

MAGNUS CHASE

Written by

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Based on Magnus Chase: The Sword of Summer by Rick Riordan

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EPISODE 2: MY DEATH GOES VIRAL

EXT. BOSTON APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Magnus (13) is suspended mid air, four stories up.

A column of black smog rises from the building. Just before Magnus plummets toward a pile of trash, the entire fourth floor explodes.

MAGNUS

MOM!

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Magnus does a sit-up and examines his body for holes.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Oh - thank God - I'm alive. I -

A white marble wall stretches around the courtyard, eight stories high. The only exit is a pair of wooden barn doors with the letters 'HV' inscribed.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Oh shit.

Magnus tries to climb the walls several times. No handholds. The attempts are laughable. He slouches toward the exit, and sees a bronze plaque.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

(reading)

Welcome to the Grove of Glasir. No soliciting. No loitering. Hotel deliveries please use the Nifleheim entrance.

The double doors swing open, revealing the world's largest hunting lodge. Animal skins scatter the hardwood. Head mounts of otherworldly monsters.

A burly man at reception greets Magnus. Etched on a nametag is 'Hunding, Saxony, valued member since 749 C.E.

HUNDING (O.S.)

Welcome!

Magnus peers off at the craftsmanship. Shields and spears as rafters. A display board in the foyer reads:

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Single combat to the death - OSLO ROOM, 10 AM

Group combat to the death - STOCKHOLM ROOM 11 AM

Buffet lunch to the death - DINING HALL !2 PM

Bikram yoga to the death - COPENHAGEN ROOM - BYOM 4 PM

HUNDING (CONT'D)

Any luggage?

MAGNUS

Sorry?

HUNDING

Did you bring any luggage with you?

MAGNUS

Uh - no.

HUNDING

Nobody brings luggage anymore.
Don't they put anything in your
funeral pyre?

MAGNUS

Funeral pyre?

HUNDING

Forget it. Follow me.

Hunding escorts Magnus to another corner of the room. A stockier man plays computer games. His nametag says 'Helgi, Manager, East Gothland, valued member since 749 C.E.

HELGI

Checking in?

MAGNUS

Do I have a choice?

HELGI

You realize check in time is three
p.m. If you had died earlier in the
day, I couldn't guarantee your room
is ready.

HUNDING

Of course he realized that.

Hunding gives Magnus a five star slap on the back.

MAGNUS

Uh -

HELGI

Well, I have good news! You've been upgraded to the suite.

Hunding leans over to Magnus's ear.

HUNDING

All we have are suites.

HELGI

Hunding.

HUNDING

Apologies sir.

Magnus twists his neck back and forth between the two workers.

MAGNUS

Why do your nametags say 749 C.E.?

HUNDING

Common era.

HELGI

The year we arrived.

MAGNUS

That's got to be over a thousand years ago.

HUNDING

And four promotions since then.

Hunding gives Magnus a thumbs up.

HELGI

Would you like a spare key?

MAGNUS

Wow - wow - wow - slow down for a second. You said I'm dead, but I don't feel dead. I feel fine!

HUNDING

Don't worry kid, everything will be explained at dinner.

Magnus points to the 'HV' on Helgi's laptop.

MAGNUS

What does that mean - the 'HV'?

HELGI

The Hotel Valhalla.
 Congratulations. You've been chosen
 to join the hosts of the All-
 father, Odin. I look forward to
 hearing your courageous exploits.

MAGNUS

You mean - I'm actually - I -

His face drains of color. Magnus grabs the desk for
 stability.

HELGI

Here's your room key.

Instead of a barcode, the key has runes similar to Uncle
 Randolph's library.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Would you like the minibar key?

HUNDING

He wants the minibar key. Kid -
 trust me. It's going to be a long
 stay.

MAGNUS

How long?

HUNDING AND HELGI

(simultaneously)

Forever.

Magnus looks like a lost puppy.

HUNDING

Or at least until Ragnarok.

HELGI

Enjoy your tour. Next in line!

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - HALLWAY - DAY

Hunding guides Magnus, flaunting the prestige of Valhalla.
 Each room more magnificent than the last.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - GAMING ROOM - DAY

From Smithsonian board games to virtual reality video games.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Saunas, ice baths, nap pods. Residents sip beverages from silver goblets.

HUNDING

Newly renovated with cold plunge therapy. This is our relaxation headquarters.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Fancy machines. Dumbbells ranging from one to one thousand pounds. A rock climbing wall.

HUNDING

By the way, these are all designated no killing areas.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - WATER PARK - DAY

Twisting water slides. High dives. A seemingly endless lazy river. Jacuzzi hot tubs.

HUNDING

Don't worry. We'll supply a change of clothes and swim wear in your room.

Yet, Magnus stares at the ground, unable to grasp the fact of his death.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ELEVATOR - DAY

Hunding twiddles his thumbs. The elevator has buttons from the number one to five hundred and forty. The light stops at floor nineteen.

HUNDING

The nineteenth floor! Home sweet home!

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - THIRTEENTH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

A worker hoists a plate of spring rolls. Magnus's stomach grumbles.

MAGNUS

You'd think being dead would mean I'd never go hungry again.

HUNDING

You're one of the Einherjar now.

MAGNUS

In - hair - yar?

HUNDING

Singular, einherji - meaning once warriors. Don't think of it as being dead - more like an upgrade.

The sound of metal clanging like a sword fight emerges from the first room. The door reads: HALFBORN GUNDERSON.

HUNDING (CONT'D)

Ah - you'll fit right in with your new hallmates.

The next room: MALLORY KEEN. Absolute silence.

Gunfire splinters the walls in the next room. It reads: THOMAS JEFFERSON JR.

And the fourth room belongs to X. The severed head of a pig on a silver platter sits on a trolley.

HUNDING (CONT'D)

Ooh - that looks tasty - here we are!

Hunding and Magnus stop at the fifth door. Magnus Chase is written in iron. No door handle.

Magnus lifts his key card with a rune similar to the infinity symbol.

HUNDING (CONT'D)

Dagaz. It symbolizes new beginnings and transformations.

MAGNUS

What if the staff needs to get in?

HUNDING

We have a staff key.

Hunding pats the axe strapped to his belt.

HUNDING (CONT'D)

Go ahead.

Magnus scans the key card and his eyes light up.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

His ripped Adidas shoes sink into thick green grass. Four oak tree pillars. An atrium-like ceiling. Sunlight. A cool breeze.

MAGNUS

The sun - I can feel the wind. How is this possible?

HUNDING

I don't know, magic?

Magnus bounds around his apartment like a child in a candy store. A king size bed. Crackling fireplace. Stacks of books. Several videogame systems.

MAGNUS

(giddy with joy)

This is insane!

HUNDING

It's your afterlife. You deserve a few perks.

MAGNUS

Do I?

HUNDING

That completes my tour, I'll be off now!

Hunding holds out his hand.

MAGNUS

Oh - a tip.

Magnus fishes into his pockets, grabbing the Snickers bar he stole from Randolph's house.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Sorry, this is all I have.

HUNDING

My Gods - chocolate! Okay - you ever need anything, don't hesitate to ask me. You're Valkyrie will escort you to dinner shortly. Thanks again kid!

Hunding shuts the door.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Valkyrie?

Magnus sprawls in the soft grass, letting out a deep sigh.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I need to clear my head.

Alone, Magnus attempts to pass time. Reading novels on the toilet. Gaming on the PlayStation. Napping.

He goes to the kitchen. The fridge is stacked to the limit. Gluttony heaven. He closes the fridge.

Magnus does a double take at a photograph. It's Natalie and himself, age eight, at the summit of Mount Washington. She kneels behind Magnus, wrapping her arms around him. The young Magnus grins with two front teeth absent.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
If I made it to Valhalla, surely -

Magnus pockets the photo and runs to the exit.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - HALLWAY - DAY

A girl wearing a green headscarf and white wedding gown blocks his path. A single bladed axe is strapped to her gold belt.

MAGNUS
You're real?

It's the same girl in the sky during his battle with Surtur. A Valkyrie.

SAMIRAH
And you're late.

Samirah snatches his wrist, sprouts a pair of wings, and flies toward the elevator.

MAGNUS
Okay - Holy!

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ELEVATOR - DAY

Samirah presses floor two.

MAGNUS
Give me a heads up next time,
alright?
(a beat)
My mother. Is she here in Valhalla?

SAMIRAH
Natalie Chase is not among the
chosen.

MAGNUS
What?

SAMIRAH
I'm sorry.

MAGNUS
How - but - if she - she sacrificed
herself for me! My mom was brave!

SAMIRAH
I believe you, but we have
conditions as Valkyries.

MAGNUS
Conditions?

SAMIRAH
There are many different
afterlives.

MAGNUS
Then which one is she in? Send me
there. I'm no hero - I was a coward
who -

Samirah lunges at Magnus, pinning her elbow against his
throat.

SAMIRAH
DO NOT SAY THAT! Especially not at
dinner. Or you'll get both of us in
trouble.

MAGNUS
You don't get it -

SAMIRAH
What don't I get? Grieving? Being
judged unfairly?

Samirah releases Magnus.

SAMIRAH (CONT'D)
My career is on the line here. Just
shut up and try to look tough.

MAGNUS
For the record, I didn't ask for
your help.

SAMIRAH

Odin's eye! You would've ended up
in Helheim if it weren't for me.
Whether you recognize it or not,
you deserve to be in Valhalla.

The elevator rings.

SAMIRAH (CONT'D)

Just don't embarrass me or I'll be
the first one to kill you.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - FEAST HALL OF THE SLAIN - DAY

Chaos. Endless rows of hungry warriors in stadium-like
seating. Hundreds of Valkyries fly around carrying platters.

In the center, a twisting tree stands taller than the Statue
of Liberty. The ceiling is a galaxy of stars. An endless
waterfall falls from one of the high branches.

SAMIRAH

Dinner's already served. Hold on.

MAGNUS

See - I appreciate the warn -

Samirah launches into the air again with Magnus in tow. She
expertly dodges flying plates. Magnus accidentally kicks a
fellow Einherjar in the head.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Wow! Careful!

SAMIRAH

What'd you say? I couldn't hear
you.

Samirah drops Magnus. He faceplants while Samirah lands
smoothly.

SAMIRAH (CONT'D)

Oops. Lost my grip.

MAGNUS

No worries.

A gorgeous, intimidating Valkyrie folds her gigantic wings
in front of Samirah. Almost angelic. This is GUNNILA.

GUNILLA

Samirah Al Abbas. What have you
brought us today?

(MORE)

GUNILLA (CONT'D)
 Another half troll? A spy from your
 father, perhaps?

SAMIRAH
 Gunilla - this is Magnus Chase.

Magnus reaches out his hand.

MAGNUS
 Gorilla. Pleased to meet you.

GUNILLA
 Oh, a feisty newcomer. I can't wait
 to witness your death.

Gunilla pats Magnus on the head and addresses Samirah.

GUNILLA (CONT'D)
 I hope it's a good one.

Sweat glistens Samirah's forehead. Gunilla takes off into
 the air.

MAGNUS
 Samirah Al Abbas.

SAMIRAH
 It's Sam. Take a seat.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - FEAST OF THE SLAIN - DAY

A Valkyrie swoops in with a plate of meat for Magnus.
 Another with a silver goblet.

MAGNUS
 What kind of animal am I about to
 eat?

SAMIRAH
 Saehrimnir.

Magnus nods, acting like he understands.

MAGNUS
 Got it.

SAMIRAH
 We kill and cook it every night.
 Every morning, the beast is
 resurrected.

MAGNUS
 And is there a drink -

Magnus grabs his silver goblet. As if on cue, a shower of milk sprays him. A full cup and soaked t-shirt.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Okay. What the hell?

Magnus looks up toward the ceiling. A screaming goat leaks milk, jumping from branch to branch. A group of workers chase it endlessly.

SAMIRAH

The goat is Heidrun. Her milk is brewed to make the mead of Valhalla.

MAGNUS

Why don't they catch the goat and bring it down here?

SAMIRAH

The mead tastes better when she's free range. You'll see.

Magnus goes for a sip, cautiously. His sip turns to multiple gulps.

MAGNUS

Ahhh. Not bad. Another refill!

Milk sprays Magnus again. Samirah twitches a smile.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

What? Something funny?

HELGI

WARRIORS!

All the attention turns toward the head table.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Six new fallen have joined us today! That would be reason enough to celebrate, but today we have a special treat to you, thanks to the captain of the Valkyries, Gunilla.

The Einherjar yell.

EINHERJI 1

Marry me captain!

EINHERJI 2

I love you!

HELGI

For the first time, we will not just be able to hear about our arrivals' worthy deeds, we will be able to see them, firsthand!

Sam drops her spoon. Her face goes pale.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Let the presentation of the dead commence! First, I give you Lars Ahlstrom!

A heavysset blonde dude stands with his Valkyrie. A projection screen lights up like an NFL jumbotron.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Captain Gunilla has been phasing in new equipment over the past month and even fitted her Valkyrie armor with camera technology.

We're high in the air, watching a ferry sink in a grey sea. Lifeboats dangle. Passengers jump overboard, some without lifejackets. We swoop in closer.

HELGI (CONT'D)

We call it Valkyrie Vision!

The video focus sharpens. Lars, with a fire extinguisher in hand, scrambles on the tilted deck. He reaches the lounge door with a dozen people trapped on the inside.

With all his might, he attempts to push the door open. His muscles bulge. Veins pop. No good. Using quick intuition, Lars smashes the fire extinguisher against the glass.

One. Two. On the third try, the glass shatters. Lars removes his shirt to place over the window. He aids each person to safety.

As the passengers run to the lifeboats, Lars picks up the fire extinguisher again. The ferry lurches. He smashes his head on falling debris and crumbles, unconscious.

His body begins to glow. The Valkyrie extends her hand toward the golden apparition and the screen goes black. Warriors erupt in cheer, one guy even tackling Lars.

The thanes of the head table consult. About a dozen in total including Helgi.

MAGNUS

What're they talking about up there?

SAMIRAH

Most likely whether or not a fire extinguisher is considered a weapon.

Magnus continues to munch. Samirah tears a piece of bread into smaller and smaller pieces, like a coping mechanism.

MAGNUS

Why does that matter?

SAMIRAH

To get into Valhalla, a warrior must die with a weapon in hand during their battle.

The thanes stop arguing and Helgi announces.

HELGI

What greater enemy is there than the sea! Lars Ahlstrom is worthy of Valhalla!

Lars's Valkyrie holds him up like a trophy. Another thane speaks.

ERIK BLOODAX

What is your parentage boy?

LARS

I - uh - I'm not sure.

ERIK BLOODAX

Then we will seek wisdom from the runes. Unless the All-father wishes to intercede.

All eyes turn toward an empty throne, seated at the head table. No response.

MAGNUS

That seat - it's for Odin.

SAMIRAH

Yes. But he hasn't appeared in centuries. Or so I'm told.

ERIK BLOODAX

Very well. Summon the vala.

A figure appears out of thin air behind Lars. Her face shadowed by a green hood. Stooped posture and gnarled hands.

She throws a hand full of runes on the floor. One marking glows blue.

HELGI

THOR!

Sam snorts.

SAMIRAH

As if we need another child of Thor.

MAGNUS

I thought Thor was cool and powerful.

SAMIRAH

Chris Hemsworth is cool. And attractive. But Thor is much different.

MAGNUS

What's wrong with his children?

SAMIRAH

Nothing. They're great. Gunilla is a daughter of Thor.

ERIK BLOODAX

Lars, son of Thor, rejoice. Tomorrow, in your first combat, you will prove your valor and be decapitated.

The Einherjar laugh. Lars doesn't find it funny.

HELGI

Dede!

A girl and her Valkyrie stand. We jump right into her death. Dede flirts with a warlord soldier and steals his rifle, gunning him down.

She saves a group of children at a nearby village school. The footage is definitely rated R.

The wicked witch throws her runes on the floor again.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Mortal parentage!

We flip through sneak peeks of each of the newcomer's deaths.

A young mountaineer saving his rope companions from a falling avalanche on Mount Fuji. He carries a pair of ice pickaxes.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Kirk. Mortal!

A cook defends her restaurant coworkers from an armed robber. She wields a steak knife.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Astrid, daughter of Heimdall!

A construction worker wedges a crowbar into cement, trying to save his friend from a collapsed building.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Gunnar. Son of Odin!

The crowd murmurs appreciatively.

HELGI (CONT'D)

And lastly, Magnus Chase! Rise and impress us with your courage!

We watch Magnus from the sky, frozen in place with a wet, lead pipe. Blitz and Hearth charge Surtur with children's toys.

The feast hall stares in awe of Magnus's sword fight. A few warriors grunt 'Oooo' as the charred asphalt pierces his stomach.

Magnus proceeds to lose his hands from Surtur's final attack. Then, the two grapple over the edge. Just before they hit the water, the video stops.

The sword is flying in the air and Magnus is handless. An uncomfortable muttering spreads in the feast hall. Samirah's face has turned to stone.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Samirah Al Abbas. Explain.

Samirah stands.

SAMIRAH

Magnus Chase died bravely. He stood alone against Surtur.

ERIK BLOODAX
A fire jotun certainly, but to
claim that it was the lord of
Muspellheim.

SAMIRAH
I know what I saw.

ERIK BLOODAX
And yet he failed to kill the
monster, correct? At best, the
giant was sent back to the realm of
fire.

Another thane speaks.

OTTOR
He didn't die with the blade in his
hands. They were severed from his
body!

SAMIRAH
Odin's law has looked past these
technicalities before.

OTTOR
We don't need a daughter of Loki to
lecture us on the spirit of the All
Father.

Magnus peeks around the head table. Gunilla grins, loving
the drama.

ERIK BLOODAX
The bravery you speak of, Samirah,
does not prevail. The boy only
acted after the dwarf and the elf
were brutally injured.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Dwarf and elf?

The footage rewinds to a picture Blitz and Hearth. A pair of
pointy ears poke out from Hearth's ear muffs.

SAMIRAH
Magnus saved countless bystanders,
including those two! How can we
look past such a feat?

Magnus stands.

MAGNUS
It wasn't heroic.

Samirah spins, full of rage.

SAMIRAH

Magnus -

HELGI

What is your parentage?

MAGNUS

My mom was - I don't know my father.

ERIK BLOODAX

Perhaps you have potential we do not recognize. Perhaps you are a son of Odin or Thor. Or another noble war god and your presence brings us honor. We will seek wisdom from the runes, unless the All Father wishes to intercede.

Again, no response from the throne.

ERIK BLOODAX (CONT'D)

Then bring forth the vala -

At the base of the giant tree where the waterfall hits, the lake erupts. Water shoots in all directions leaving three women shrouded in white.

The feast hall becomes pin drop silent. The figures float directly toward Magnus. Einherjar, even the thanes, are filled with terror. Panicked, Magnus slowly backpedals.

MAGNUS

Sam - who are they?

Sam's hand falls from her axe.

SAMIRAH

The Norns. Past. Present. And future. They've come to read your fate.

The Norns levitate, their blank white eyes fixed on Magnus.