

MAGNUS CHASE

Written by

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

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EPISODE 1: I DIE, THE END

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

SFX. Crickets chirping, water churning, and a light breeze.

A beautiful woman stretches her arms out, Titanic style, taking in perfect serenity. She radiates joy.

NATALIE

Can you feel it, Magnus? Can you feel *him*?

A stone skips thrice across glassy water.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

This is where I met your father. On a summer day just like this one.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

You met him at a pond? Was he good at skipping stones?

Natalie laughs.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. He destroyed me at stone skipping. That first day. It was perfect.

She pulls Magnus in for a forehead kiss.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Except I didn't have you pumpkin.

Magnus blushes.

EXT. BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN BRIDGE - DAY

SFX. Taxi horns, bus hydraulics, and dogs barking.

BLITZ

Let's go kid, rise and shine!

Magnus blinks the gunk out of his eyes, pulling a sleeping bag over his head. His breath steams in the cold.

BLITZ, his homeless buddy kicks him awake. Standing five foot five, he's got no right to call Magnus a 'kid'.

BLITZ (CONT'D)

It's time to bounce. They have your name and face on this thing.

Blitz waves the paper. It's like a Magnus Chase wanted poster.

MAGNUS

Ugh.

Magnus stumbles up, stuffs a sleeping bag and half eaten cheeseburger into his backpack.

BLITZ

Two of them on Beacon Street. Some middle aged guy and a teen, maybe his daughter. They're heading this way.

MAGNUS

Wait - so not the police? How'd they get a photo of me?

BLITZ

Who cares! Go hide with Hearth. He should be down by Copley Square.

Magnus freezes for a second.

BLITZ (CONT'D)

Quickly!

Blitz shoves him out from under the bridge. Magnus regrettably obliges.

EXT. MUSPELLHEIM REALM - NIGHT

Scorching lava oozes like a waterfall on either side of a throne. A man dressed in an all black suit clasps his hands together.

His entire body is the color of charcoal. Pure black. His eyes open revealing a pair of blinding red rings.

SURTUR

At last.

EXT. BOSTON SIDEWALK - DAY

Magnus slips through sidewalks in ragged clothing. Pedestrians either ignore him or give bitter expressions.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Being homeless is the worst. And I can put up with a lot of things.

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - FLASHBACK

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Your sour looks.

A businessman grimaces at the sight of Magnus shaking a cup.

EXT. ALLEY - FLASHBACK

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Your occasional temper tantrum.

A group of drunks spit on and kick Magnus with no mercy.

EXT. PARK BENCH - FLASHBACK

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Even your sheer stupidity.

A thief points a gun to Magnus while he's trying to get some shut eye.

THIEF
Give me your wallet!

MAGNUS
(sarcastic)
Are you joking?

EXT. BOSTON SIDEWALK - DAY

Back to present day. We notice a large shadow in the clouds circling Magnus.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
I know some of you might pity me for a split second and think - aw how sad - poor guy - while the rest of you will call me a bum. You'd pray, please don't let him ask me for money. And you'd wonder if I was older than I looked because surely a fifteen year old wouldn't be down on his luck, lying in a sleeping bag in the peak of Boston winter.

A school bus drives by. Magnus watches it.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Is it too much to ask for me to go to school? Get a decent job. Start a family. All I want -

Magnus slips on a sheet of black ice.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
God damnit -

He braces himself with bare hands in the snow. A young girl shuffles away from her father toward Magnus.

GIRL
Wow, are you okay?

Magnus wipes muck off his sweatshirt.

MAGNUS
Oh - I'm fine.

His voice wavers. He doesn't get acknowledged often.

GIRL
Here.

She offers Magnus a pair of pink mittens.

MAGNUS
Oh - no - I'm good though, you're
very kind - truly.

Magnus puts his hands up, declining. The girl refuses and puts the mittens on him.

GIRL
I think the words you're looking
for are - thank you.

Magnus pokes a smile.

FATHER (O.S.)
Elizabeth!

MAGNUS
Thank you.

ELIZABETH
Don't mention it.

Elizabeth winks at Magnus.

MAGNUS
But you just said -

She rejoins her father, who calls for a cab.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Blitz is going to love these.

EXT. BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN BRIDGE - FLASHBACK

Blitz, Magnus and HEARTH gather around a fire for a meal.
The homeless trio.

BLITZ

Check it out. Someone dumped this
bomber leather jacket - brand new.
Not only is it toasty warm, but one
hundred percent fashionable.

Blitz spins like a fashion model.

MAGNUS

I'd much rather die of hypothermia
that be seen in that.

HEARTH

(sign language)
You look like a pimp.

MAGNUS

And it's four sizes too big for
you.

The jacket bottom grazes the cement. Blitz snacks on gold
fish.

BLITZ

(while munching)
Well, at the very least it's a good
conversation piece.

MAGNUS

With who?

BLITZ

You guys of course. We're talking
about it right now aren't we?

Hearth laughs. Blitz and Magnus join in.

EXT. BEACON STREET - DAY

Magnus passes the street sign, stuffing the mittens in his
pocket.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

The cold never really bothered me.
Heat too. My mom, she used to joke
that I was half polar bear and half

-

Magnus slouches forward.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Never mind.

The shadow circling Magnus comes into view. A winged creature of some sort.

EXT. BEACON STREET - DAY

YOUNG GIRL (O.S.)
 Ugh - this is ridiculous! I'm tired, I'm cold, I just want to go home!

The young girl shivers in her red scarf.

MIDDLE AGED MAN
 I imagine Magnus feels the same.

YOUNG GIRL
 If he's still alive that is.

Magnus spies on the two from a distance.

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)
 How do we know he's living in Boston? I mean - if it were me, I would've tracked south.

MIDDLE AGED MAN
 Put your faith in Randolph.

YOUNG GIRL
 When I get my hands on him, I'll strangle him to death! I could be back at camp right now.

A cell phone buzzes. The middle aged man fishes into his pocket.

MIDDLE AGED MAN
 Speak of the devil.
 (talking into phone)
 Okay - no sign of him here either. We'll meet you at the south end shelter. Understood.
 (hangs up)
 One more stop.

YOUNG GIRL
 No, that's what you said last time!

MIDDLE AGED MAN
 I don't want to hear it Annabeth.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
That old bastard. Dragging people
into his dirty work. Well if he's
not at home -

EXT. CHASE FAMILY MANSION - DAY

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Don't mind if I do.

Magnus leaps over a fence. We notice the 'Chase' family
crest. Stone gargoyles, marble steps, the place screams
'rich'.

INT. CHASE FAMILY MANSION - DAY

A window slides open. Magnus falls inside with thud.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Believe me -

INT. CHASE FAMILY MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MAGNUS (V.O.)
I would never steal from just
anyone.

Magnus grips a metal cane, desperately trying to twist off a
jewel, but failing miserably.

INT. CHASE FAMILY MANSION - KITCHEN DAY

Magnus pokes around the refrigerator and pops a few grapes
in his mouth. Chugs milk. Stuffs a Snickers bar into his
pocket.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
I choose obnoxious jerks who have
too much, like the modern day robin
hood.

EXT. BARNEY'S - FLASHBACK

A woman struts on the sidewalk, pushing people out of her
way. Magnus closes in.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
If you're coming out of Barney's
with your bag of silk
handkerchiefs, I'll be there, ready
to snatch your wallet.

One quick motion. Magnus fingers the cash.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 If you can afford five thousand
 dollars to blow your nose, you can
 afford to buy me dinner.

INT. CHASE FAMILY MANSION - DAY

MAGNUS (V.O.)
 And don't get me started on my
 Uncle Randolph. The guy used to be
 a big shot professor who turned -

Magnus opens the door to the library. Unlike your typical
 library, it houses axe blades, shields and Viking helmets.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
 Wow. Don't remember this room.

A stone slab is painted with red swirls around a snarling
 beast. A wolf. Magnus fumbles around wearing a Viking
 helmet. He swings an axe for fun.

He approaches the desk and dumps contents from a leather
 pouch. Small domino shaped rocks fall out. A symbol similar
 to the letter 'F' faces up. Runes.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Absolute junk. Here I thought I hit
 the jackpot. I guess this will have
 to do.

Magnus rips a computer out from its charging cord.

A VOICE
 Hello Magnus.

MAGNUS
 Holy -

Magnus stumbles, the Viking helmet falling off his head,
 crashing into Norse art.

RANDOLPH
 Quite a pleasant surprise. I'm so -
 so glad we have this chance to
 catch up.

RANDOLPH stands at the doorway, leaning on a bronze cane.

MAGNUS
 That's makes one of us. Actually,
 I was just about to head out. I
 have an appointment -

RANDOLPH

If I'm not mistaken, you're
sixteenth birthday is today,
correct?

MAGNUS

Is it? I don't know. I'll have to
check my calendar when I get home.

Magnus shuffles toward the window.

RANDOLPH

We don't have much time. They'll be
coming to kill you today.

MAGNUS

(sarcastic)

No way, that sounds super scary.

Randolph storms over to Magnus, gripping his shoulder.

RANDOLPH

Listen closely, you're being
targeted. I promise - I won't let
you get hurt. Not after what
happened to your mother.

Magnus brushes him off.

MAGNUS

What? Where is this coming -

RANDOLPH

I know how she died.

Magnus freezes. A pebble hits the window, like Romeo and
Juliet.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

I know about the fire, I know what
you saw. Everything - regardless of
what the police say - it's all
true.

MAGNUS

You know who killed her?

Another pebble strikes the window.

RANDOLPH

Yes. I can tell you all the
details, but first, you have to
come with me. RIGHT NOW.

MAGNUS

One second, there's someone -

Magnus appears at the window. A tall, pale man with white hair dramatically waves for attention. It's Hearth.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Hearth? What're you -

Hearth motions with his hands. Magnus narrows his focus.

HEARTH

(sign language)

GET OUT!

RANDOLPH

We don't have time to spare, my boy! They'll be here soon!

EXT. CHASE FAMILY MANSION - GARAGE - DAY

A BMW floors. Randolph guns the car past the gates. Magnus watches Hearth chase after them, unable to catch up.

RANDOLPH

Get buckled!

EXT. COMMONWEALTH AVENUE - DAY

Randolph drifts a right turn, throwing Magnus in the back seat.

MAGNUS

You missed a pedestrian. Want to go back and hit her?

Randolph glances at the sky, as if looking for storm clouds.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Are we there yet? Where're you taking me?

RANDOLPH

Magnus, I made it my life's work to study the Norse exploration of North America.

MAGNUS

Great, thanks for answering my question.

RANDOLPH

They were searching for something.

A sharp left turn.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

One of their ships sank nearby. For years, I - I thought it was stranded in Massachusetts Bay, I staked my reputation on it. But now - now I'm absolutely certain. It's no coincidence you were born in Boston, Magnus. Your father - he wanted you to reclaim your birthright that was lost two thousand years ago.

The car stops at a light. Magnus tries to open the locked car door.

MAGNUS

Two thousand years ago. Jeepers - that's a bit longer than your average lifespan. Can you just let me out and we can have a normal conversation!

Randolph slams pedal to the metal.

RANDOLPH

Be patient, once we have the weapon -

MAGNUS

A weapon? My birthright is a weapon?

RANDOLPH

You'll be much safer and the nine worlds won't be in the jaws of Fenris -

MAGNUS

Enough! You're acting senile - no wonder you were expelled from Yale. Do you know what my mom said before she was burnt alive? She said - don't go to your uncle Randolph! Those were her last words to me.

Randolph's expression turns grim.

RANDOLPH

I can understand why, however, I refuse to shield you from the truth.

The car goes quiet.

MAGNUS

Then just answer me this - and I want the short and sweet version. No history lectures. Who exactly is my father?

Randolph swerves and parks the car. He turns around, looking Magnus directly into his soul.

RANDOLPH

On my wife and daughter's memory I swear this is the truth. Your father is a Norse god. Now hurry, we're in a twenty minute parking spot.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Randolph limps to the peak of the bridge. Magnus trails.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

This dude has gone off the deep end.

RANDOLPH

(muttering)

Skirnir's ship must've drifted from the river. The landfill from the banks allowed over a thousand years of shifting tidal patterns.

(turns to Magnus)

Okay - now reach out over the water and grab the sword.

Magnus gives Randolph an 'are you kidding me' expression.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

Just do it! Hold out your arm.

Randolph pulls Magnus's left arm parallel to the water. Magnus rolls his eyes.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

Give it a second.

Half a dozen Boston runners in body suits jog past. They wait for a beat. Nothing.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

You have to try!

Magnus pulls back his hand.

MAGNUS

I am trying! I don't have the force!

RANDOLPH

It's down there. Can't you feel it?

MAGNUS

No, I don't feel a sword in a frozen river standing fifty feet up on a bridge.

RANDOLPH

It's down there - you need to focus more - as if it's the most important thing to you in this world.

MAGNUS

No! This is ridiculous. You're living in a fantasy! It's garbage -

Magnus stops. A huge cloud of pitch black smoke curls into the sky, like a column.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

The smoke - it's the same - how -

Pedestrians instinctively video the phenomenon. A low boom shakes the cars. Runners trip and fall. Randolph grips the railing for support.

RANDOLPH

Magnus! Run!

The bridge explodes from a meteor shower. Cars fly in the air, one heading straight for Magnus. Just as it's about to crush him -

BLACK...

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Magnus regains consciousness. Randolph lies still, bleeding from a shard of glass in the head.

Magnus winces. His right wrist is broken and twisted under a car door. He screams in pain while getting to his feet.

Blood lines the granite. Victims flee with burns. Surtur kneels in the largest meteor crater. Magnus grinds his fist with rage.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
 YOU! DAMN YOU! I won't run - not
 again.

He leans over the bridge once more, sticking his left hand out. A hand print shape appears in the ice of the river.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 If you're down there, sword, get
 your ass up here so I can kill this
 monster.

The ice begins to fizz. A silver object flies at high speed and hits his hand. It's a lead pipe. Corroded and littered with barnacles. Magnus is too stunned to speak from both amazement and disappointment.

SURTR (O.S.)
 Magnus Chase!

Surtur stands. Magnus kneels down to Randolph and shakes him awake.

MAGNUS
 Randolph! This is a shit sword.

RANDOLPH
 Renew it.

SURTUR
 Chase!

Boom! A wave of heat melts the pavement into puddles.

MAGNUS
 UGH!

Magnus limps out to meet Surtur. He stands tall with a swollen wrist and wet lead pipe.

SURTR
 There you are. Surrender the sword
 or these mortals die.

A family struggles to free themselves from a flipped car. Fire creeps towards an abandoned kid in a stroller. One idiot tries to film the chaos with trembling elbows.

MAGNUS
 You think I care?

SURTUR
 We shall see.

Magnus recognizes a victim. Elizabeth, the one who lent him the mittens, is frightened and stuck in a smoking taxi.

Surtur raises a finger. Blue flames slither over his arm. Windshields crack. The ground bubbles.

MAGNUS

Stop!

Surtur obeys. Magnus looks down, squeezing the lead pipe.

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

For once in my life - can anything go the way I want it to? Renew!

SURTUR

Like your father, you are no fighter. Filthy spawn of Vanir!

MAGNUS (V.O.)

What should I do? What can I do? Should I run? I could make an escape -

BLITZ

AHHHHH!

Suddenly, Hearth and Blitz charge the satanic male model. Blitz wields a wooden dowel. Hearth launches a plastic cupid arrow from a Valentine's day novelty toy. The arrow strikes Surtur in the head with a 'squeak'.

BLITZ (CONT'D)

Run, kid! We'll distract the fire giant -

Surtur waves his hand. A gust of heat drives Blitz into the brick wall. Surtur emits a hot aura, causing Hearth to fall to his knees, gasping for air. He launches Hearth with an exploding kick to the chest.

Magnus grits his teeth. His friends could easily be dead. His inner voice is screaming.

SURTUR

This has grown annoying. All of you shall burn.

Surtur garnishes a scimitar. Fire spirals and elongates in his palm creating a curved white flame.

Magnus grips the lead pipe, turning his knuckles white. The metal molds to his hand like playdough and begins to reshape. It extends into a thin golden blade.

SURTUR (CONT'D)
Yes! Give the sword to me!

Surtur lunges and lashes out. Magnus somehow deflects the blow. Surtur attempts to overwhelm him, but each strike is met with a parry. Almost as if the sword has a mind of its own, protecting Magnus.

The white flame wraps around the sword. Surtur pulls it from Magnus's grasps.

SURTUR (CONT'D)
Finally.

The sword flies around but returns to Magnus's unbroken hand.

SURTUR (CONT'D)
You little -

Surtur flicks his scimitar. A flame wall swallows up Magnus.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
How? How could I even think that?
You. Piece. Of. Shit.

Flashes of Blitz and Hearth appear. Magnus pounds his forehead with his broken fist.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I'll make you pay you bastard -
I'll -

Magnus steps through, unfazed. Before he can comprehend, Surtur scoops up charring asphalt pieces and pitches it straight into his body.

Magnus falls to the ground, wheezing. Blood seeps out of his chest and stomach.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
No - no - not yet.

Magnus stumbles up. He forces both arms to clutch the sword, even the broken right wrist.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I won't die here - I'll kill you!

A white flame zips past. His wrists are cut clean off. The sword skids behind Magnus. His knees buckle. Surtur nonchalantly marches past.

MAGNUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
If you're real, can you please help
me?

Magnus gazes to the sky. The shadowy figure is clear. A human with wings, holding a spear of pure light.

SURTUR
Fate cannot be changed, boy. I will
reduce this world to cinders.

As soon as Surtur stands with the blade, Magnus grapples him with a handless bloody hug. He drags Surtur toward the edge of the bridge. The fire giant bursts into flames, screaming.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
I'm sick of giving up. I can
change. Even if I'm only alive for
the next five seconds.

The two hit and fall over the railing at slow motion. Surtur fights to free himself and loses clasp of the sword. Magnus refuses to let go. His skin chars.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
For Blitz. Hearth. Mom. Right now -
I can change!

The dive speeds up. Magnus head butts Surtur. The human with wings plummets after them. They plunge through the ice with a 'FLOOM'.

THE END