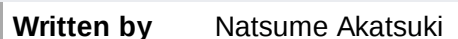


A manga adaptation, illustrated by Masahito Watari and Joseph Yokobori, began serialization in Fujimi Shobo's *Monthly Dragon Age* magazine from October 2014. A radio drama CD was released by HobiRecords in March 2015, and an anime television adaptation by Studio Deen aired in Japan between January and March 2016. A second season of the anime aired between January and March 2017.^{[6][7][8]} A spin-off light novel series, *Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Bakuen o!*, began publication from July 2014. Both the light novels and the manga are licensed in North America by Yen Press. An anime film adaptation by J.C.Staff titled *KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Legend of Crimson* premiered on August 30, 2019.^[9]

External links



Plot

Following an untimely and embarrassing death, Kazuma Satō, a Japanese teenager shut-in NEET, meets a goddess named Aqua, who offers to reincarnate him in a parallel world with MMORPG elements, where he can go on adventures and battle monsters. Despite being offered a superpowered item or ability to use in this new world, Kazuma, following some provocation, chooses Aqua herself to accompany him to the town of Axel, quickly finding her absent-mindedness to be less than beneficial.^{LN 1.P} With Aqua unable to return to the afterlife until the Devil King is defeated, the two form a party and recruit two other members; an explosion-obsessed magician named Megumin and a masochistic crusader named Darkness.^{LN 1.2.4} Due to the party's dysfunctional abilities, Kazuma quickly gives up on the idea of defeating the Devil King and tries to live a comfortable lifestyle, only to find the circumstances of his daily life are forcing him and his party to encounter and battle the Devil King's generals.^{LN 2.3}

Characters

Media

Novels

The original web novel series written by Natsume Akatsuki was published on Syosetu between December 2012 and October 2013.^[10] The author also wrote a side story featuring Wiz and Vanir.^[11] Akatsuki, who enjoyed playing fantasy video games like *Wizardry* and *Final Fantasy*, also derived much of *KonoSuba*'s fantasy elements from tabletop role-playing games.^[12]

A light novel version with illustrations by Kurone Mishima was released under Kadokawa Shoten's Kadokawa Sneaker Bunko imprint from October 1, 2013^[13] to May 1, 2020.^{[14][15]} The light novel diverges significantly from the web novel's plot from the sixth volume onwards, and also features changes to the characters' ages. The final book in the series, Volume 17, contains information in its Afterword on possible future development that the teased^[16] "After Story" spin-offs might contain.

A Megumin-focused spin-off light novel series, also written and illustrated by Akatsuki and Mishima respectively, titled *Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Bakuen o!* (この素晴らしい世界に爆焔を！, lit. "Give Explosions to This Wonderful World!") and takes place a year prior to the main series, began release from July 1, 2014, with three volumes released as of June 1, 2015.^[17] A sequel novel was released December 28, 2016,^[18] named *Zoku: Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Bakuen o!* (続・この素晴らしい世界に爆焔を！, lit. "Sequel:

Illustrated by	<u>Kurone Mishima</u>
Published by	<u>Kadokawa Shoten</u>
English publisher	^{NA} <u>Yen Press</u>
Imprint	<u>Kadokawa Sneaker Bunko</u>
Demographic	Male
Original run	October 1, 2013 – May 1, 2020
Volumes	17
Light novel	
<i>KonoSuba: An Explosion on this Wonderful World!</i>	
Written by	Natsume Akatsuki
Illustrated by	Kurone Mishima
Published by	Kadokawa Shoten
English publisher	^{NA} <u>Yen Press</u>
Imprint	Kadokawa Sneaker Bunko
Demographic	Male
Original run	July 1, 2014 – June 1, 2015
Volumes	3
Manga	
Written by	Natsume Akatsuki
Illustrated by	Masahito Watari
Published by	<u>Fujimi Shobo</u>
English publisher	^{NA} <u>Yen Press</u>
Magazine	<i><u>Monthly Dragon Age</u></i>
Demographic	<u>Shōnen</u>
Original run	September 9, 2014 – present
Volumes	11
Anime television series	
Directed by	Takaomi Kanasaki
Produced by	Rie Ogura
Written by	<u>Makoto Uezu</u>

Give Explosions to This Wonderful World!"). Another spin-off featuring Vanir was published on April 1, 2016, called *Kono Kamen no Akuma ni Sōdan o!* (この仮面の悪魔に相談を！, lit. "Consulting with the Masked Devil!").^[19]

A third spin-off series titled *Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o! Extra Ano Orokamono ni mo Kyakkou o!* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！エクストラ あの愚か者にも脚光を！, lit. "Bless Me in This Wonderful World! Extra: Attention Also to That Fool!") began publication on August 1, 2017. It is written by Hirukuma and illustrated by Uihime Higure, and features Dust as the central character.^[20] The second volume was released on December 1, 2017.^[21]

Yen Press announced on May 20, 2016 that it had licensed the light novels for release in North America.^[22] The first volume was released in conjunction with the second manga volume on February 21, 2017.^[23]

Manga

A manga adaptation of *KonoSuba* illustrated by Masahito Watari began serialization in the October 2014 issue of Fujimi Shobo's *Monthly Dragon Age* magazine on September 9, 2014.^[24] Eight *tankōbon* volumes have been released as of May 2019. A spin-off manga, *A Spotlight For (Even) This fool! Gifting this Wonderful World with Blessings! Extra*, was released as a bundle with the twelfth light novel volume. Written and illustrated by Kuma Hiru and Higure Yuki, respectively, it follows the story of Dust, who finds himself in trouble with Vanir over selling stolen products.^[25]

Yen Press announced its acquisition of the manga adaptation at the same time that it licensed the original light novels.^[22]

Anime

An anime television adaptation by Studio Deen^[26] aired on Tokyo MX between January 14, 2016, and March 16, 2016;^[27] later broadcasting on eight other networks and several video on demand streaming networks.^[27] The series was simulcast by Crunchyroll in several regions such as North America,^[1] and by AnimeLab in Australia.^[28] The series was directed by Takaomi Kanasaki and written by Makoto Uezu with character designs by Koichi Kikuta.^[26] An original video animation (OVA) was bundled with the ninth light novel of *KonoSuba* in June 2016.^[29] The anime's opening theme is "Fantastic Dreamer" by Machico while the ending theme is "Chīsana Bōken-sha" (ちいさな冒険者, lit. "Little Adventurer") performed by Sora Amamiya, Rie Takahashi, and Ai Kayano.^[30] On January 7, 2019, Crunchyroll announced that the series would receive an English dub.^[31] The season 1 dub made its debut on January 25, 2019,^[32]

Music by	Masato Kōda
Studio	<u>Studio Deen</u>
Licensed by	<u>AUS</u> Madman <u>Entertainment</u> <u>SEA</u> Medialink <u>BI/NA</u> Crunchyroll ^[4]
Original network	Tokyo MX, TV Saitama, CTC, tvk, Sun TV, GBS, MTV, TVQ, BS11
Original run	January 14, 2016 – March 16, 2017
Episodes	20 + 2 OVAs
Light novel	
<i>Kono Kamen no Akuma ni Sōdan o!</i>	
Written by	Natsume Akatsuki
Illustrated by	Kurone Mishima
Published by	Kadokawa Shoten
Imprint	Kadokawa Sneaker Bunko
Demographic	Male
Published	April 1, 2016
Manga	
<i>Konosuba: An Explosion on This Wonderful World!</i>	
Written by	Natsume Akatsuki
Illustrated by	Kasumi Morino
Published by	<u>Media Factory</u>
Magazine	<i>Monthly Comic Alive</i>
Demographic	<i>Seinen</i>
Original run	May 27, 2016 – December 27, 2017
Volumes	5
Light novel	
<i>Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o! Extra: Ano Orokamono ni mo Kyakkou o!</i>	
Written by	Hirukuma
Illustrated by	Yūki Higure
Published by	Kadokawa Shoten

with the second season's dub being released on February 25, 2020.^[33] Discotek Media released the first season on Blu-ray in North America on May 25, 2020.^[34]

The series was animated by Koichi Kikuta and Momoka Komatsu, with the former working on odd-numbered episodes and the latter on even-numbered. While Komatsu's character designs closely resembled those of the light novels and had more attractive appearances, Kikuta based his designs on children's shows like *Pokémon* as he felt *KonoSuba*'s story was similar to those found in such shows.^[35]

A second season aired between January 12, 2017,^[36] and March 16, 2017.^{[6][7][8]} The second season's opening theme is "Tomorrow" by Machico, and the ending theme is "Ouchi ni Kaeritai" (お家に帰りたい, *lit.* "Want to Go Home") by Amamiya, Takahashi, and Kayano.^[37] Crunchyroll later added the second season.^[38] A second OVA was bundled with the twelfth volume of *KonoSuba* in July 2017.^[39] Discotek Media will release the second season on Blu-ray in North America in 2021.^[40] On July 25, 2017, Jun Fukushima and Takahashi, the voice actors of Kazuma and Megumin respectively, announced plans for a new *KonoSuba* anime project, later revealed to be a new movie, *KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Legend of Crimson*.^{[41][42]}

On October 6, 2018, it was announced that characters from *KonoSuba* would appear in *Isekai Quartet*, a crossover anime also featuring characters from *Re:Zero – Starting Life in Another World*, *Overlord*, and *The Saga of Tanya the Evil*.^[43]

Imprint	Kadokawa Sneaker Bunko
Demographic	Male
Original run	August 1, 2017 – present
Volumes	7
Game	
<i>Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o! -Kono Yokubukai Game ni Shinpan o!-</i>	
Developer	5pb.
Publisher	5pb. Mages
Genre	Visual novel
Platform	PlayStation Vita, PlayStation 4
Released	September 7, 2017 ^[5]
Film	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Legend of Crimson</i> 	

Film

On June 25, 2018, a film adaptation was announced to be in development at J.C.Staff. The cast and staff reprised their roles from the TV series.^[44] The film is titled *KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Crimson Legend* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！紅伝説, *Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o! Kurenai Densetsu*),^[45] and it premiered in Japan on August 30, 2019.^{[46][47]} Crunchyroll began streaming the English subtitled and English dub version on March 25, 2020 and in January 1, 2021, respectively.^[48]

Video games

A PC video game developed by game creator Tachi, titled *Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o! In The Life* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！in the life), is bundled with the first Blu-ray Disc/DVD volume of the anime series on March 25, 2016.^[49] The game is developed using the software *RPG Maker VX Ace*.^[50] Another video game, created by Team Ladybug and Krobon, titled *KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Revival of Beldia* (*Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o! Fukatsu no Verdier* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！復活のベルディア)) is bundled with the limited edition of first Blu-ray Disc/DVD volume of the anime series' second season and was released on April 28, 2017.^[51] The game is a *side-scroller* with gameplay resembling the *Mega Man* series.^[52]

A visual novel adaptation for PlayStation Vita and PlayStation 4, *KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Judgment on this Greedy Game!* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！ -この欲深いゲームに審判を！, *Kono Subarashii Sekai Ni Shukufuku Wo! Kono Yokubukai Game Ni Shinpan Wo!*), was developed by 5pb., published by Mages and was released in Japan on September 7, 2017.^[53] The game features an original story, in which Kazuma discovers a cursed ring that allows him to steal the underwear of others near him. He learns the only way to undo the curse would be through raising enough money. *Judgment on this Greedy Game!* introduces an "Underwear Judgment" system, where the player assists Kazuma in returning lost underwear to their rightful owner.^[54] Like the anime, Machico performed the opening "Million Smile", while Amamiya, Takahashi, and Kayano sang the game's ending theme "101 Pikime no Hitsuji".^[55] A Nintendo Switch port of the game is scheduled to be released on the Nintendo eShop on December 17, 2020.^[56]

Another game for the PS4 and Vita, *KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Labyrinth of Hope and the Gathering of Adventurers!* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！～希望の迷宮と集いし冒険者たち～, *Kono Subarashii Sekai Ni Shukufuku Wo! Kibou No Meikyuu To Tsudoishi Boukenshatachi*) was released in Japan on June 27, 2019.^[57] An updated version of the game, *KonoSuba: Gods Blessing on this Wonderful World! Labyrinth of Hope and the Gathering of Adventurers! Plus* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！～希望の迷宮と集いし冒険者たち～Plus, *Kono Subarashii Sekai Ni Shukufuku Wo! Kibou No Meikyuu To Tsudoishi Boukenshatachi Plus*) was released in Japan on August 27, 2020 for the PS4 and Nintendo Switch.^[58]

A mobile game titled *Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o! Fantastic Days* (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！ファンタスティックデイズ) was released for iOS and Android devices on February 27, 2020.^[59]

KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Love For These Clothes Of Desire! (この素晴らしい世界に祝福を！～この欲望の衣装に寵愛を～, *Kono Subarashii Sekai Ni Shukufuku Wo! Kono Yokubo No Isho Ni Choai Wo!*) was released on September 24, 2020 for the PS4 and Switch.

Audio CDs

A radio drama CD, featuring a different voice cast to the anime, was released by HobiRecords on March 1, 2015.^[60] A second drama CD, along with an original soundtrack by Kouda Masato and a character song album, was released in March 2017.^[61]

Reception

The *KonoSuba* light novels have been quite popular. As of March 2, 2016, the 11-volume series has a total of 1.5 million copies in print, each volume selling 136,000 copies.^[62] As of February 2019, the light novels had 6.5 million copies in print.^[63] In a review of the first novel, Andy Hanley praised the series' comedy reflected in the "tired genre" as well as its cast finding them appealing based on their traits. However, Hanley criticized the short length of the first volume.^[64] The series won BookWalker's 2016 Grand Prix Award.^[65]

KonoSuba: God's Blessing on This Wonderful World is an anime that has a lot of fun mocking the tropes of the typical JRPG fantasy world via a colorful cast of characters that are enjoyable in their own right. The comedy is so spot-on with its deadpan nature that it's hard not to be drawn in by that alone.

– Richard Eisenbeis, in his review of the anime^[66]

Like its light novel counterpart, the anime has received positive reception for its comedy, parody of the isekai genre, and faithful adaptation of the light novels.^[67] Reviewing the first few episodes, Anime News Network (ANN)'s Theron Martin described the second episode as "the funniest episode of anime I have seen since *Monthly Girls' Nozaki-kun* aired", while also praising the series' musical score.^[68] The voice acting has also been a subject of praise; Nick Creamer of ANN

commended Sora Amamiya and Rie Takahashi's roles as Aqua and Megumin for the energy provided in their performances,^[69] while Martin applauded Jun Fukushima for his work in voicing Kazuma, considering his dry tone an additional factor in the show's humor.^[70]

From the *Legend of Crimson*'s release in Japan, Daryl Harding, writing for Crunchyroll News praised the story and comedy of the film noting that the "classic humor of (the TV series) translates well to a film runtime." Daryl Harding did criticise the film by stating that "It doesn't look too different than the TV series" even with "more effects placed over the animation during scenes of explosive magic."^[71]

In contrast, a common criticism of the anime was its inconsistent character animation, one that was described as "low budget" as characters appeared off-model.^[67] Koichi Kikuta responded by stating such design was intentional, hoping to "bring out the individuality of each character" rather than the prettier artwork in the light novels; to do this, Kikuta's animation displayed "their more human sides, like their unflattering traits and their distressed moments."^[35] Crunchyroll's Kim Morrissy considered the animation to be humorous, especially fitting in a comedic anime.^[67] Kotaku writer Richard Eisenbeis explained much of the series' humor derives from the deconstruction of Kazuma's hopes of becoming the hero of a fantasy world, instead realizing he is forced to struggle his way through the world.^[66] Comparing Kazuma's problems in a fantasy world to those in real life, Creamer wrote about a sense of relatability between the series' protagonists and the audience, as the party deals with issues like debt and taking questionable jobs because of high pay. On a critical note, Creamer disapproved of Kazuma's negative attitude, which he felt harmed the comedy in the series.^[69]

KonoSuba's characters, especially those in Kazuma's party, have garnered favorable reactions in the anime community. Creamer described the group as possessing a "strange but endearing chemistry," as the members are unfriendly with one another, yet are close.^[69] Morrissy added the party's "emotional bond is also evident in the ways they interact with each other. My favorite thing about the anime is that it takes the time to draw these nuances out onscreen and express them with visual flair."^[67] Megumin in particular has been considered one of the series' most popular characters, winning Sneaker Bunko's official Favorite *KonoSuba* Character poll.^[72] She was also the sixth-highest vote in *Newtype*'s 2015–16 Awards for Best Female Character (Kazuma was third in the male category) and received the most "Other" votes in the Best Girl category in Crunchyroll's Anime Awards 2016.^{[73][74]} In an interview with internet personality The Anime Man, Natsume Akatsuki described Megumin as giving off "a pure and elegant atmosphere" like one of an anime heroine or *waifu*, hence her popularity among fans.^[12]

In 2016, the anime was voted the tenth-best TV anime in the *Newtype* 2015–16 Awards.^[73] *KonoSuba* also finished runner-up for Best Comedy in the Anime Awards 2016 to *Haven't You Heard? I'm Sakamoto*.^[74]

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External links

- Official website (<https://sneakerbunko.jp/series/konosuba/>) (in Japanese)
 - Official anime website (<https://konosuba.com/>) (in Japanese)
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