



MAGNUS CHASE EPISODE 4

Written by

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

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EPISODE 4: I TRAIN TO FAILURE

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ROCK CLIMBING GYM - DAY

MAGNUS
I can't go any further!

Viggo observes Magnus at the base of a mountainside. Magnus clings for dear life, sixty feet up.

VIGGO
Push onward!

MAGNUS
I'm going to fall!

VIGGO
Good.

Magnus listens. He sticks his fingers into a small crevice.

VIGGO (CONT'D)
You will achieve failure in every tactical training exercise. By failure, I mean death.

Magnus's handhold slips. He plummets to the ground at tremendous speed.

MAGNUS
No! No! NO! NO! NOOO!

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus jolts awake, screaming.

MAGNUS
AHHHHHH!

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Viggo slaps three plates on each side of a barbell, set for a squat.

VIGGO
Midgard's strongest man cannot hold a candle to the average Einherjar. This weight should be a warm up for you.

Magnus squares under the barbell and lifts it off the rack. He backpedals three steps.

VIGGO (CONT'D)
Now drop down.

Magnus huffs and puffs before lowering his midsection for a squat. His face is beat red. His butt reaches the floor.

VIGGO (CONT'D)
And up!

Magnus grunts. Every bodybuilder's nightmare occurs. His lower vertebrae snap. The barbell drops to the floor, squashing Magnus like a rubber doll.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - KITCHEN - DAY

Magnus ices his lower back from a cold pack in the freezer. He winces in pain.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

MAGNUS (V.O.)
That guy -

Viggo curls a barbell with over ten plates. A few Einherjar watch in awe.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
No way he's human.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MINIBAR - DAY

Viggo sets three bowls of meat, green veggies, and rice in front of Magnus. Viggo sits down, with the same meal portions.

MAGNUS
No sauce?

VIGGO
We eat for fuel, not taste.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MINIBAR - CONTINUED

MAGNUS
No more.

Viggo pats his lips with a napkin. Magnus holds his stomach.

VIGGO
Eat until you feel like you're going to regurgitate. Then eat ten more bites.

Magnus looks nauseous. He scoops another spoonful of rice. His face turns blue.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - URBAN BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Cars burst into flames. Arrows fly from building windows. Magnus runs through a main drag with all of floor nineteen. Their shields are in a circle formation and littered full of arrows.

TJ

Make a left turn here!

HALFBORN

Roger that.

Magnus spots Viggo straight ahead. Arrows and bullets bounce off his skin. A few brave Einherjar challenge him, but he cuts them down with ease.

Magnus breaks off from his hallmates and charges Viggo with killing intent. Within two seconds, a dozen arrows pierce his body from all directions. He drops dead, looking like a porcupine.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus slams his fist on his bed sheet covers in frustration.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - SWIMMING AREA - DAY

Viggo and Magnus swim against a raging tide of water. Viggo remains stationary while Magnus struggles, getting swept back.

Magnus's stamina gives and the current submerges him. He drowns and his lifeless body hits a rock.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus coughs up gallons of water in the sink.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ARCHERY RANGE - DAY

Magnus fires an arrow from a bow.

VIGGO

Hit me once and I shall withhold my sword.

Viggo slowly walks toward Magnus from one hundred feet out. Magnus fires again and again. Viggo dodges with extreme speed, leaving afterimages.

Panicking, Magnus starts to rapid fire. He falters a draw and Viggo cuts Magnus in half with his cyclonic blade.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - NINETEENTH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Viggo marches down the hall, going to get Magnus from his resurrection. His door is slightly ajar.

Viggo pushes it slightly to spy inside. Magnus strikes a wooden pillar with his dagger, over and over.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - OLYMPIC GYM - DAY

Magnus and Viggo joust with lightning rods. Magnus shuffles forward and backward, learning offense and defense.

Viggo sweeps the metal pole and whisks Magnus's rod out of his grasp. He strikes Magnus with high volts of electricity.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus lies in bed, steaming like a grilled piece of meat.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MOUNTAINSIDE TRAINING GROUND - DAY

An avalanche roars. Magnus and Viggo flee. Magnus gets caught under the heavy snow.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - VOLCANO TRAINING GROUND - DAY

Viggo sprints up a slope of brown stone and leaps across an entire volcano vent.

MAGNUS

Well here goes nothing -

Magnus gathers momentum and speed, hurling his body upward. He makes it surprisingly halfway before falling down into the magma.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - FROZEN LAKE BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Magnus clumsily slides on the ice. A throwing star comes straight for him. He block the first, but takes the second in the shoulder.

MAGNUS

I'll get used to the pain, yeah
right.

Magnus rips the star out of his shoulder. A grenade lands at his feet.

MAGNUS
Seriously?

Magnus skates away. The explosion cracks the ice. Magnus falls in.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - CASTLE BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Warriors fight in a medieval castle. On top of the curtain wall, Magnus dodges flying daggers and weaves around attempts to kill him.

Viggo swings his blade, killing multiple Einherjar and toppling the stone wall in the process.

Magnus unsheathes his sword and charges Viggo. Suddenly, a dragon swoops in, and gobbles Magnus like an eagle snagging a fish.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Capture the flag. Viggo holds a blue flag and marches through the enemy lines. It's as easy as taking candy from a baby.

Magnus storms Viggo. A Mongolian warrior bashes Magnus with his shield.

MAGNUS
Oh - that's a concussion.

The ground shakes. A rock golem approaches. It flattens Magnus with one footstep.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LOUNGE NINETEEN - DAY

TJ
Why are you going after Viggo during our daily battles?

MAGNUS
I have to beat him. Otherwise, he won't let me leave the hotel.

MALLORY
You understand what that means?

MAGNUS
What?

X
Scary man.

HALFBORN

Viggo is an S rank Einherji. In fact, he's the only S rank currently in the hotel. The rest are out on missions.

TJ

He's a son of Magni, the god of strength.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ROCK CLIMBING GYM - DAY

TJ (V.O.)

And it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say he holds a candle to the **gods**.

Viggo punches the side of the mountainside. Huge boulders collapse leaving a crater of cracks.

VIGGO

Catch.

Viggo picks up one of the small boulders and tosses it to Magnus. Magnus catches it, his feet slide backward from the sheer weight.

Viggo continues to grab boulders and throw them at Magnus. Then, Viggo lifts a massive boulder the size of a building and lofts it in the air.

Magnus braces himself for the impact, believing he can catch it until -

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus runs his fingers through his hair, sitting on the sofa. He stands. In his anger, Magnus turns and slams the sofa with his fist, splitting it in two.

He looks at his own hand. No injury.

MAGNUS

Wow.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ROCK CLIMBING GYM - DAY

Magnus dips his hand into a chalk bag.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Magnus bench presses a plate on each side. He fights on the last repetition. His muscles give out and Viggo helps him rerack the bar.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - SWIMMING AREA - DAY

Magnus freestyles against a raging tide behind Viggo. His breaths are in rhythm with each stroke. Viggo looks back.

To increase the intensity, Viggo kicks the water. His splashes create ten foot tall waves. Magnus gets caught and drowns again.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ARCHERY RANGE - DAY

Magnus launches arrows from his quiver while running. Viggo dodges with more effort.

Magnus loads four arrows in one draw and fires. Viggo jumps in the air to escape their touch. Feeling prideful, Magnus smiles and fires another arrow while Viggo is mid air.

MAGNUS

Got you this time!

Viggo disappears and reappears behind Magnus. Magnus flinches, ready to be sliced in two, but Viggo walks away.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - VOLCANO TRAINING GROUND - DAY

Magnus gathers speed and leaps from one side of the volcano vent. Viggo watches from the other side. Magnus flails. He reaches three-quarters of the way.

MAGNUS

Did you see that? I'm getting closer -

Magnus splashes in the lava, dying again.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ROCK CLIMBING GYM - DAY

Magnus dangles on an upside-down cliff. He freeclimbs, using only grip strength to support his weight. Eventually, his muscles give out and he falls.

MAGNUS

New record - haha -

SPLAT. Magnus dies.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MINIBAR - DAY

Magnus scarfs down three bowls of bland protein. He lets out a girthy belch.

MAGNUS

Yummy.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - VIGGO'S ROOM - DAY

Viggo and Magnus face each other, sitting in meditation poses.

VIGGO

The blast you conjured on the battlefield is called alf siedr. Also known as witchcraft. Only those born to the Vanir tribe of Norse gods can use it. Witchcraft consists of four different types. Healing, defensive, calming, and environmental magic. Your cry was an example of a defensive spell.

MAGNUS

I wasn't crying - it was more like a - a shout.

VIGGO

I believe your incredible resurrection speed is due to your proneness to healing.

MAGNUS

By the way, how many tribes of gods are there?

VIGGO

Only two. The Vanir are peaceful gods known for prosperity, health, and agriculture. The Aesir tribe is the group known for their strength, bravery and loyalty.

MAGNUS

Like Odin and Thor.

VIGGO

Yes. Although it's impossible for the Aesir to wield witchcraft, they can utilize rune stones for sorcery.

MAGNUS

How come you know so much about this magic business?

VIGGO

Enough chatter, back to training.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Jump cuts of Magnus practicing versus doing battle in the arena. He jabs his dagger, striking the wooden pillar.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Magnus fights an Einherjar knight. He dodges, evading a stab. Magnus disarms the knight of his longsword.

MAGNUS
Ha! Look at that.

The knight levels Magnus with a shoulder charge.

KNIGHT
Your pride betrays you, young warrior.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus slashes again, chipping the wooden pillar even further.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Magnus dives over a spear and kicks a Viking.

VIKING
For Odin!

The Viking swings his axe. Magnus cuts the axe's hilt in two.

MAGNUS
I think I'm getting the hang of this.

Mallory skewers the Viking in the liver.

MALLORY
What're you doing, Magnus? You have to kill them!

MAGNUS
Is that part of the rule book?

MALLORY
You little -

Halfborn and X hold her back from killing Magnus.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

Magnus relentlessly hacks away at the wooden pillar. He rears back a final swing and drives through the timber. All four pillars in his living room have been chopped down.

Magnus wipes sweat, using his tank top. His physique begins to tone. Muscle fibers pop from his skin.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Halfborn slaughters a group. TJ reloads his gun.

TJ

Looks like this area is clear.

HALFBORN

Not quite.

Magnus unslings his shield and takes a ready stance. Viggo confidently struts toward him. It's like David versus Goliath.

VIGGO

If any of you interfere with this
duel, I'll kill you.

X plops his butt on the grass. Mallory sheaths her dagger.

MALLORY

Please, be my guest.

TJ and Halfborn agree to stand back, but refuse to disarm themselves. Magnus grinds his knuckles on the sword's hilt. He lunges at Viggo.

Their metal clashes. For Viggo, defense is child's play. Magnus swings and rolls with every ounce of his being.

TJ

Has Magnus gotten stronger?

HALFBORN

Indeed. I think puberty might
explain the sudden burst in growth.

Magnus blocks Viggo's blade with a shield. The force sends him sliding back several feet, reminding him of the boulder exercise.

MAGNUS

(jokingly)

I've caught bigger boulders.

Magnus drops the shield and picks up another dagger.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
If I want to win, I need a
strategy. I doubt I can summon a
magic blast on command again. That
leaves plan B. Fighting dirty!

He jumps back into the fight with even more speed. Viggo parries every strike effortlessly.

VIGGO
Is this how you plan to fight
Surtur?

MAGNUS
I've learned something -

Magnus slides underneath Viggo's swinging blade.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
With a long blade like yours -

Magnus jabs and misses.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
I have the advantage up close!

Magnus slashes repeatedly. Viggo makes an overarching swing downward at Magnus's head. Magnus spins around, grabs a hand full of dirt and throws it.

Viggo staggers. He blinks the dirt out of his eyes. Magnus points his dagger to Viggo's throat. A beat of silence.

VIGGO
Finish it.

The dagger wobbles. Magnus's arm stiffens.

VIGGO (CONT'D)
You dare hesitate.

Viggo snags Magnus's arm. Viggo brings the dagger to his own neck. The blade shatters on impact.

Blue sparks flicker from Viggo's cyclonic blade, still plunged into the ground.

EXT. VILLAGE - FLASHBACK

A female warrior places her hand on our cheek. Her smile is sincere. Her hand is warmth itself. A memory of Viggo's past life.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - BATTLEGROUND - DAY

VIGGO (CONT'D)
Sear this into your brain, son of
Frey.

Viggo punches a hole into Magnus's stomach. Intestines fall to the ground. Magnus coughs up blood on his hands and knees.

VIGGO (CONT'D)
Watch - and I'll show you the
consequences of mercy.

Viggo withdraws the cyclonic blade from the ground. Lighting flickers in his eyes. He marches toward the rest of floor nineteen.

TJ
Quick! Into formation -

We watch Magnus as Viggo cuts down his hallmates one by one.

TJ
Retreat! Fall back to -

The sounds of their deaths cause Magnus to cover his ears.

MAGNUS
Damnit! Damnit! DAMNIT!

Magnus collapses and dies.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

Magnus stares at the plaster ceiling of his bedroom, unable to sleep.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

Magnus lies flat in the grass of his living room. The atrium ceiling is full of star constellations. Magnus closes his eyes.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
I'm never going to get out of here.

The branches rustle. Leaves fall down. Something dark and man-shaped crashes down the tree with a couple THUDS.

BLITZ
Ow. Ow. Ow!

Blitz lands at Magnus's feet with a crunch.

BLITZ (CONT'D)
Oof. tupid gravity.

MAGNUS
Blitz?

Another man jumps down gracefully. He signs.

HEARTH
(sign language)
Hi Magnus.

MAGNUS
What're you guys -

BLITZ
Ah - that did it - my arm's broken.
Just put me out of my misery,
Hearth.

MAGNUS
Did you get a makeover?

Blitz's chaotic hair is slicked back and his greasy beard is trimmed. His clothing suggests that he robbed a high end boutique.

BLITZ
Yeah - thanks for noticing.

Magnus kneels down and puts his hands on Blitz's left arm.

HEARTH
(sign language)
You can fix?

MAGNUS
Maybe. Healing magic is in my
blood. Let me try.

Magnus closes his eyes and concentrates for a beat.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
Yeah - I got nothing.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - NIGHT

Hearth ties Blitz a sling made out of a shirt.

MAGNUS
How did you guys make it here?

BLITZ

Kid, for the past twenty seven hours, we've been climbing all over the world tree. I'm so glad we found you alive! Well - technically dead, but maybe the boss won't kill us. We have a confession to make.

MAGNUS

You're not really homeless.

Magnus points at Blitz.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

You're a dwarf.

Magnus looks at Hearth.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

And you're an elf.

HEARTH

(sign language)

How did you know?

MAGNUS

The thanes replayed my death on video.

BLITZ

Typical. Assume that I'm the dwarf 'cause I'm short.

MAGNUS

You're not a dwarf?

BLITZ

(sighs)

No. I'm the dwarf. A svartalf to be more precise.

MAGNUS

A fart elf?

BLITZ

Ah! Clean your ears kid. Svartalf! It means dark elf. From Svartalfheim.

MAGNUS

You said you were a dwarf.

BLITZ

Yes, dark elves are a subset
dwarves. That's not important right
now. Hearthstone and I are in
charge of your safety.

MAGNUS

Hearthstone is your full name?

HEARTH

(sign language)
And Blitzen.

MAGNUS

Like the reindeer?

BLITZ

Focus! We have to get you out of
here. Now - I know this is a
warrior's paradise and all. It's
new and exciting. But you still
have things to do in Midgard.

MAGNUS

Okay. Let's go.

Blitz and Hearth exchange confused looks as if to say: that
was easier than expected.

BLITZ

Oh - I had this whole speech
prepared -

MAGNUS

No need. This place is nothing like
the afterlife I had in mind.

BLITZ

Well then - we can climb back up -

A reverberating bark shakes Magnus's entire room like an
earthquake. Hearth signs frantically.

BLITZ

Right - never mind. Magnus, we need
another way out of here pronto.

MAGNUS

No World Tree? Why?

Hearth makes a gesture like mandibles rendering flesh.

HEARTH
(sign language)
Squirrel.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - FLOOR NINETEEN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Blitz, Hearth and Magnus rush out into the hallway. TJ and Mallory rub their bleary eyes from disrupted sleep. They both carry their weapons.

TJ
Magnus, what have you done?

The hallmates stand in a Mexican stand off.

MAGNUS
Please don't try and stop us. We
need to escape.

Mallory unsheathes a dagger.

MALLORY
Ugh - this is going to be laundry
duty for a whole decade.

TJ
X!

X opens his door within a second as if he'd been waiting for the call.

X
Yes?

TJ
Magnus's room. Squirrel.

X lumbers toward Magnus's room and braces his back against the door. The floor shakes and cracks spiderweb from the door's nameplate. A decorative spear falls off the wall of the corridor. The squirrel screeches.

HALFBORN
Should I kill the elf and dwarf?

Halfborn, wearing nothing but boxers, spins his bloodied axes.

BLITZ
Don't kill us!

TJ
They're with Magnus.

HALFBORN

Shucks.

A raven soars down the hallway and lands on a light fixture. It squawks, accusing Magnus.

MALLORY

Great - the Valkyries know your friends are here.

TJ

Everyone follow my lead! To recycling!

X obeys the order, withdrawing his brace. The squirrel breaks a hole through the door. It snarls with spit dripping down it's two incisors.

MALLORY

Not you, X!

X

Sorry.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - FLOOR NINETEEN - NIGHT

The group sprints down the seemingly endless hallway. A dozen hungry wolves with blue eyes growl in front of them.

TJ

Turn right!

HALFBORN

I'll handle this!

Halfborn grins and charges the creatures alone.

HALFBORN

Sweet death!

MALLORY

Did you set off every alarm?

HEARTH

(sign language)

Not fair. We avoided the tree mines!

MAGNUS

They're are tree mines?

TJ

Left!

The group turns down another hallway.

TJ (CONT'D)
Looks like we're in the clear.

MALLORY
Don't say that!

The man eating squirrel races behind their tracks, barking louder.

GUNILLA (O.S.)
CHASE!

The group halts.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - VIGGO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Flashback to a minute earlier.

GUNILLA
Viggo, we need your aid. The son of
Frey is trying to leave the hotel!

Viggo knits a scarf.

GUNILLA (CONT'D)
Viggo?

VIGGO
It's not my place to interfere with
a prophecy.

GUNILLA
You agreed to keep an eye on him!

VIGGO
For a personal matter. Not for
Odin's sake.

Gunilla's face turns sour.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - FLOOR NINETEEN HALLWAY

Gunilla, in full battle armor, brandishes a huge sledgehammer. The weight of the head makes a dent in the floor.

GUNILLA
Take another step and you die!

MAGNUS
Oh - so scary, it's not like that
happens to me every single day now!

Gunilla growls. TJ fastens his bone steel bayonet to the barrel of his gun.

TJ
Keep going, take another left and
there's a chute marked for
recycling. Open it and jump in.

MAGNUS
I don't know how to repay you guys!

The squirrel appears behind them. Mallory guards the rear.

MALLORY
You're a pain in the *nari* so get
out of here.

TJ
Fifty fourth Massachusetts!

TJ charges Gunilla. Mallory rushes the squirrel. Blitz,
Hearth, and Magnus run down another hallway. A metal flap is
marked with a blue recycle symbol.

Blitz lifts it open. Hearth plunges in head first.

BLITZ
You're next kid.

MAGNUS
(grinning)
Another day, another dumpster dive.

BLITZ
I'll never get used to the smell.

Magnus slides down the stinky shoot with glee. It bends like
a rollercoaster. He catches up to Hearth who evaporates into
a black and red colored portal. Magnus is about to reach it
and -

THE END