



Sword Art Online: Girls' Ops, Vol. 1

Neko Nekobyou (Visual Art), Reki Kawahara

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The virtual world of *ALfheim Online* might not be literally deadly, but there's still plenty of tough adventuring to be had. The trio of Liz, Silica, and Leafa set out on a quest for a magical ring but immediately run into monsters tougher than they expected. A certain black-clothed swordsman comes to their rescue--but it's not Kirito?! It seems the "game of death" has had lingering emotional effects on everyone, and even the survivors bear scars. But the trio have gotten through tough times before, and they're not gonna let a buffed boss stand between them and their goal! Even if they succeed in finishing the quest, though, will they be able to heal the mysterious sword-wielder's broken heart...? Join Liz, Silica, and Leafa on a new adventure that's all their own!

Sword Art Online: Girls' Ops, Vol. 1 Details

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From Reader Review Sword Art Online: Girls' Ops, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Doc says

This book is rated Teen for Violence, some mature themes related to the original SAO story, and a little bit of fanservice but nothing to graphic. If you want to be safe by all means flip through this book before allowing someone younger from reading it. :)

I personally enjoyed this tale of friendship between Liz, Silicia, and Leafa as they quest for a magical ring and end up meeting someone that looks like Kirito on the quest who was also a survivor of the original Sword Art Online conflict. It was nice to see a tale where Kirito and Asuna are not involved and some of the other girls got a chance to have fun on their own as well as get to meet a new friend while they over come difficult challenges. Gonna avoid spoilers by avoiding any further mention of the quest or the new character so if you are curious then you will just have to read the book yourself. :)

If I had to chose a favorite part of this book it would have to be when Silicia accidentally crashed into the new player after losing her footing when the ground shakes. It's real cute and we find something out that is important about the new player. :)

Brandy Wilkes says

The storyline was pretty thin, but it is the first manga I've ever read...are they all like this. It was cute though. I especially enjoyed the illustrations that were thrown in of the girls in each others costumes, that was pretty funny. Time to read volume 2...

Nyssa says

Maybe it was a "You have to read the main series first" thing, or a "You have to have at least watch the anime" thing, but this felt a bit hollow to me. It's evident that I've missed a lot of important backstories, especially since I went in knowing nothing about the series other than my daughter likes the anime version.

That being said, my daughter felt these books would be great "mental breaks" between all of my academic reading, and I think she's right. The story is interesting, and I am looking forward to following the girls on their adventures. Thankfully, my library had all four of the books (I don't think book 5 is out yet, at least not in English), and I was able to borrow the whole set at one time.

S says

What would happen if Kirito and Asuna were not the main characters? It actually were quite well. The story

is stand alone, despite having 3 more volumes. The story revolves around a quest to get a certain item, which may sound boring but is done well.

There is one `newish` character that adds to the story.

Ella says

Not bad.

Galion Public Library Teens says

Review by D.B. : "[I liked] how it follows Liz, silica, Leafa. Everyone [would like]." (2015, 5 stars).

Review by T.C. : "[I liked] plot & character. Everyone would like." (2015, 5 stars)

Anna says

Fluff spin-off from SAO series (post ALO dramaz too), the girls head out for side-quest for some special item

Even tho Kirito isn't even IN this one, he still somehow ends up being the central focus (as a sorry excuse to replace their motivation for doin anything. Yes let's all be strong... oh but not because we have any chara development or agency, nope! Let's do it because *someone else*)

The art is pleasant enuff, but for a story in such an epic MMO-RPG, you'd think someone would have penciled in more backgrounds to give the world more depth

Filia Martin says

I was super excited for this, as Lisbeth if my favorite character in all of SAO (Sinon is my second, and she's not here.. I guess her getting no 'screen time' after episode 18 of season 2 doesn't count, and her barely appearing for 6 episodes before that doesn't, either), and this promises to show a lot of Lisbeth, Silica, and Leafa. This volume, while a lot of fun, and not poorly written, mostly focuses on the girls talking only about Kirito (like he's all they know), or trying to get a girl whose avatar looks like Kirito to join their party.

There's nothing new to be learned about them, and honestly, other than Silica, none of them get to shine. Most of the character development involves Kuro, aka the new girl. Which is ok, but for a series that is supposed to focus on Leafa, Silica, and Lisbeth, this is disappointing.

On the plus side, Silica does do something other than look 'cute', and complain about Kirito looking up her skirt. I did like that Silica finally isn't useless here, so that is a plus.

Like I said, this isn't bad. It is a fun read, with Ok art. And it's a new story, not a retelling of existing material, which is a plus. The next volume looks disappointing, though, so I don't look forward to it.

Katie says

It's fun to have a book without Kirito once in a while. The girls aren't much different from the way they are around him, but it's nice see how capable they are on their own. Looking forward to more adventures, especially with the new character that was introduced.

Liz H {Redd's Reads} says

I'm really enjoying that SAO is taking advantage of their bevy of wonderful characters. This story focuses on three of the recurring female characters (Liz, Silica, and Leafa) after the events of season 1. Except for a touch of fanservice, this was a wonderfully empowering tale about the bonds of friendship in the face of adversity. I look forward to more volumes in the future!

Jennette says

I liked it can't wait for the next one

MC says

The best thing about this manga was that it didn't focus on Kirito and Asuna. Don't get me wrong. I like the two of them to an extent, but sometimes it's awesome to see the other characters who are not VR Superman and Supergirl be the main character. That's what we have here in this manga.

The story begins when Liz and Silica meet up with Leafa to go on a quest to in the VRMMO AlfHeim Online. Once there, they meet a girl who has made herself look just as Kirito, whom she idolizes for saving everyone from the death trap that was Sword Art Online.

At first the girl is standoffish, but realizing how much she is hurting, the girls forge a friendship with her. Thus begins what is a more than one volume story where the other girls are front and center.

What I liked about this was how we saw the girls from the stories in a way that developed them and their characters more so than before. While they still think more of Kirito than I would like, the kids take their own paths and Kirito is not the dominant force in the story by any stretch of the imagination.

I loved the art here. It showed the comedic moments wonderfully, and the characters are beautifully drawn. I also love the bit part of the NPC "tsundere angel". So funny. Great stuff.

Also, there is a sort of cliff-hanger suggesting more is to be revealed in the next volume about our new friend Kuro/Lux. Can't wait to read more in the second volume.

Amanda Butler says

I have so far loved what I have seen and read of the previous Sword Art Online installments, and this was no exception. I absolutely love that the secondary characters of the aforementioned installments had their time in the spotlight as primary characters! Silica, Liz, and Leafa as characters were fleshed out, finally having their chance as protagonists.

For readers not familiar with the Sword Art Online saga, the story begins when characters become trapped in a video game, instantly being immersed in a world of literal life-and-death. Those who perish in the game die in the real world, and those who survived the original world live a life haunted by the memories. This particular manga installment takes place after the initial events, in a much safer game known as Alfheim Online, a world of fairies, cats, and angels.

Sword Art Online: Girls' Ops is the first in its series: a spin-off that focuses on its female secondary characters. Silica was one of my favorite side characters in the show, so it was lovely seeing this little chibi shine in a leading role. She is concerned for a newcomer, Kuro, and feels the need to protect her in this harmless world. Turns out, it is not the world that is harmful, but the memories that the SAO survivors carry with them. As it turns out, the power of friendship saves the day!

I docked a star from a five-star rating because of fan-service and Kirito name dropping. The fan-service appeared during one of the many fights in which the opponent (slime monsters) shoot acidic poison at the characters, making their clothes disintegrate in convenient places. There is also another scene, when the characters are in the real world, in which they are undressing while getting ready for a PE class. The name dropping of Kirito (the main character in the SAO saga) was overdone, as the multiple references of him sounded as if he should have made an appearance. Some scenes did not pass the Bechdel test in this regard, as he was brought up often in a book that was supposed to feature the perspective of the girls. Though I understand why he was brought up, as it fit the plot.

Overall, I loved this book. I would recommend it to those who are already familiar with the previous events in the Sword Art Online storyline and those who like manga and don't mind the right-to-left reading format.

Janouk says

?

Sushi (??) says

I loved this. So different from SAO we know. Some parts are also funny as when they discover Kuro is a girl and they are shocked.

I loved also the part of slimes who spat acid on their clothes. Probably boys will love also more that part since slimes melt their clothes. I can't wait to read the number two. ?

