

## Runesmith 159

### [Chapter 159 –Early customers.](#)

“We have really improved, haven’t we?”

“Yes at first I was worried when you proposed that stupid idea but we did manage.”

“What do you mean stupid idea? Those Troglodytes didn’t stand a chance!”

“Yeah because Sansa was smart enough to get some of those explosive magical scrolls.”

A familiar-looking group of four adventurers walked out from the Albrook dungeon. All of them were smiling as they had gone through quite the large battle.

“It was clever to place them at the spot they would fall in, we took out half of them with just a few scrolls!”

This group of steel grade adventurers thought back to the battle. Once before they triggered a trap which caused them to be almost wiped out. If not for a certain person saving them by pelting the monsters with runic spells they would be long dead.

This time around after some time had passed and they had managed to level up, they decided to pay that room a visit. The monsters proved a lot easier to defeat now and with so many bodies they would make quite the penny from all the materials.

“With all the money we get from those mana stones and monster parts we will be able to relax for a while!”

“You want to spend it all on booze again, don’t you Rudy?”

The red-haired boy flinched a bit as his scheme was quickly discovered. With all the materials they would be set for a month or two if they didn’t spend it all.

“Stop being an idiot, now is the time to invest! We are all approaching level fifty, we need to invest in our gear, I propose that we spend it on new weapons and armor!”

“What’s wrong with our weapons, Keira? I bet it can last us all the way till silver grade!”

“If you think that little sword will do you any good against the lower level monsters then you are more of a muscle brain than I thought!”

“Keira is right, we only managed to kill those monsters because of the magic scrolls, you should understand the importance of good equipment by now!”

Rudy the red-haired youth looked to the other girl and started frowning.

“Not you too Sansa, hey Miron you say something.”

He turned to the largest person in the group, another youth in half-plate armor that was clearly all scratched up and dented in a couple of places. While the group was talking he was looking over a hole in his shield.

“I don’t know Rudy, I think the girls are right this time around...”

Rudy started looking over everyone. It was true that they had been using old weapons and armor that they had gotten after ranking up into steel grade adventurers. After going through the dungeon their gear wasn’t looking that good.

“We should have bought them earlier, there was a big discount at the stores...”

The group went silent as all of them knew that they were at fault. While Rudy spent most of it on drinking, the girls did put it into jewelry and new clothes. Then there was Miron that liked to indulge in excessive eating.

“We don’t need to feel down, even if the prices have gone up they are just the same as they were before!”

Keira smiled while cheering everyone on as she tried to shift the conversation in a different direction.

“Keira is right, no use worrying about it now, we have some money and we can just go into that chamber to get more!”

Rudy replied as he intended to farm the lizard man-looking monsters for their parts as much as he could. Sansa on the other hand shook her head as she found a small problem with that reasoning.

“It won’t be that easy, I’m all out of those exploding scrolls.”

“Can’t you just get more?”

“I wish, for some reason, I haven’t seen them being sold anywhere, it’s as if they stopped making them, they were also runic scrolls but they didn’t cost that much over the enchanted ones...”

Sansa replied to Rudy as they entered the road leading towards Albrook. The girl was worried as the scrolls were somewhat special. They exploded the moment a monster stepped on them which made them perfect as traps. They could even be hidden under some dirt and would require a small jolt of mana to activate.

“Is that so? Come to think of it, I did try to look up some magical short swords but they were all enchanted ones that the dwarves make, I saw some other ones at the other shops a month or so ago...”

Keira replied to Sansa while the two thought that it was strange that most of the runic wares started vanishing from the store shelves. They saw an influx of them when a certain runesmith appeared in town but it seemed that they had been bought out and now none remained.

“Runic, enchanted or empowered, it’s all the same to me.” Rudy on the other hand just shrugged as he didn’t really care about where the magical items came from. The two girls from the party gave out a sigh as they were aware of the differences between each item that he had listed.

The group continued to walk towards the city while discussing their finances. While they divided their earnings between themselves equally they were still a team. All of them needed to keep up with each other to not drag everyone behind.

This was the same for their items that required an update. All of them were close to reaching the 50th level and this would grant them access to tier 2 classes. Then they would be able to take the guild exam towards the silver grade.

Being a silver grade adventurer started meaning something and mostly all of them were known to use some sort of magical item. It was a requirement as the gap between people and monsters started to grow.

Without the proper weapons, it would be impossible to defeat increasingly more resistant monsters. There was always a high price attached to these weapons but they would make life easier for them.

While their thoughts were riddled with new shiny magical weapons they noticed something that wasn't there before. Around halfway towards the city, they saw a large sign that was not there before.

"What is this? Wayland's Runic Emporium?"

Rudy read the bright red text that was on the wooden boards. It was clearly an and under the store's name was a short description along with an arrow pointing towards a narrow dirt road that led into the forest.

"For all your runic needs please visit Wayland's Runic Emporium?..."

Keira read part of the slogan which had a list of services that this magic store gave. Apparently, they repaired runic items for cheap and also sold various runic related items. This quickly piqued the interest of this small group of adventurers as they were just looking for magical items to buy.

"Mr. Wayland made a store and is accepting customers?"

Keira clapped her hands while smiling and looking over to the other girl in the party. Both of them nodded at each other while the two men frowned.

"Mr?"

Rudy lowered his voice as he was not fond of the fact that Keira was being so formal towards this runesmith. He knew him after being rescued and then saw him again at that presentation. Ever since he tried his best to rise to the occasion but it seemed that the girls in his party were still interested in that peculiar man. "Something wrong?"

Keira asked while looking at Rudy who shook his head as he did not want to seem like the jealous type.

"We should go check it out! Maybe we can find something good there!"

"You want to go now? We just got back from the dungeon, shouldn't we go to the guild and drop these monster parts off?"

Rudy pointed to Miron, who had a large backpack. It was a standard spatial bag that normally porters wore but without having much money and being stingy they decided to carry it around themselves. Thanks to it, they didn't have to suffer through the smell of monster remains.

"Hoh? It's rare that you propose something sensible for a change."

"What's that supposed to mean?"

Rudy recoiled after Keira called him stupid in a roundabout way. Both the girls started laughing but then nodded.

“Then, how about you and Miron go to the guild while me and Sansa check the new store out~”

Both of the young men looked at each other and then back to the two girls. The moment they turned their heads they could see them skipping towards the forest. Rudy and Miron just nodded at each other before following behind as they were worried what could come of this visit to the runesmith.

A few minutes later all of them found themselves inside the forest. They walked through a small dirt road and found more arrows pointing in the direction of this supposed emporium.

“Have you ever been here before?”

Asked Rudy while Keira replied.

“No, there was never anything worthwhile but I heard one of the silver grades saying that they had their runic weapon repaired here.”

While the name Wayland had spread through the city no one really came around this part. To get to the house a person had to go through a somewhat dense forest. Then they would come out to an open area surrounded by unkempt farmland. For young adventurers like them, this was one of the more boring places to visit.

“There, think we are out... I can see some buildings...is that it?”

The group came out of the forest and the first thing that they noticed was the large walls that were surrounding something. They were quite high and mostly made from wood with barbed wire at the top parts.

“What is this supposed to be?”

Asked Rudy.

“Is this some kind of prison...”

Replied Miron as he was also confused about the way this building was set up. Most of the walls were made from logs but there was also a newer section that was made from stone. This section was connected to the large entrance gate and the brick house next to it.

“That must be the shop... that emblem...”

Sansa started rubbing her chin while examining the store sign. It had the words ‘Wayland’s Runic Emporium’ as the other sign but there was a small addition. There was a strange drawing of a sun to the side that she remembered.

“Is something wrong Sansa?”

“I don’t know yet, give me a moment.”

The girl that had a bow slung over her shoulder placed her hand into a satchel to pull out a scroll. She looked at this item and started comparing the insignia that this runic item had on it.

“It’s identical... Did Wayland make these scrolls?”

She shared her findings with Keira before moving towards the store. They were not the only people here though as outside the store they could see a large man. He was someone that they knew and that was somewhat infamous around the adventurer’s guild for his simplicity.

“You no make trouble, if trouble Korgak will remove.”

It was the large half-orc adventurer that they sometimes came across at the guild building. Most people tried to avoid half-orcs as they were seen as stupid brutes. They made great bodyguards though as their physical stats were closer to their monster orc counterparts that they came from.

All of the four instantly straightened up as they knew that they would not be able to handle this half-orc if a fight broke out. The time that he managed to catch a team of silver grade adventurers was well known around their circles.

“You don’t need to worry Mr. Korgak, I’ll be sure to make them behave.”

Keira smiled while smacking Rudy on the back. Korgak just nodded while moving to the side, there he had a large tree stump that he could sit on.

Rudy wanted to shout out but was somewhat intimidated by the large green-skinned man. Thus he just frowned at Keira that was chuckling silently behind him. The group soon entered the shop and the moment they opened up the door a strange chime sound echoed through it.

They looked at the door that they opened to see if there was a bell above it but they didn’t see anything there. It looked like the sound went off after they opened the door. It was a small gentle chime but where it came from no one knew.

On the inside, they spotted a certain woman, one that they were very familiar with. She sparked a little debate a few weeks ago as she vanished from the adventurer’s guild without a trace.

“Ms. Elodia? What are you doing here?”

“Welcome to Wayland’s Runic Emporium.”

She called out to them. Her dress was slightly different from the uniform that the women at the adventurer’s guild were forced to wear. It made her look somewhat like a head maid from a noble’s estate, the glasses only made this look more prominent.

“Elodia? The receptionist?”

“Yes, you are correct, I work here now, do you have some questions? If you look to the board there we have written down a couple of rules.”

The other three members from the group quickly homed in on the woman as well. She was standing behind a counter with some unknown items on it. Sansa from the group noticed that there were shelves filled with certain parchments that she was familiar with.

Just as she had thought, the runic scrolls that vanished from the circulation around the city were nowhere and Wayland was the one producing them. The sign with the rules that she pointed them two laid down some ground rules.

One of them was not touching the goods without asking the store clerk for it. Another one stated some rules about runic weapon repairs and the rates.

“It says here that you will repair the items free of charge?”

“Ah yes, the first runic repair will be free, you will be given a token with your purchase that you can then use whenever you wish to get your item repaired.

“Really? That’s neat, most of those old dwarves never offered something like that...”

Elodia nodded as Keira posed the question. It did sound nice to get one free repair with every weapon purchased. It was as if the cost of it went down by a whole small gold coin.

“Can I look around?”

“Be my guest, if you have any questions please ask me.”

Keira backed off for now but was also somewhat taken back by how Elodia was acting. While she still had the resting bitch face as always she seemed someone nicer. Her complexion had improved and she felt more genuine than the automaton that she was used to seeing back at the adventurer’s guild.

At first glance, this store didn’t look much different than the other stores in town. There were various cabinets through which they could see some magic daggers and swords. Some shields and armors were hung out on the walls with the only difference being that they had many strange runes on them.

All of the adventurers from the four-man party made a few rounds around the shop that wasn’t either small or large. All of them met up in the middle, strange looks plastered over their faces.

“E-excuse me, are these prices right...”

Keira waddled over to Elodia and posed the question while pointing at the price tags that were next to the items.

“Yes, that’s right. Mr. Wayland decided to lower the prices for now but I’m not sure if they will remain as such for long, will you be buying anything?”

“Y... No... I mean... “

The girl looked back to the group of adventurers and they all gave her a nod before slowly walking out from the store.

“Please come again.”

Elodia looked a bit down after the party of four left the store. After the door closed she couldn’t see much but the youths started increasing their pace while shuffling towards the forest. The closer they got to the dirt road the faster they walked.

“Did you see it...”

“Yes...”

“We need to...go get money before it’s too late!”

Keira shouted out while the group of four bolted towards the city.

“Miron, move your ass faster, we need to get those runic weapons, I never saw any at that price before!”

Miron clenched his teeth while running as fast as he could while wearing his half-plate armor. The backpack he was wearing was still somewhat heavy and it had all of their gains from this dungeon run. They needed to sell first before they could buy the gear they wanted.

“Sansa, go ahead and reserve a spot in line for us, we need to act fast, if word spreads that Wayland is selling those things for so little we won’t be able to get anything!”

The group’s archer nodded as she sprinted forward. The group of youths all had panicked looks on their faces but there was also a twinkle of joy. In their heads, they already pictured themselves with magical weapons that they could never afford.

They knew the reason but they also knew that this opportunity was fleeting. They needed to quickly return with a purse filled with coins before it was too late.

#### [Chapter 160 Back in business.](#)

“What was that?”

Roland called out while peeking his head out of the entrance to the attic. He clearly saw them slowly increasing their walking speed before bolting into the forest as if they were being chased by some large monster.

“I’m not sure, but I think they will be back.”

Replied Elodia while also looking out through the window.

“You think so?”

Roland asked while going down the ladder that led up into the attic. He had brought up some wares like runic scrolls that would probably be quite popular. Down on the main floor, he looked a bit disappointed after the four had left. They were actually the first customers that arrived here.

“I think we will be having a lot of customers soon, the word just needs to spread around town.”

Elodia continued talking while going through the store and checking if everything was in order. It had been a week since she had been hired and the contract had been signed. The two went back and forth on it but after a few days, they were finally able to decide on the right hourly wages.

With her help, he started getting the store in order. Thanks to her expertise in sales she helped him prepare the placement of the items. There was not much stock to go around but Roland managed to scrape by with some runic weapons and Bernir added his own armors that he had upgraded with some runes.

Roland was also sure to produce his old specialty, runic scrolls. With him being the store owner he could lower the price far enough to compete with even the lowest discount prices that the dwarves could offer. He knew that at least when it came to magical wares in the city he had the advantage over the bushy beard competition.

After months of preparation and getting materials from the black market merchant he had enough stock to open up. For now, he focused on lesser spells like sharpness, impact, and strengthening to produce more newbie-friendly items.

He knew that the dungeon was still being swarmed by newer adventurers. These could not afford exotic wares with powerful tier 2 runes. Thus he focused most of his time on the steel and silver adventurer demographic for now. Maybe if he gained enough notoriety he could push towards the gold rankers.

It was actually surprising to be visited by this group as the billboard was placed just an hour ago. Together with Bernir he went over to the fork in the road and placed it there without expecting much. It was already the middle of the day so he didn't expect anyone to shop up this fast. "If you think so..."

Roland nodded as he took Elodia's words to heart. The woman knew her way around the adventurer guild so she probably knew what they were after. If she thought they would come, then they would come.

"Speaking of the shop opening, do you think that those kids will be alright?"

"They will be fine, Lobelia is with them, I must thank you again for giving that offer, this will be a good learning experience for the little ones."

Elodia bowed her head before Roland as a thank you which made him recoil awkwardly to the gesture. He had come up with the idea to distribute fliers through the city and thought that utilizing the orphans from Elodia's home would be adequate.

For a small price, they would go around the city and hand out some fliers. While this world had some advancements there weren't that many when it came to printing. There were some stores with something akin to printing presses but instead of them, skills were being used.

A high-level scribe could actually output a similar performance to a printing press as they had a peculiar skill. It was a skill that allowed them to use some mana to copy writings or even drawings from paper.

While Roland had a similar class in the form of runic mana scribe it was just a tier 1 class. He was unable to learn this skill as it would require an advanced tier 2 version of this class. Then if a person went even further they could write almost as fast as a modern-day printer.

This was quite interesting to Roland as it showed him that people were prioritizing skill advancements over machines. They didn't see a purpose in creating advanced printing presses as a person could just produce better effects if they leveled up further.

Classes like scribes also could be leveled quite fast as it wasn't a battle class. The more they copied and the more they wrote the more experience points they gathered. Thus the printing press was pushed to the side after people realized that they weren't really required.



He as well needed to hire one of these high level scribes as his writing speed wasn't up to par. The only thing he performed was the initial flier with the text and little drawing of his runic emblem that he used. Thanks to his wares being already known and the sun mark being associated with him, it would probably aid in him getting more customers.

"You don't need to thank me, I just thought the kids would do a better job."

This wasn't anything new, in his old world, odd jobs like this were left to younger adults that were still going to school. They didn't require much payment and they just needed to stand around in a popular area and give out the fliers. Most of the time the piece of paper would be scrapped but if one person from then looked over it and decided to show up it was more than enough.

"Well, I'll be in the workshop, just give me a signal if you need anything, do you need me to explain it to you again?"

"Ah yes, I just need to put my finger on one of these and then inject a bit of my mana, right?"

"That's right."

Elodia had a plate made from metal under the counter. It had several circular indentations on it to place her finger. Depending on where she was pressing her finger during the activation a different message would be sent to Roland.

While he wanted to do nothing more than to produce a telephone system, it was a bit of a hassle. This was the best way to get some information through without him needing to use a crystal ball that required a bit more mana to run.

His clerk had a few options to choose from. One was somewhat a panic button that would cause the store to give out an alarm and also signal him. Some other ones would tell him that there were some difficult customers around and that he needed to come over.

On the other end in his workshop, Roland had placed a little console with color patterns. Depending on which one lit up he would get the information through. For now, this would be the communication method, when he had more time he would try to come up with a proper solution that would mimic modern-day phones.

This world already had crystal balls that showed a picture and sound, he just needed to alter it to his needs. Maybe later in the future, he could figure out a recording feature.

"Be sure to call me if something happens."

"I will but I think Korgak should be able to handle himself."

Elodia nodded while Roland finally left through the back. Korgak was the person who came up to him after seeing the guard duty offer. He was quite surprised by this half-orc's decision but he supposedly liked work that didn't require him moving that much.

He asked Elodia about it and she confirmed this. Korgak was somewhat forced by the guild master to participate in the previous expedition. Apparently, he loved nothing more than to laze around and drink.

Working as a guard at a store instead of going down into the dungeon was much easier. Even when the pay was lower if the half-orc had enough for food and drink, he was fine.

This was quite the opportunity for Roland as the large brute was quite strong. He would be able to take care of most assailants, only gold rank adventurers and above would pose a threat to him.

Even with a competent bodyguard, Roland wasn't confident in his defenses. He started reinforcing the walls around his home and in the future, it would start looking more like a medieval fortress than a farmhouse outside the woods.

Now back in his workshop, he was looking over a new prototype. It looked like a long cylinder with a lot of small sticks connected to the top part. Besides the small pointy things coming out of it, it possessed a couple of matte gems stuck between them. This made it look like a shiny cactus but was in actuality a new prototype of a weapon.

After taking a good look over it he nodded and took it outside. There he placed it down on the ground, a cable with some power was connected by him before he left it in place.

"This should do it."

Even after connecting it to his power cable that went to his generator the cylinder didn't start doing anything. Which was what was expected, the real test would be carried out now.

Roland walked away a small distance from his newest creation. There he had a basket with some small sacks filled with grain. When he held one in his hand it was about the size of it and it had weight to it.

First, he took out something that looked similar to the remote he used on his golem. With the help of the kitty professor, he figured out a way to remotely activate his runes. As long as they were connected to a power source like his runic generator they would be able to be turned on remotely.

Thus the strange cylinder's surface started shining and Roland could see the runes being activated. With the device's activation, he could proceed with the test. Thus he finally threw the bag filled with grain towards it and waited to see if his new creation would work as intended.

At first, it didn't seem like anything happened but soon a blue light escaped from one of the protruding poles. It connected with the spot where the sack was thrown. Not only one of the stakes started shining as more of them lit up the moment the bag aligned with them.

"Good, it's working as intended."

From Roland's perspective, it looked like the little poles that were stuck in the cylinder activated the moment the sack of grains went into their line of sight. The blue light was just a harmless little bright beam to show Roland that the device could see the moving item and was activating as intended.

This was a small prototype of a turret and it would become much bigger when he created a proper one. The little thin poles would be replaced by larger ones, each of them containing an attack spell that would activate whenever something aligned with it.

Roland hoped to construct an active turret that would be able to move around and target on its own accord. This wasn't such an easy task to perform as he would need to create a custom system to guide its movement.

The easier method was to just make it react to movement. Thanks to the golem eyes that he was able to produce, the turret would be able to detect movement. Then when something would come in range it would activate one of the rods that were the closest to it. The spell would be a guided magic missile, which would compensate for the aiming.

With such a rudimentary construction he wouldn't need to worry about making it move. It could shoot in all directions and the rods were just another version of his paddle wands that he had a lot of time to perfect. After placing a few of these in the backyard, he hoped to get rid of the dangerous mines that were everywhere.

"Agni, come over here boy."

"Woof!"

His wolf gave out a loud bark which made him sound more like a domesticated dog than a proper wolf. The first thing Roland saw was a large gem on Agni's forehead that had gone through a bit of change.

**Name :**

**Mystical Ruby Wolf**

**[ L 50 ] [ Ex 0% ]**

**Type :**

**Fire/Earth/Beast**

**HP**

1431/1431**MP**

1533/1533**SP**

2146/2146**Strength**

**50**

**Agility**

**74**

**Dexterity**

**40**

**Vitality**

**60**

**Endurance**

**65**

**Intelligence**

**53**

**Willpower**

**50**

**Charisma**

**18**

**Luck**

**15**

Finally after a lot of mana stone eating and work Agni was able to level up his mana-related skills to level 9. This finally allowed Roland to select the next evolutionary option of a proper adult Mystical Ruby Wolf. This time around there didn't seem to be any rarer variants but this form was good enough.

Agni's body grew in size, his body expanded to a length of about two and a half meters. While down on the ground his head reached up well below a full meter and if he stood on his hind legs he would tower over his owner. This put Agni at the size of a dire wolf and made him a force to be reckoned with as he was now a proper tier 2 monster.

Even before Roland could give his evolved pet an order he was jumped by him. For some reason, Agni developed a liking for placing his paws on Roland's shoulders while trying to lick his face.

Without the strength levels that Roland had, he would probably go down to the ground as Agni was quite heavy for his size. The mane around his head and neck was composed of actual ruby fur that was soft to the touch while also being sturdy. His ruby tail was covered with more fur but at the end, it split into two.

"Down boy, stop jumping on me."

Agni whined a bit but then opened up his maw as he started to pant with his tongue flopping out.

"Agni, I need you to run towards that thing and then back again."

The wolf's ears perked up at the order and he looked to the strange metallic cactus. With a little howl, he bolted towards it and then quickly back to his master. There he stood for a moment while looking at Roland with intent in his eyes. Only when he pulled out a small mana stone to give him as a treat did the ruby wolf stop staring.

"You sure have become a glutton for these..."

What Roland wanted to test is if the turret would activate for his tamed beast. Due to him being the creator his mana signature was imprinted onto the device so it would not see him as an enemy. This test also proved that any tamed beasts would be marked with the same mana signature by his golems. Now he knew that he wouldn't need to worry about Agni ever being attacked by his future golemic creations.

"Hey Bernir, can you come help me with something?"

After a minute a friendly half-dwarf appeared that was covered in sweat and grime.

“What is it, boss? Need something for the store?”

“No, but I need you to move towards that device, start by slowly walking...”

Roland pointed to the turret while Bernir squinted at it for a moment. He accepted the task though and started slowly walking. The moment he got in range the glowing sticks started activating and Roland could see the lights connecting with his body. The spells being used would not cause any damage; it was just like a laser pointer.

“Ack, my eye!”

That is if it didn't connect with a person's eyes. Then it would have a similar effect as its modern-day counterpart.

“Oh sorry about that...”

Roland chuckled a bit as he forgot to mention that part. Luckily this would not cause his assistant to become blind but it was somewhat uncomfortable.

“Wait, do you hear that?”

“Hear what?”

Bernir asked while clutching his affected eye but after blinking a couple of times he was finally able to focus. Both of them looked at each other as they could clearly hear some people shouting from the direction of the store.

Roland was quick to move towards all of the noise to check it out. When he arrived he was surprised to see the four adventurers back. They weren't the only ones as other adventurer types were outside the store making a buzz.

“Hey stop pushing, we were here first!”

“No one cares about that, now move to the side, I need a new magic axe!”

The store had a limit to how many people could be inside. This made the half-orc guard have to intervene and keep people from pushing themselves inside. It looked like the word about his shop was being spread faster than he anticipated and he was already looking at some nice profits.

‘Did I lower the prices too much?’

Roland contemplated as he saw the ravenous customers clamor for his wares. While the price was lowered to attract attention, it was not low enough for him to not make a profit.

He shrugged while walking through the back into his store. While Elodia was a good and experienced worker he would not leave her alone there. It was finally time to make some money...