

MAGNUS CHASE EPISODE 3

Written by

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

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EPISODE 3: FIRST BATTLE JITTERS

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

A sheet of fog trails behind the Norns, like a bridal train. Their skin is the color of sculpted snow. Each stands over nine feet tall.

MAGNUS

Holy crap - they're massive.

The Norns turn their palms to face up.

NORNS

(simultaneously)

Magnus Chase.

We can't depict which Norn speaks coldly.

MAGNUS

Who should I be looking at?

NORNS

(simultaneously)

Harbinger of the wolf.

Mist gathers and solidifies in the middle Norn's hands. She tosses a rune into the air. A symbol similar to an 'F' appears.

NORNS

Fehu. Rune of Frey.

(a beat)

*Wrongly chosen. Wrongly slain. A
hero Valhalla cannot contain.
Twenty days hence the sun go east.
Ere sword of summer unbinds the
beast.*

The Norns vanish in the blink of an eye. Thousands of Einherjar shift in their seats. Armor clanks restlessly.

EINHERJI 1

What does it mean?

EINHERJI 2

A prophecy?

EINHERJI 3

If he's the harbinger of the wolf -

ERIK BLOODAX

Son of Frey. The lords of Valhalla
must think on this further.

(MORE)

ERIK BLOODAX (CONT'D)
 For now, you will be welcomed as a comrade. You are chosen as one of the Einherjar and that cannot be reversed.

HELGI
 The Norns have confirmed your error in judgement, Samirah. Can you offer any justification for your actions?

Samirah is too busy gawking at Magnus.

SAMIRAH
 A son of Frey. It can't be a mistake. I was ordered to bring -

HELGI
 Ordered? By whom?

Samirah refuses to speak. Helgi turns to Gunilla, who shakes her head.

HELGI (CONT'D)
 Samirah Al Abbas, you are hereby expelled from the sisterhood of Valkyries. Return to Midgard in disgrace!

Samirah rushes over to Magnus and grabs both of his shoulders.

SAMIRAH
 Magnus, you must find the sword of summer! Come back and find me -

HELGI
 BEGONE!

Samirah disappears without a trace left behind. Just a few bread crumbs on her plate.

HELGI (CONT'D)
 So concludes our feast! I will see you all tomorrow on the field of battle. Sleep well and dream of glorious death!

We narrow in on Magnus, unable to blink and too stunned to move a muscle.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LIBRARY - NIGHT

The entrance sign is flipped, 'Closed'. The glass of the automatic sliding doors is shattered.

Thousands of shelves. Hundreds of languages. Magnus points a flashlight down and flips through an old book of Norse Mythology.

A picture shows a blonde man frolicking in the woods alongside a blonde lady.

MAGNUS

(reading)

Frey. God of spring and summer.
Also the god of wealth, abundance,
and peace.

Magnus snickers.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Must be a sick joke. The god of
wealth having a homeless son.

Magnus reads further.

MAGNUS

Freya, his twin sister, the goddess
of love and fertility. Both members
of the Vanir tribe. Vanir?

EXT. BRIDGE - FLASHBACK

Magnus recalls Surtur's rampage.

SURTUR

Just like your father, you are no
fighter! Filthy spawn of Vanir!

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LIBRARY - NIGHT.

Magnus snaps the book closed.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

So my dad is some D-list god who
dances in the woods. Wonderful!

He angrily chucks the book. A shirtless, chiseled man stalks Magnus. One bloodshot eye, the other is covered with an eyepatch. A ginormous cyclonic blade is strapped to his scarred back.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

Magnus contemplates in front of the fireplace. The flames glisten in his eyes, as if they're boiling with fury.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Two knocks come from his front door. A piece of paper slides underneath.

Magnus stumbles over, half asleep, to pick it up. It reads:

Hi Neighbor.

Join us in Lounge 19 for breakfast. Down and hall and to the left. Bring your weapons and armor.

TJ.

Sure enough, Magnus opens his closet to find armor and a sheathed sword. He removes both from coat hangers.

Magnus straps in his sword, having difficulty with its weight.

MAGNUS

Left handed - sword goes on the right side.

He slings the shield over his back. The strap digs into his neck making him gag. He looks in the bathroom mirror. String bean arms. Feeble shoulders.

MAGNUS

I look ridiculous.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LOUNGE 19 - DAY

Magnus regrettably trudges up to the only four people in the lounge area.

TJ

There he is. The man of the hour!

TJ greets Magnus with a handshake.

TJ

The name's TJ. Great to make your acquaintance. I'll do the introductions. That's Mallory over there.

Mallory, a serious red head, doesn't acknowledge Magnus.

TJ

X.

X, the half troll, raises his hand. We can't tell if he's waving or wants a high five.

TJ

And Halfborn Gunderson.

Halfborn Gunderson looks like Robin Williams in Jumanji on steroids. Despite his animal pelt clothing, his intellect is very sharp.

HALFBORN

Top of the morning to you.

Magnus nods and points at TJ.

MAGNUS

I recognize that uniform. Is it from the Civil War?

TJ gives a salute.

TJ

Private in the 54th Massachusetts.
Made my last stand at the battle of
Fort Wagner. My dad was Tyr, god of
courage, law, and -

X belches deeply.

MALLORY

Gods of Asgard, have some manners!

X

Excuse you.

Mallory wafts a hand in front of her nose.

MALLORY

Oh - and it smells too - you're
disgusting -

Mallory unsheathes a serrated knife and goes to skewer X in the ribcage. Halfborn snatches her wrist.

HALFBORN

(to Magnus)

Don't mind Mallory, she's a
sweetheart, once you get past the
fact that she's a horrible person.

MALLORY
Shut up Halfborn!

She punches Halfborn, but it doesn't affect him. His skull is like cement.

HALFBORN
Just don't mention how she perished trying to dismantle a car bomb with her teeth.

Her ears turn red. She turns her aggression on Halfborn.

MALLORY
Moron - you just - ugh - when we get on the battleground, you better watch your back!

X tries to look at his own back, like a dog chasing its tail.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LOUNGE 19 - DAY

Magnus and TJ scoop meat and eggs out of a buffet line together.

TJ
I'm glad you could make it for breakfast, Magnus.

MAGNUS
I didn't exactly have anything planned for today.

TJ
That's why I made sure to invite you. A lot of newcomers fail to fully grasp their new afterlife in Valhalla. They become mentally unstable, cooped up in their rooms for ages. That's especially true for the old timers.

MAGNUS
I haven't seen any older people here.

TJ
Age groups have separate floors and meal times. Dinner for them starts at four o' clock.

Magnus and TJ sit with their plates of eggs and meat.

HALFBORN

It's imperative you keep active.
Waiting for Ragnarok is a most
burdensome task.

MAGNUS

Ragnarok. I saw something about
that in the library. What is that
all about?

X

Doom.

TJ

We're destined to fight alongside
the gods when doomsday arrives. All
the forces of chaos and evil will
plunge the cosmos.

MAGNUS

So - there's no way for us to win?
We're going to train for an
eternity just to die in a final
battle.

MALLORY

Correct.

TJ

Yes and no. Every decade or so,
Einherjar get missions throughout
the nine worlds. But the thanes
only choose the strongest and most
capable, unless you're assigned by
Odin of course.

A horn blasts in the hallway, similar to a school bell.

X

Fight time.

TJ

Already?

Halfborn excitedly rubs his hands together.

HALFBORN

Yes!

The hallmates stand. Magnus follows. They make their way to
the elevator.

MAGNUS

So it's possible to travel
throughout the nine worlds?

TJ

Well, they're more comparable to
dimensions than worlds.

MALLORY

I've been to six, myself. Alfheim,
Jotunheim, Nidavellir -

X

Disney World.

MAGNUS

So - hypothetically speaking, if I
wanted to take a vacation to Earth
- or Midgard - I could -

They enter the elevator and TJ clicks floor 10.

TJ

Sorry, I didn't hear that Magnus.
I'm sure you weren't asking about
anything against the rules.

MALLORY

The short answer is yes. It is
possible to leave Valhalla, with or
without permission.

X

But you die.

HALFBORN

You wouldn't remain immortal
outside of the hotel. Yes, you're
stronger and faster than a regular
mortal, but equally as vulnerable.

MALLORY

The exits are guarded. Especially
the ones to Boston, since it's the
center of Midgard.

MAGNUS

Where are they? How can I get past
the guards?

TJ places his hand on Magnus's shoulder.

TJ

Relax Magnus. It's your first full day in Valhalla. I should warn you about initiation, don't be discouraged if -

MALLORY

Oh hush - don't spoil the fun!

The elevator door opens.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Magnus steps into the five square miles of interesting places to die. The arena is mainly grassy plains. It has villages, riverbanks, and craggy hills in the center.

Elevators open around the arena. Einherjar enter, donning all kinds of weapons. AK-47's. Baseball bats.

MAGNUS

I'm glad one of us has a gun.

TJ fastens a bayonet to his rifle.

TJ

Actually, guns have little effect on Einherjar. They're all flash and noise. The bone steel here is the real deal. You'll learn.

MAGNUS

Which ones are we fighting?

HALFBORN

All of them! We fight in small packs. Stick with us, the shield brothers.

MALLORY

And sister! I love free for all Tuesdays!

MAGNUS

Do we have to fight?

Halfborn spins a pair of double bladed axes. Mallory draws her sword and serrated dagger. Magnus pulls out his sword, but has trouble lifting it up.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

The sword of summer was so easy to swing, why is this thing so heavy?

TJ
Let's make a name for ourselves,
floor nineteen!

They scream and charge the nearest group.

ONE MINUTE LATER...

Mallory throws her knife, impaling a warrior in the chest.
He gives her a thumbs up.

WARRIOR
Good one!

The warrior collapses and dies. Halfborn waddles through the enemy ranks, chopping heads and limbs off in pure glee.

SAILOR
Aw, this sucks.

A sailor plucks one of the five arrows in his chest before passing out.

A female Viking impales a male Viking with a long spear.

VIKING
I'll get you next time, Trixie.

Magnus drags his sword through a mix of mud and blood. He cowers behind his shield.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
How can everyone treat this like
some crazy videogame?

Dede, another newbie Einherji, sweeps a sword at Magnus. He blocks and sees an opening. Magnus hesitates. Dede's axe bites into his thigh.

Pain shoots up his neck. Mallory quickly cuts Dede down with one blow.

MALLORY
C'mon. You'll get used to the pain.
Hurry up!

Magnus limps forward.

MAGNUS
Argh! Good to know.

TJ jabs and removes his bayonet from a knight's faceplate. He points to the center of the arena.

TJ
Let's take that hill!

X crushes a Spartan's helmet with his bare hands.

X
Okay.

MAGNUS
Wait - why?

MALLORY
Because he loves hills.

MAGNUS
I don't get it. Is there a height
advantage -

MALLORY
It's his thing!

TJ
Charge!

A javelin punctures TJ's stomach. TJ manages a weak smile
toward Magnus before face planting into the dirt.

MALLORY
For Frigg's sake!

MAGNUS
He just died!

MALLORY
Very observant!

MAGNUS
You do this every day?

MALLORY
No - Thursday's we have dragons!

MAGNUS
So every day?

The four remaining reach the tree line. Enemy herds stop
their fighting and point at Magnus. Some call his name.

MALLORY
We run!

HALFBORN
Die!

Halfborn launches himself into a group of twenty soldiers and destroys them all. Mallory and Magnus catch their breath.

Halfborn emerges with a dozen wounds and a knife sticking out just above his heart.

MAGNUS
Halfborn's not dead.

MALLORY
He's a berserker. That idiot won't stop until he's literally hacked to pieces.

MAGNUS
You keep calling him an idiot - do you like him?

Mallory's face turns beat red.

MALLORY
Are you serious? I don't LIKE him. You're insane -

Thwack. An arrow sticks out of her throat. She coughs before dropping dead.

MAGNUS
No - Mallory!

Magnus kneels down and checks her pulse.

X
Above!

A circular shadow looms and gradually widens over Magnus. X pushes Magnus out of the darkness before a twenty ton boulder flattens the area, including X. The side of the limestone reads 'with love from floor 65'.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
This is hell, not heaven.

Leaves and broken twigs flutter around the boulder's trail. Gunfire flies through the air. An arrow pierces Magnus's shoulder.

MAGNUS
Ow - mother -

He snaps the shaft and ducks, crawling around.

MAGNUS

Halfborn!

Magnus notices Halfborn surrounded by a mob. They stick him with spears and shoot him full of arrows. Somehow, Halfborn manages to continue slashing.

Another arrow pierces Magnus in the chest. He rips the arrow out, but this time the wound closes instantly.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

God damnit!

SAMURAI (O.S.)

Wow, he's a fast healer.

Magnus pants. He looks around. Lars Ahlstrom wobbles around with both arms missing. A few warriors laugh, like he's a cornered animal.

Land mines explode, spraying blood like rain. A Viking opens his mouth, enjoying the splatter. The scene is like D-Day with a sick sense of humor.

A group of thirty warriors trap Magnus, ready to experiment with his pain levels.

BOWMAN

Try a spear. No, try two spears.

VIKING

Kill him slowly.

Hatred wells up. Tears fall from his eyes. Magnus screams. An orange aura bursts from his throat like a shockwave. Bowstrings snap. Weapons fly into the trees.

Hundreds of warriors are powerless. Silence befalls the battlefield for a brief moment.

BOWMAN

What - what was that?

A familiar man moves first. It's eyepatch man from the library. This is VIGGO. He kneels down, grabbing a six foot long cyclonic blade. With a single underhand chop, Viggo decapitates the bowman. The head spins in a bloody puddle.

VIGGO

Alf seidr. It's been quite some time since I've seen that trick.

He approaches Magnus, lifting his sword above his head. His eyes show no malice.

VIGGO
You look tired, son of Frey. Get
some rest.

Viggo swings down. Magnus crosses his eyes at the incoming
blade until -

BLACK...

SFX. Footsteps. The sound of bare feet walking on sleek
marble.

INT. ASGARDIAN THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

A hand clings to a golden blade, the sword of summer. Long,
flowing blonde hair. A silk white robe. We can't depict his
face, but the presence is godly. Frey.

A boar trots behind him. Frey eyes the throne of Odin,
Hlidskjalf. Three steps up to a seat of white wood, carved
with intricate shapes of animals.

Frey leans the sword of summer against the throne. As he
slowly bends his knees to sit, darkness fills the room. Ice
expands over the flooring.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus's eyes fly open. His hand instinctively grabs his
head.

MAGNUS
Ugh - my head.

He drags himself out of bed for a glass of water. A knock at
the door.

Magnus, wearing nothing but underwear, throws the door open
and comes face to face with Gunilla.

GUNILLA
Oh.

With one eye closed from exhaustion, he answers -

MAGNUS
Captain Gunilla - what an honor.

GUNILLA
Pardon my intrusion, I - uh - you
resurrected with incredible speed.

MAGNUS

I wasn't timing myself - was it fast?

GUNILLA

Astonishingly. Less than an hour. It normally take the average warrior more than six hours to wake up. But now that you're here, I must insist that you follow me.

MAGNUS

If you don't mind, I'll grab some pants.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - HALLWAY - DAY

Gunilla and Magnus approach and enter an open guest room.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - VIGGO'S ROOM - DAY

Viggo knits a scarf. The space is extremely minimalistic. The only item out of the ordinary is his mounted, monstrous blade.

GUNILLA

Viggo. I've brought the Son of Frey as requested.

VIGGO

Thank you Gunilla.

Gunilla blushes.

GUNILLA

If there's anything else I can provide for you, I would be happy to.

VIGGO

That won't be necessary.

GUNILLA

Yes of course.

She exits. Viggo continues to knit, peacefully. A beat of silence.

MAGNUS

You must have been a pirate in your old life. I like the eyepatch. But you're missing the peg leg and a parrot on your shoulder.

VIGGO
Nineteen days.

The room's tension increases.

VIGGO (CONT'D)
Surtur will ignite the nine worlds.

MAGNUS
I know. I have to leave this place.
I'll find a way back to Earth.
Retrieve my father's sword -

VIGGO
No.

MAGNUS
What?

VIGGO
I won't allow it. Not until you can
defeat me in combat.

MAGNUS
You're kidding.

VIGGO
Could you hope to defeat Surtur,
possessing the sword of summer as
you are now?

MAGNUS
I don't know. But I can't sit
around and wait. You heard those
tall old women.

Viggo's expression grows darker as if a memory of his past
life has been stirred up.

VIGGO
One does not put their own life at
stake during a quest, but the lives
of their companions as well. For
instance, your sacrificial elf and
dwarf.

Magnus balls his fist. His expression shows recollection of
Blitz and Hearth being beaten for his cowardice.

VIGGO (CONT'D)
You cannot afford the luxury of
being weak in this world.

Viggo sets his knitting kit and scarf aside. He rises with an intense aura.

VIGGO (CONT'D)

I will train you daily. I will kill you daily. I don't care how long it takes. Even if it be for the next thousand years. That is for you to decide.

Magnus trembles with fear. He lifts his head with an uncharacteristic, chilling grin.

MAGNUS

Fine. If beating you means I'll be able to kill that fire demon then I'm all for it. When do we -

Viggo cocks back his right arm and swings a hook directly at Magnus's face. His fist is an inch from contact and =

THE END