



MAGNUS CHASE EPISODE 2

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. APARTMENT BUILDING - FLASHBACK

A cloud of black smoke curls into the sky like a tornado. Magnus (12) is suspended in mid air, falling from four stories up.

MAGNUS
(muffled)
Mom!

Just before he plummets into a pile of trash, the entire fourth floor explodes.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

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

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
(gasps)
Ah!

His hands are restored from Surtur's attack.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Oh, thank God - my hands - I made
it - I -

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

MAGNUS (CONT'D)
Oh that's not good.

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

MAGNUS
(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!

Shields and spears are used 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

Uh - sorry - what?

HUNDING

Did you bring any luggage with you for your stay?

MAGNUS

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 a corner of the lobby. A stockier man plays computer games. A nameplate on his desk reads, '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.

(MORE)

HELGI (CONT'D)
If you had died earlier in the day,
I couldn't guarantee your room to
be ready.

HUNDING
Of course he realized that.

Hunding slaps Magnus on his back.

MAGNUS
Actually -

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

Hunding leans over to Magnus's ear.

HUNDING
(whisper)
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 what - like a thousand years
ago?

HUNDING
And four promotions since then.

Hunding gives Magnus a thumbs up.

MAGNUS
Wow - wow - wow - slow down. 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 - 'HV'?

HELGI

The Hotel Valhalla.
Congratulations, warrior. 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 -

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

HELGI

Here's your room key.

The room key has a barcode of runes and Magnus's current rank: E.

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!

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 combat 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 carries 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 deceased - 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.

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

HUNDING (CONT'D)
Ooh - that looks tasty -

The fifth room reads: ADAM. The door is slightly ajar.

HUNDING (CONT'D)
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
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 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)

Ha - ha! This is insane!

HUNDING

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

MAGNUS

Do I?

HUNDING

And 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

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.)

I need to clear my head.

Magnus attempts to pass time. Reading. Videogames. Napping.
He goes to the kitchen. The fridge is stacked to the limit.
Gluttony heaven.

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

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. Orange hair. Battle armor with layered with fur.

SAM

You're late.

Sam snatches his wrist, sprouts a pair of wings, and springs
toward the elevator.

MAGNUS

Okay - what in the world -

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ELEVATOR - DAY

Sam presses floor two. They watch the number go down.

MAGNUS

My mom. Is she here?

SAM

As in?

MAGNUS

Did she make it to Valhalla?

SAM

Natalie Chase is not among the chosen.

MAGNUS

What? Where is she then?

SAM

I do not know. There are many different afterlives.

MAGNUS

But - I don't get it - she sacrificed everything for me. Even her life! How could my mom not be -

SAM

I believe you, but we have conditions as Valkyries.

MAGNUS

Conditions?

SAM

Yes.

MAGNUS

That doesn't - I need to know where my mom is! Send me there - I'm no warrior or hero - I'm a coward who -

Sam lunges at Magnus, pinning her elbow against his chest.

SAM

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

MAGNUS

You don't - you don't understand.

SAM

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

Sam releases Magnus.

SAM (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.

SAM

Odin's eye! Whether you recognize it or not, you deserve to be here. Trust me, there are worse places to spend your afterlife, compared to Valhalla.

The elevator rings.

SAM (CONT'D)

Embarrass me and 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.

SAM

Dinner's already served. Hold on.

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

MAGNUS

Wow! Careful!

SAM

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

Sam drops Magnus. He faceplants while Sam lands gracefully.

SAM (CONT'D)

Oops. Lost my grip.

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

GUNILLA
Samirah Al Abbas. What have you brought us today? Another half troll? A spy from your father, perhaps?

SAM
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.

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

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

MAGNUS
Samirah Al Abbas.

SAM
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?

SAM
Saehrimnir.

Magnus nods, acting like he understands.

MAGNUS
Sounds - exotic.

SAM

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

MAGNUS

And is there a drink to go along -

Magnus grabs his silver goblet. As if on cue, a shower of milk sprays him from above. 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.

SAM

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?

SAM

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

Magnus swirls the goblet. White, gloppy milk. He sips cautiously.

MAGNUS

Hm.

Magnus gulps down the contents.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Ahhh. Not bad. Another refill!

Milk sprays Magnus again. Sam twitches a smile.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Something funny?

HELGI

WARRIORS!

All the attention turns toward the head table. At it, sit Helgi and the other Thanes of Valhalla.

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 heavyset 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 has 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 pull 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 out 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 reaches toward the golden apparition and the screen goes black. Warriors erupt in cheer, one Einherji 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?

SAM

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

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

MAGNUS

Why does that matter?

SAM

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?

SAM

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.

SAM

As if we need another child of
Thor.

MAGNUS

I thought Thor was supposed to be
cool.

SAM

Powerful? Yes. Idiotic? Doubly so.

MAGNUS

What's wrong with his children?

SAM

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 footage stops.

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

HELGI

Samirah Al Abbas. Explain.

Sam stands.

SAM

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 him -

SAM

I know what I saw.

More thanes speak up.

LEIF

And yet he failed to vanquish the monster. At best, the giant was sent back to the realm of fire.

OTTOR

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

SAM

Odin's law has looked past these technicalities before.

OTTOR

We don't need a failed Valkyrie to lecture us on the spirit of the All Father.

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.

SAM

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

Magnus stands.

MAGNUS

It wasn't heroic.

Sam spins, full of rage.

SAM

Magnus -

ERIK BLOODAX

What is your parentage?

MAGNUS

My mom is - 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.

Three women shrouded in white appear behind Magnus. The feast hall goes silent. Magnus slowly turns around.

MAGNUS

What's up? Did I do something - AH!

Sam's hand falls from her axe.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Sam - who are these three lovely
ladies?

SAM

Past. Present. And future. The
Norns have come to read your fate.

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