



## MAGNUS CHASE EPISODE 1

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

Crickets chirping. Water churning. A light breeze. A beautiful woman stretches her arms out, Titanic style. She radiates joy.

NATALIE  
(deep exhale)  
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  
You met him in the woods? Was he  
good at skipping stones?

Natalie laughs.

NATALIE  
Oh yes. He crushed me at stone  
skipping. That first day. I'll  
never forget - 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

Taxi horns. Bus hydraulics. Dogs bark.

BLITZ (O.S.)  
C'mon 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 air.

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

BLITZ (CONT'D)  
You got to bounce. They got your  
name and face on this thing!

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

MAGNUS

Ten more minutes. I was having a  
good dream -

Blitz kicks him again.

BLITZ

Not going to happen - they're  
almost here!

MAGNUS

Can't you distract the police for  
me? Just breathe in their general  
direction and they'll go look  
somewhere else.

Blitz shoves a half eaten cheeseburger into a backpack.

BLITZ

It's not the police. It's two  
private investigators.

MAGNUS

How'd they get a photo of me if  
they're not police?

BLITZ

Who cares! They know you're here!

Blitz lifts Magnus up and gives him the backpack.

BLITZ (CONT'D)

Go lie low with Hearth. He's  
probably down by Copley Square.  
Quickly!

Blitz shoves Magnus out from under the bridge.

EXT. MUSPELLHEIM REALM - SURTUR'S THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Scorching lava oozes like a waterfall. Seated on a throne is  
Surtur. A man with charcoal black skin and eyes that're  
blinding red rings.

His suit and tie char from small flames dancing over his  
body. He cups his hands together. We hear a quiet murmur.

LOKI (V.O.)

(a whisper)

Today's the big day.

Surtur grins.

SURTUR

At last.

EXT. BOSTON SIDEWALK - DAY

Magnus slips through sidewalks in ragged jeans and a torn yellow sweatshirt. 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.

MAGNUS

Spare change?

The businessman scoffs.

BUSINESSMAN

Great work mayor. Way to keep our  
streets clean.

EXT. ALLEY - FLASHBACK

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Your occasional temper tantrum.

A group of drunks spit on and kick Magnus.

DRUNKARD

Get a job, you bum!

Magnus scrambles away.

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

Hand over your wallet! Now!

MAGNUS

Of course, just gimme one sec -

Magnus reaches into his pocket and gives the thief a middle finger.

EXT. BOSTON SIDEWALK - DAY

Back to present day. A large shadow in the clouds circles over Magnus.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

I know some of you might pity me  
for a split second and think - aw  
how sad - poor little 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 might  
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 a  
Boston winter.

A school bus whizzes by. Magnus watches it.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Is it too much to ask if I want to  
go to school? Make a few friends?  
Get a decent job? Retire one day?  
Get married? Maybe even start a  
family?

(sighs)

I'd be happy in this world if I  
could simply -

Magnus slips and falls on a sheet of ice.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

God -

He pushes himself up, pressing his bare hands in the snow. A young girl shuffles away from her father toward Magnus.

GIRL

Hey, are you alright?

Magnus wipes snowflakes off his sweatshirt.

MAGNUS

Oh - yeah - I'm fine.

His voice wavers.

GIRL

Here, take these.

She offers Magnus her pair of pink mittens.

MAGNUS

Oh - no - I couldn't, you're very kind though.

Magnus puts his hands up, declining. The girl refuses and slips 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 examines the cute pink mittens.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

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 on Charles Street. Not only is it toasty warm, but it's one hundred percent fashionable.

Blitz spins like a fashion model on a runway.

MAGNUS

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

HEARTH  
(sign language)  
You look like a pimp.

MAGNUS  
And it's a little big on 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, exactly?

BLITZ  
With 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.)  
Yeah - the cold never really bothered me. Heat too. My mom, she used to joke that I was half polar bear and half camel.

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

EXT. BEACON STREET - DAY

INVESTIGATOR 1 (O.S.)  
Ugh - this is outrageous! We don't get paid nearly enough to freeze our butts off.

The investigator shivers in her scarf.

INVESTIGATOR 2  
I imagine his nephew feels the same.

INVESTIGATOR 1  
If he's still alive that is.

Magnus spies on the two from a distance.

INVESTIGATOR 1  
How do we know the boy's still  
living in Boston? I mean - if he  
was smart, he would've tracked  
south where it's warmer.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
Did she just call me stupid?

INVESTIGATOR 2  
Put your faith in Randolph.

INVESTIGATOR 1  
Let's just hope we don't find him,  
because I'll strangle the kid  
myself. I could be sipping my  
morning coffee right now!

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

INVESTIGATOR 2  
Speak of the devil.  
(talking into phone)  
Okay - there's no sign of him here  
either. We'll meet you at the south  
end shelter. Understood.  
(hangs up)  
One more stop.

INVESTIGATOR 1  
No - no - no! That's not what we  
agreed on. Randolph is a -

INVESTIGATOR 2  
I don't want to hear it.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
Randolph - 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 on the first floor. Magnus falls inside with a 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. I'm like a 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.

RICH WOMAN  
Watch where you're going!

MAGNUS  
Sorry - sorry.

Magnus fingers the cash.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
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. He used to this big  
shot professor who went bonkers  
over a conspiracy -

Magnus opens the door to the library. It's no ordinary room.  
Axe blades. Shields. Viking helmets. Statues.

MAGNUS  
This room looks - different.

A stone slab is painted with red swirls around a snarling  
beast. A wolf. Magnus tries a Viking helmet on for  
amusement. He playfully swings an axe.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
(making sound effects)  
Swish! Boof! Argh!

He approaches a desk.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Ooh - what's this?

Magnus dumps contents from a leather pouch. Small domino  
shaped rocks fall out with unique symbols. Runes.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
Junk. I guess this will have to do.

Magnus rips a computer from its charging cord.

A VOICE  
Hello Magnus.

MAGNUS  
Holy -

Magnus stumbles, the Viking helmet falls off his head and he  
crashes into Norse art.

RANDOLPH  
Quite the pleasant surprise. I am  
so - so glad we have this chance to  
catch up.

RANDOLPH stands at the doorway, leaning on a bronze cane.  
Magnus regains his composure.

MAGNUS

That makes one of us. Actually, I was just about to head out. I have an appointment this afternoon -

RANDOLPH

If I'm not mistaken, today is your sixteenth birthday.

MAGNUS

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

Magnus shuffles toward the window.

RANDOLPH

Not a good idea. They'll be coming to kill you today.

MAGNUS

Your jokes never get old, uncle. If you'll excuse me -

Randolph walks around the room, organizing books.

RANDOLPH

The same fate that claimed your mother awaits you.

MAGNUS

What did you just say, you old fart?

RANDOLPH

I know how she died, Magnus.

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

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

I know about the fire, I know what you saw that day. And it's all true. It was no accident.

MAGNUS

How? Who told you -

Another pebble strikes the window.

RANDOLPH

I can explain everything. But first, you must come with me. RIGHT NOW.

MAGNUS

Wait a minute, there's someone  
throwing rocks outside -

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

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Hearth? What -

Hearth motions with his hands. Magnus narrows his focus.

HEARTH

(sign language)

GET OUT!

RANDOLPH

We don't have time to spare. He'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

I think you missed a pedestrian.  
Want to go back and hit her?

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

RANDOLPH

I've dedicated my adult life to the  
study of Norse exploration. They  
sailed to North America searching  
for something!

MAGNUS

Are we there yet?

A sharp left turn.

RANDOLPH

One of their ships sank nearby. For years, I - I thought it was stranded in Massachusetts Bay. I staked my entire reputation on it! My colleagues laughed at me, said I was delusional, but 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 more than two thousand years ago.

The tires screech to a halt for a red light. Magnus tries to open the locked car door.

MAGNUS

Okay - I thought the mental hospital would make you better, but you're still acting coo - coo. How 'bout you let me out and we can have a normal conversation?

Randolph slams pedal to the metal.

RANDOLPH

Be patient, once we have the weapon, you'll -

MAGNUS

A weapon? My birthright is a weapon?

RANDOLPH

You'll be much safer and the nine worlds won't be in jeopardy from -

Magnus plugs his ears with his fingers.

MAGNUS

I'm not buying your fairytales. La - la - la - la - la -

RANDOLPH

It's not a fairytale, it's mythology. There's key difference that the average person doesn't grasp -

MAGNUS

Enough! I'm not playing your pretend fantasy?

(MORE)

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Do you know what my mother said to me - her last words before she died? It wasn't 'I love you, Magnus'. No - she said, 'don't go to your uncle Randolph'.

RANDOLPH

She wanted to shield you from reality.

The car goes quiet. The engine hums.

MAGNUS

Reality, huh? Then tell me. 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 -

(a beat for drama)

is a Norse god. Now hurry, we're in a twenty minute parking spot.

EXT. LONGFELLOW BRIDGE - DAY

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Just play along Magnus. At least he'll stop bothering me after this.

Randolph limps to the peak of the bridge. Magnus trails, looking over the railing. The Charles River is frozen over.

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. Yes - yes - it's all so clear now!

(turns to Magnus)

Okay stop right here. I want you to reach out over the water and grab the sword.

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

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
Just listen to me! Hold out your  
arm.

Randolph pulls Magnus's left arm over the railing, parallel  
to the river. Magnus rolls his eyes.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
Give it a second!

Boston runners in body suits jog past. They wait for a beat.  
Nothing. Randolph accusingly shakes Magnus's arm.

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. Let's try one more time -

MAGNUS  
Hold on.

Magnus pushes Randolph away. A cloud of black smoke curls  
into the sky, like a tornado.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
That smoke - it's the same - is  
that coming from your house?

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

RANDOLPH  
(whispering to himself)  
No - it's too late -  
(MORE)

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
Magnus! You need to run!

KA-BOOM! 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 FOR A MOMENT...

EXT. LONGFELLOW BRIDGE - DAY

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

Magnus winces. His right wrist is twisted under a car door. He screams in pain.

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!

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - FLASHBACK

Magnus's memory glitches. The apartment he grew up in. Quaint. Cozy. Natalie, his mother, baking cookies.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - FLASHBACK

His home is in flames. Family photos turn to ash.

EXT. LONGFELLOW BRIDGE - DAY

Magnus staggers to the railing. Reaches his arm out. A hand print shape appears in the ice of the river.

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

The ice begins to fizz and melt. 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.

SURTUR (O.S.)  
Magnus Chase!

Surtur stands and straightens his tie. Magnus rushes over to Randolph and shakes him awake.



MAGNUS

Randolph! What am I supposed to do  
with this crap?

RANDOLPH

Renew it - the blade needs -

SURTUR

Chase!

BOOM! A wave of heat melts the pavement to puddles.

MAGNUS

UGH!

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

SURTUR

There you are, boy. 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 shrugs.

SURTUR

Very well.

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

Wait!

Surtur obeys. Magnus squeezes the lead pipe with all of his  
might.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

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!

Surtur's voice is guttural. Magnus shakes in fear.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

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

BLITZ (O.S.)

AHHHHH!

Hearth and Blitz charge Surtur. 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 drives Blitz into a wall. Brick pieces topple over him. Surtur releases a scorching aura. Hearth falls to his knees, gasping for air. Surtur launches him with an exploding kick.

Magnus grinds his teeth. His friends could easily be dead.

SURTUR

Insufferable scum. All of you will  
burn.

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

Magnus grinds the lead pipe, turning his knuckles white. The metal molds to his hand like playdough. It reshapes, extends, and sharpens into a thin, glowing, golden blade.

SURTUR (CONT'D)

Yes! Give me the sword!

Surtur 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 hand.

SURTUR (CONT'D)  
You pesky little -

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

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
How? How could I even think of  
running? You haven't changed at  
all!

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - FLASHBACK

Blitz carries a greasy box of pizza with a huge grin.

EXT. BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN BRIDGE - FLASHBACK

Blitz, Hearth and Magnus play cards. Hearth throws his pile down. He signs angrily. Magnus laughs.

EXT. LONGFELLOW BRIDGE - DAY

Magnus pounds his forehead with his broken fist.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
I'll make you pay you bastard -  
you're going to regret -

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

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

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
No - no - not yet.

Magnus stumbles up. He forces his broken wrist to clutch the sword. He raises the blade over his head.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
I won't die here - not until you -

A white flame zips past him. His wrists are cut clean off. The sword skids behind Magnus. His knees buckle and his wrists spew blood. Surtur marches past.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
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

You cannot change fate. I will  
reduce this world to cinders.

As soon as Surtur picks the blade up, 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

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