IRL)
- Volumes 1, 2 - Prologue (October 2024, SAO)
- Volume 1 - Chapter 1 (End of October 2024, SAO)
- Volume 1 - End of Chapter 4 (End of October 2024, SAO)
- Volume 1 - Chapters 5-12 (End of October 2024, SAO)
- *75th Floor of Aincrad (End of October 2024, SAO)*
- Volume 1 - Chapters 12 and 13 (End of October 2024, SAO)
- *Kirito joined the "Knights of Blood" (End of October 2024, SAO)*
- Volume 1 - Chapters 14-16 (End of October 2024, SAO)
- Caiden - Chapter 16.5 (End of October 2024, SAO)
- Volume 2 - "Morning Dew Girl" (End of October 2024, SAO)
- *Appearance of Yui (End October 2024, SAO)*
- ME6 - "Algade Showdown" (End of October 2024, SAO)
- Volume 1 - Chapters 17-19 (November 2024, SAO)
- Volume 1 - Chapters 20-24 (November 7th, 2024, SAO)
- *SAO Deleted (November 7th, 2024)*
- *Death of Kayaba Akihiko (November 7th, 2024)*
- Volume 1 - Chapter 25 (November 7th, 2024, IRL)
- ***End of Aincrad***
- Volume 3 - End of Prologue (November 7th, 2024, IRL)

## 2025 - ALO + GGO

### **ALO**

- ME5 - "Salvia" (January 2025, IRL)
- Volume 3 - Chapter 1 (19-20 January 2025, ALO)
- Volumes 3-4 - Chapters 2-5 (January 2025, ALO)
- *"Excaliber" found (January 2025, ALO)*
- Volume 4 - Chapters 6, 7 (January 2025, ALO)
- Volume 4 - Chapter 8 (January 2025, ALO/IRL)
- *Creation of "Seed" (January 2025)*

- *Sugou Nobuyuki Arrested (January 2025, IRL)*
- *ALO Suspended (January 2025)*
- *Akihiko Kayaba's whereabouts (March 2025, IRL)*
- Volume 4 - Chapter 9 (May 2025, IRL/ALO)
- ***End of Fairy Dance***

## **GGO**

- *Gun Gale Online Created (April 2025)*
- *Meeting between Shinkawa Kyouji and Asada Shino (June 2025, IRL)*
- *Shino joined GGO (June 2025, GGO)*
- *Shino acquired "Ultima Ratio Hecate II" (June 2025, GGO)*
- *1st "Bullet of Bullets" (August 2025, GGO)*
- *2nd "Bullet of Bullets" (October 2025, GGO)*
- Volume 5 - Prologue (November 9th, 2025, GGO)
- *"Death Gun" Murders (November 2025, IRL)*
- Volume 5 - Chapters 1, 2 (December 7th, 2025, IRL)
- Volume 5 - Chapter 3 (December 11th, 2025, GGO)
- Volume 5 - Chapters 4-6 (December 13th, 2025, IRL/GGO)
- *3rd "Bullet of Bullets" (December 2025, GGO)*
- Volume 5 - Chapter 7 (December 13th, 2025, GGO)
- Volume 6 - Chapter 7.2 (December 14th, 2025, IRL)
- Volume 6 - Chapters 8-10 (December 14th, 2025, IRL/GGO)
- Volume 6 - Chapters 11 (December 14th, 2025, ALO)
- Volume 6 - Chapter 12 (December 14th, 2025, GGO)
- Volume 6 - Chapter 13 (December 14th, 2025, ALO)
- Volume 6 - Chapters 14, 15 (December 14th, 2025, GGO/IRL)
- *Shinkawa Brothers arrested (December 14th, 2025, IRL)*
- *Escape of Atsushi Kanemoto (December 14th, 2025, IRL)*
- Volume 6 - Chapter 16 (December 16th, 2025, IRL)
- ***End of Phantom Bullet***

## **ALO**

- *Sinon joined ALO (December 16th-21st, 2025, ALO)*
- Volume 8 - "Caliber" (December 28th, 2025, ALO)

- *Kirito acquired the sword "Excaliber" (December 28th, 2025, ALO)*
- *Lisbeth acquired the hammer "Mjölnir" (December 28th, 2025, ALO)*

## 2026 - ALO + UnderWorld

### **ALO**

- Volume 7 (January-April 2026, ALO/IRL)
- ***End of Mother's Rosario***
- ME3 - "Ceramic Heart" (May 18th, 2026, ALO/IRL)

### **UnderWorld**

- Accel World Volume 10 - "Versus" (April 2026 // 2047, Brain Burst)
- Volume 9 - Alicization Beginning (June 2026, UnderWorld)
- Volume 10 - Alicization Running (June 2026, Underworld)
- Volume 11 - Alicization Turning (June 2026, Underworld)
- Volume 12 - Alicization Rising (June 2026, Underworld)
- Gaiden - "Cradle of the Moon" (June 2026, UW)
- Volume ?? - Alicization Epilogue (August 2026, UW)
- Gaiden - "There is but one Ultimate way" (August 2026, UW)

# Characters

## Main Characters

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### Kirito (キリト)

Real name: Kazuto Kirigaya (桐ヶ谷 和人 Kirigaya Kazuto)

Voiced by: Yoshitsugu Matsuoka

Kirito is the main protagonist of the series ), who uses the portmanteau "Kirito" as his character name, is a "solo" player who has been branded a beater (a portmanteau of beta tester and cheater) by the players in Sword Art Online. When it is announced that the players of Sword Art Online can no longer log-out, he is distraught like everyone else, but quickly overcomes the shock. He power levels to improve his odds of survival in the game, and emerges as a frontline clearer of floors known as the Black Swordsman (黒の剣士 Kuro no Kenshi). In SAO, he is the sole possessor of a unique skill, «Dual Blades». During his time in SAO, he falls in love with a female player, Asuna, and even marries her in-game.

After the end of the Sword Art Online incident, 300 people have yet to wake up including Kirito's SAO wife Asuna. He is sent a picture from another VRMMORPG called Alfheim Online in which Asuna could be seen in a cage on the legendary World Tree, which no Alfheim player had ever reached directly, Kirito decides to take a copy of the game and rescue Asuna nonetheless. Shortly after joining Alfheim, he befriends another player called Leafa. Leafa helps Kirito grasp the game and offers to help him reach the world tree. After a long journey and many adventures, Kirito manages to reach the world tree and overcomes its obstacles to reach the top. He rescues Asuna and discovers that his companion Leafa was actually his cousin Suguha. As ALO and SAO share the same game engine among other features, a bug allows Kirito to retain most of the skills and money he obtained in SAO upon playing ALO with the same Nerve Gear, already beginning his journey with an advantage over other

players, despite he ends up forced to discard all items as they were not recognized by the system except the one containing Yui, which reformats itself as a navigation pixie.

He is later asked to register in Gun Gale Online in order to investigate real life murders that are somehow linked with assassinations in-game. It is soon revealed that the murders are committed by ex-players from Sword Art Online, who were part of a player killing group known as Laughing Coffin. His actions result in the capture of two out of the three culprits. The last member escapes and is not heard of until the events of volume 9, and is responsible for an attempted murder of Kazuto.

In the Alicization Arc, he has been assisting in the development of the fourth generation full dive interface, Soul Translator, by testing its thought acceleration functions. However, he has no memory of what he has been doing as a result of his memories being suppressed, voluntarily, by the system. He is attacked and poisoned by Johnny Black (The third culprit who escapes) in the real world and wakes up in Underworld with no memory of the game or how he got there. He meets up with Eugeo and helps him out of some tough situations, during which he partially remembers his time with Eugeo and Alice during his "childhood" in Underworld. He then decides to aid Eugeo in finding Alice while he searches for a way out, back to reality.

In the real world, he lives with his mother and younger cousin/sister in a family of three. He was adopted by Minetaka and Midori Kirigaya (Suguha's parents). His mother (who is actually Midori's sister) and father passed away after an accident when he was a year old. He finds out the truth at age ten.

## **Asuna (アスナ)**

Real name: Asuna Yuuki (結城 明日奈 Yūki Asuna)

Voiced by: Haruka Tomatsu (Japanese), Cherami Leigh (English)

Asuna is the main female protagonist of the series. , who uses the handle Asuna, is a friend of Kirito, and a sub-leader of the Knights of the Blood Oath, a medium-sized guild acknowledged as the strongest guild in Aincrad. Being one of the few girls that play SAO and extremely attractive, she receives many invitations and proposals. Asuna is a strong-willed,

accomplished player known in-game as the "Flash" (閃光 Senkō) for her extraordinary sword skill.

Later, she falls in love with Kirito and they marry in-game. Towards the end of the SAO arc, she sacrifices herself to save Kirito from a killing blow by Heathcliff. However, her death was only in-game and she is shortly reunited with Kirito shortly after he dies defeating Heathcliff.

Despite the completion of SAO, Asuna does not wake up and is instead imprisoned in another VRMMORPG called Alfheim Online. She is forced to play the role of Titania the Queen of Fairies, with Nobuyuki Sugō, the man responsible for imprisoning her, playing as Oberon the Fairy King. This was done so that Nobuyuki Sugō could marry Asuna in the real world, while she was unconscious, and thus take over RCT Progress Inc. She constantly tries to get out of the World Tree where she is imprisoned and escape going so far as to steal a GM card which she throws out of the window when she hears Yui's voice. Upon being freed she created two avatars for Alfheim, Asuna (being the healer of the team) and Erika (a battle type avatar) and went on living with Kirito.

In the real world, Asuna lives a very stressful life, and is constantly pressured to fulfill her parents' high expectations. Prior to the SAO incident, she led her life unquestioningly according to her parents' demands. However, after living in SAO and meeting Kirito, she gains perspective and looks back on her past with disgust. She eventually becomes Kirito's girlfriend, and dreams of marrying him and having a family with him in the real world when they saw a family at the park.

## Lyfa (リーファ Rīfa, also Leafa)

Real name: Suguha Kirigaya (桐ヶ谷 直葉 Kirigaya Suguha)

Voiced by: Ayana Taketatsu

Kirito's younger cousin in the real world. She's a diligent worker and has been practicing Kendo for 8 years. Kirito/Kazuto calls her "Sugu". After Kazuto got trapped in Sword Art Online, she began playing Alfheim Online in order to understand him better. She develops feelings for Kazuto after she learns he is not really her brother, but understands that Kazuto's feelings for Asuna are too strong. Coincidentally, she meets Kirito in Alfheim and aids him in searching for

Asuna, unaware that Kirito is Kazuto. After understanding the depth of Kazuto's love for Asuna, she resolves to give up on him and instead becomes attached to Kirito in ALO. Unfortunately, she is heartbroken when she finds Kirito's real world identity in ALO. Nevertheless, she pulls herself together and aids Kirito in rescuing Asuna.

## Yui (ユイ)

Voiced by: Kanae Itō

Initially a side story character in SAO, later becomes an accompanying/support character in ALO. At first thought to be a lost child in SAO, she is actually an artificial intelligence program. Her full designation is «Mental Health - Counselling Program», MHCP version 1, codename, «Yui». She was designed to monitor the emotions of players and appear at their sides to hear and help them out. However, since the moment everyone was imprisoned in Sword Art Online, she was forbidden to come in contact with the players and complete her prime directive. Unable to do anything but suffer as she monitored the emotions of the trapped players, she came upon Kirito and Asuna whose emotions were those of joy and peace in the sea of fear, despair and rage. She sought them out. Appearing to them as an amnesiac child. They adopted her. In the end she was nearly deleted by Cardinal, the management system of SAO. But Kirito saved her by converting and storing her data into his own Nerve Gear. Later shows up in ALO as a Private Navigation Pixie and helps Kirito along with Lyfa to find Asuna. Refers to Kirito as "Papa" and Asuna as "Mama". And gets very annoyed if any girl other than Lyfa or Asuna gets close to Kirito. Kirito uses his skills and resources in the real world to make a device for Yui to view the real world even whilst she is in virtual reality and gives her the ability to communicate with them.

## Sinon (シノン Shinon)

Real name: Shino Asada (朝田 詩乃 Asada Shino)

Voiced by: Miyuki Sawashiro (drama CD)

A female sniper that Kirito first meets in Gun Gale Online. She has a childhood trauma concerning guns and thus started playing Gun Gale Online in an attempt to overcome it. She

is the owner of the rare gun "PGM Ultima Ratio Hecate II". She originally considered Kirito as an opponent, but she later developed feelings for him. She later joins ALO on their recommendation as a Caith Sith archer, wielding a long bow. In Gun Gale Online she's known as 'Hecate' while in the real life she's usually called 'Sinonon'.

### Alice Schuberg (アリス・ツーベルク Arisu Tsūberuku)

A mysterious girl who was Kirito's "childhood friend", along with Eugeo, in UnderWorld. She is captured and supposedly taken away to be executed by the Integrity Knights for breaking the rule by "entering" the Dark Territory. She contacted Kirito, in spirit form, and aided in Eugeo's healing, showing that she is still alive and remembered both of them. She also implored them to come find her. It is later revealed, first in a short story, that she had become an Integrity Knight, but it is yet to be officially confirmed in the English translations.

### Eugeo (ユージオ Yūjio)

A young lad who was also Kirito's "childhood friend", along with Alice, in UnderWorld. Has his memories of Kirito purged, along with the rest of the villagers, but recovers them later on, to a certain degree. Has a strong desire to find Alice and, in order to do so, begins learning "Aincrad style" sword skills from Kirito.

## Secondary Characters

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### Klein (クライン Kurain)

Real name: Ryōtarō Tsuboi (壺井 遼太郎 Tsuboi Ryōtarō)

Voiced by: Hiroaki Hirata

A friendly player that meets Kirito at the start of the game and quickly befriends and learns from him. He and Kirito later separate because he has friends who were also new to the game,

and since he was taught by Kirito who was an experienced player, he couldn't leave them. He uses a katana to fight and leads a party. Klein has reunited with Kirito after two years when they run from a monster and start having lunch. He regularly meets with Kirito and his friends and occasionally go with them in quests in ALO, especially after the release of the World Seed.

## Agil (エギル)

Real name: Andrew Gilbert Mills

Voiced by: Hiroki Yasumoto (Japanese), Patrick Seitz (English)

An axe wielder who owns a shop in SAO. He is 180 cm tall with muscular body and set his hairstyle to be bald. Despite his scary figure, he is kind hearted and allocated most of his earnings to help players in middle floors. Kirito is a regular in his shop and they seem to have a good relationship. He runs a shop named «Dicey Cafe» in the other side, which had been kept from closing for two years of his absence by his wife. That shop then becomes Kazuto and company's meeting place in the real world.

## Heathcliff (ヒースクリフ Hīsurifū)

Real name: Akihiko Kayaba (茅場 晶彦 Kayaba Akihiko)

Voiced by: Tōru Ōkawa (Heathcliff), Kōichi Yamadera (Kayaba)

Akihiko Kayaba is the Director and Creator of the Nerve Gear and Sword Art Online, and is the main antagonist of the series. He traps all the players within Sword Art Online by using the Nerve Gear to cease sending signals to the users' body. Any attempt at removal, loss of power for a certain period, or if the user dies in the game will also kill the user. His motivation is to observe what happens after he traps them. Later, it is discovered that he had been masquerading as Heathcliff, the leader of the Knights of Blood. Although he can give his character immortality, he can easily defeat other players without it because he already knows how to counter the skills that he designed. Defeated by Kirito at the end of Volume 1, he died, leaving behind a program that granted Kirito the World Seed, at the end of Volume 4. His

death was his own doing since he had also rigged his own Nerve Gear device to fry his brain when he was defeated.

## Silica (シリカ Shirika)

Real name: Keiko Ayano (綾野 珪子 Ayano Keiko)

Voiced by: Rina Hidaka

A side story character in SAO. One of the rare beast tamers in the game. She, very early in the game was able to tame a dragon which gave her immense fame, but she was just a mid-level player. Due to her fame and being a girl, many tried to get on her good side, causing her to get a bit of an inflated head. She usually stay away from the males, who tried to marry her despite the fact that she was only 13. After getting lost in a forest, she lost her beast and only friend in the game. Kirito rescued her, and helped her as she resembled his sister. She gained feelings for him, but once she realized his skills, she realized that they could never be together in the game. Later on it is revealed that Pina (her beast) was revived. She joins Kirito and his friends in ALO right after they meet in the real world; they often go together in quests.

## Lizbeth (リズベット Rizubetto)

Real name: Rika Shinozaki (篠崎 里香 Shinozaki Rika)

Voiced by: Ayahi Takagaki

A side story character in SAO. Her profession is a blacksmith. She is a close friend of Asuna who recommended her to Kirito. Kirito commissioned her to forge a second sword for him, as good as his first sword «Elucidator». Then he accompanied her in the quest for the special ore required for the job. During the quest, she also develops feelings for Kirito. She is devastated when she finds out that Kirito is Asuna's crush. But finds solace when Kirito tells her about the "Black Cats" and that for the first time after losing his guild he had felt natural while partying with her. In the end when the game clear message appears she instinctively knows that it was Kirito who did it and declares her love for him. Proposes a one-month truce with Scilica after Asuna wakes up but is shown regretting it. She becomes a regular player in ALO and

frequently takes on quests with Kirito and his friends and takes up tasks of upgrading their equipment.

## Sachi (サチ)

Voiced by: Saori Hayami

A side story character in SAO. She was a member of "Black Cats of the Full Moon" which was the first guild Kirito joined. Kirito was especially attached to her. However she died along with the majority of her guild members which led to Kirito wallowing in despair and self-loathing until he read the time delayed message she left for Kirito. Even after the message gave him the strength to live, he never joined another guild until the events of Volume 1.

## Kuradeel (クラディール Kuradīru)

Voiced by: Koji Yusa

A Two-Handed Sword user. Publicly a member of "Knights of the Blood" and secretly a surviving member of the red guild "Laughing Coffin". He has a grudge against Kirito and Asuna for destroying "Laughing Coffin". He was officially assigned as Asuna's bodyguard by "Knights of the Blood" and despite his grudge develops an obsession with Asuna and begins secretly following her everywhere. When he sees that Kirito and Asuna are developing a relationship, he becomes jealous and challenges Kirito to a duel over who can protect her. Kirito wins and Kuradeel is forced to leave. He later tries to murder Kirito and then Asuna, but is instead killed by Kirito using an unarmed skill.

## Oberon the Fairy King (妖精王オベIRON Yōsei-ō Obeiron)

Real name: Nobuyuki Sugō (須郷 伸之 Sugō Nobuyuki)

Nobuyuki Sugō is the main antagonist of the Alfheim Online arc. He is the one responsible for keeping 300 Nerve Gear victims, including Asuna, prisoner even after SAO had ended. He did this by transferring them all into ALO for experiments on human subjugation via full-dive technology. He also attempts to take over RCT Progress Inc. by marrying Asuna while she is unconscious. He displays a perverse interest in consummating this marriage while Asuna is still

comatose. In ALO, he takes on the identity of Oberon the Fairy King and makes Asuna his queen, Titania. When he and Kirito finally meet, he flaunts his GM status as well as the results of his research by causing Kirito immense amounts of pain after increasing Kirito's pain limit and impaling him. He is defeated when the "Ghost Program" of Akihiko Kayaba reminded Kirito how he was defeated by Kirito's determination, before aiding him in overcoming Nobuyuki's GM status. All 300 victims are released from ALO, but Nobuyuki makes another attempt to attack Kirito while he is making his way to Asuna in the real world. However, he is once again subdued by Kirito, who puts the unarmed combat skills he had learned in SAO to useful effect. Nobuyuki is then arrested and charged for his crimes.

### Recon (レコン Rekon)

Voiced by: Ayumu Murase

Real name: Shin'ichi Nagata (長田 慎一 Nagata Shin'ichi)

Suguha's classmate in the real world. He introduced ALO to Suguha who asked him about VRMMO. In ALO, he is a Sylph dagger wielder and dark mage. He also displays an obvious romantic interest in Suguha, although the feelings are not mutual.

### Death Gun (死銃 Desu Gan)

Registered avatar name: Sterben

Death Gun is the main villain of the GGO arc. Apparently the people he kills in GGO, with his signature gun, end up dead in the real world. It is later found out that Death Gun was made by three players, two of them former members of the red SAO guild Laughing Coffin, that killed players for fun while knowing the consequences of doing so:

### Shōichi Shinkawa (新川 昌一 Shinkawa Shōichi)

SAO avatar name: Red-eyed XaXa.

He along with Johnny Black originally met Kirito in SAO's Inner-Area incident. His younger brother is the third member of the trio. Both XaXa and his brother are arrested after the GGO arc.

## Atsushi Kanemoto

SAO avatar name: Johnny Black

He along with XaXa originally met Kirito in SAO's Inner-Area incident. In Volume 9, he returns and attempts to kill Kirito and Asuna in the real world. While Kirito was able to protect Asuna, Johnny Black was able to poison Kirito which nearly killed him and caused Kirito to suffer brain damage, which he may not recover from.

## Kyōji Shinkawa (新川 恭二 Shinkawa Kyōji)

GGO avatar name: Spiegel (シュピーゲル Shupīgeru)

Shino's friend both in the real world and GGO, in fact he was the one who introduced Shino to GGO in the first place. Kyōji wasn't trapped in SAO or affiliated with Laughing Coffin, but the pressures of being the next heir to his family due to his elder brother's frail health in the real world had a great psychological effect on him. Shōichi's tales as a red player also helped set him further down the path to murder and madness. He was the one who came up with the whole idea of Death Gun and enlisted the aid of the other two.

Both the Shinkawa brothers were captured by the police at the end of the GGO/Death Gun incident, but Johnny Black escapes and later attacks Kirito, successfully injecting him with poison, in the Alicization arc.

## Yūki (ユウキ)

Real name: Yuuki Konno (紺野 木綿季 Konno Yuuki)

The main character in Volume 7. She was an Imp in ALO, she started dueling anyone promising an 11-hit OSS if she's defeated; due to her undefeated status she's given the title 'Absolute Sword'. Eventually Asuna fights her but loses. After the fight Yuuki asks her to help defeating the 27th floor boss with her guild the Sleeping Knights. After certain events, which include the defeat of the 27th floor boss it is revealed that Yuuki has AIDS and the Sleeping Knights members were patients in terminal state; with the time passing Yuuki's condition gets

worse and after she entrusts her OSS Mother's Rosario to Asuna she dies peacefully in ALO, surrounded by over 1000 players from every tribe in the game, including her guild members, Asuna and her friends.

### Selka (セルカ Seruka)

Younger sister of Alice and an apprentice of Sister Azariya. She is capable of wielding the Sacred Arts but dislikes being compared to her sister. Does not remember Kirito but is put in charge of him upon his "return".

## Minor Characters

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### Midori Kirigaya (桐ヶ谷 翠 Kirigaya Midori)

Suguha's mother and Kirito's aunt and adoptive mother in the real world.

### Shōzō Yūki (結城 彰三 Yūki Shōzō)

Asuna's father and CEO of a major electronics manufacturing company, RECTO Progress Inc.

### PoH

Voiced by: Tsuyoshi Koyama

Leader of the SAO red guild, Laughing Coffin. He created the guild for the sole purpose of killing other players. His catch phrase is "It's showtime". His fate after SAO is unknown, but it is assumed he is still alive since he was not listed as one of the deceased players. PoH's real name is unknown as well.

### Silver Crow (シルバー・クロウ Sirubā Kurou)

Real name: Haruyuki Arita (有田 春雪 Arita Haruyuki)

The main character of Accel World, another of Reki Kawahara's light novels who appears to confront Kirito in a crossover side story.

**Sister Azariya (シスター・アザリヤ Shisutā Azariya)**

A teacher at the church in Rulid Village. Taught Alice the Sacred Arts and now teaches Selka the same. She houses orphans at the church. Does not remember Kirito.

**Yolko (ヨルコ Yoruko)**

Voiced by: Nozomi Yamamoto

Part of the Golden Apple Guild, her boyfriend is Kains.

# Terminology

## Fulldive Technology

Virtual Reality technology used to interface with virtual worlds.

## Nerve Gear

The first form of fulldive technology used to interface with VRMMOs (Virtual Reality Massively Multiplayer Online) games. Contained traps specifically designed to keep people in the game and kill them if the gamers get a "Game Over" or if interference from outside is detected.

## AmuSphere

Second form of fulldive technology containing improvements designed to keep users safe.

## The World Seed

A VR environment creation program. Created by Akihiko Kayaba and entrusted to Kirito who uploaded it onto the net for free and for all to use.

## SAO

Abbreviation of Sword Art Online, the first VRMMO game. The objective of the game is to clear all 100 floors of the floating castle, Aincrad. Is turned into a death game by it's creator Kayaba Akihiko in hopes of creating a true virtual reality. It implements a level based system. Thus, in cases where players with an overwhelming difference in levels face off, one side could very well be invincible compared to the other side.

## ALO

Abbreviation of ALfheim Online. The setting for the second arc. Implements the first unique flight system that allows players to fly via wings. Players must choose out of nine different races, known races are: Spriggan, Sylph, Undine, Gnome, Salamander, Cait Sith, Leprechaun, Imp and Puca, each possessing their own strengths and weaknesses. ALO implements a skill based system as opposed to a level based system, in other words all experience is used to

increase the skill level with only small health increases. Thus, even lower level players have a chance to win against higher level players.

## **GGO**

Abbreviation of Gun Gale Online. The setting for the third arc. A VRMMO with its main focus on guns, although melee weapons like lightsabers and knives also exist.

## **UW**

Abbreviation of UnderWorld. The setting for the fourth arc. According to Kirito it is, graphically, the most realistic of all VRMMOs to date. The flow of time in UW is faster than the real world. Even so, it seems that even Kirito was misled as to the actual rate of the flow of time so an accurate ratio of the flow of time is, as of yet unknown, or whether the rate changes during the Alicization Arc. However, in There is but one ultimate way side story, the rate is said to be 10000 times that of the real world.

## **Solo**

A type of player who fights on their own in order to increase level output and/or to decrease reliance on team members for whatever reasons. There is a risk vs. reward system with solo players, since they are in greater danger due to being on their own, but experience points and items are more plentiful. Although looked down upon by a large number of players for being selfish and refusing to team with other players, a large majority of them are all much higher levels than most of the game population. The main protagonist, Kirito, is a solo player.

## **Clearer**

Elite players within the game who are higher level than all other players who focus on experience and skill development in order to clear levels to complete the game. They are looked upon with high regard due to their ability to fight on the frontlines, which are the most dangerous parts of the game. Their numbers range around a few hundred out of the six thousand players left after two years and are considered very rare to see on the earlier floors.

## **Beater**

A term unique to SAO. A cross between a beta tester (a player who was given early access to the Sword Art Online game before release) and a cheater. It is used as a derogative word

meant for people who use unfair means to play the game, such as prior knowledge of game mechanics, or even higher levels than normal for their playing area.

## **PKer**

An abbreviation of Player Killer, the act of causing the death of another gamer's avatar in a virtual world.

## **Crystals**

Items in SAO that have different effects. There are three types of known Crystals.

**Teleportation Crystals:** These Crystals can be used to teleport to any town on any open level.

**Warp (aka Corridor) Crystals:** These Crystals can be used to teleport to any area (even specific areas in any town or any mapped dungeon area) in an open level.

**Healing Crystals:** A high-level healing item with instantaneous effects as opposed to healing potions that have an effect over time.

## **Anti-Crystal (aka Crystal Nullification) Area**

An area where any kind of crystal is rendered ineffective (Teleportation, Warp or Healing).

## **Sword Skills**

An original concept in SAO, that rejected the magic system and replaced it with Sword Skills. These techniques require a set motion of the virtual body to activate. After activation the system takes over and guides the Virtual Avatar till the completion of the move. Each type of weapon has it's own set of sword skills with glamorous effects. Furthermore, in SAO, there existed 10 unique skills one of which known as «Dual Blades», granted to the player with the fastest reaction speed, expected by Heathcliff to act out the role of the Hero against the final boss. The Sword Skill system was later implemented in ALO with added elemental effects in order to make it equivalent to ALO's magic system. However, «Dual Blades» and it's 9 other counterparts, were not imported due to their ability to disrupt the balance of the system. (Note: Kirito's ability to dual wield in ALO is not because of system assist thus it is a product of his practice rather than the system.)

## **OSS**

Abbreviation of Original Sword Skill. A new addition to the Sword Skills system introduced in ALO which allows the player to create a sword skill of their own, the downside being that such skill is only accepted by the system depending of the speed, combo and final hit of the skill.

The strongest OSS created are Salamander General Eugene's 8-hit Volcanic Blazer and Absolute Sword Yuuki's 11-hit Mother's Rosario.

## **Outside-System Skills**

These are skills players develop by themselves due to their study of the rules and abilities of their Fulldive interface, the VRMMO being played and the unique effects when this knowledge is combined and used in inventive ways. Kirito has developed many such skills:

The ability to sense the data used to reference to him.

The ability to filter out background or unneeded sound and focus on a single sound/conversation.

«Skill Connect», using his ability to manually wield two swords Kirito chains multiple sword skills (using one hand to activate the skill just as the skill unleashed by his other hand finishes) thus bypassing the delay that occurs after a skill is executed. This skill is extremely difficult to execute because of the high level of timing required, a single mistake would cause the skill to fail. Developed in ALO.

«Arms Blast», requiring a high level of precision, the ability to target and attack the weak points of the weapons of enemies. Developed in SAO.

«Spell Blast», an upgrade/variation of «Arms Blast» that requires an even higher level of precision and control. It is the ability to utilize elemental sword skills to target the cores of spells and slice them up, thus destroying the released spells. Developed in ALO thanks to the experience gathered in GGO while slicing bullets. None other than Kirito have been able to learn this skill even with him teaching them.

# Sources and Links

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