



## 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

The Norns tower over Magnus, standing eight feet tall. Their skin is the color of sculpted snow.

MAGNUS  
Jeez, they're massive.

The Norns turns their palms face up.

NORNS  
(simultaneously)  
Magnus Chase.

All three speak simultaneously.

MAGNUS  
Who should I be addressing?

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 like the letter 'F' appears.

NORNS  
Fehu. Rune of Frey.  
(a beat)  
*Wrongly chosen. Wrongly slain. A  
hero Valhalla cannot contain.  
Thirty 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 this mean!

EINHERJI 2  
Was that a prophecy?

EINHERJI 3  
Who's the wolf?

EINHERJI 4  
Ragnarok is finally here!

HELGI

Calm yourselves, warriors! Quiet  
Down! Bloodax?

ERIK BLOODAX

Son of Frey. The lords of Valhalla  
must think on this further. 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 us any justification?

SAM

This can't be a mistake. I was  
ordered to bring -

HELGI

Ordered? Ordered by whom?

SAM

Odin.

The feast hall erupts in laughter.

HELGI (CONT'D)

Samirah Al Abbas, you are hereby  
expelled from the sisterhood of  
Valkyries. Return to Midgard in  
disgrace!

Sam rushes over to Magnus.

SAM

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

HELGI

BEGONE!

Sam 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 (CONT'D)  
(reading)  
Freya, his twin sister, the goddess  
of love and fertility. Both members  
of the Vanir tribe. Vanir?

EXT. LONGFELLOW 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!

Magnus angrily throws the novel. A face stalks Magnus through a book gap. One bloodshot eye. Another with an eyepatch. This man is VIGGO.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

The Thanos of Valhalla consult.

LEIF

We haven't seen the Norns in over a thousand years!

BJORN

That doesn't mean Ragnarok is suddenly upon us!

OTTOR

A Vanir child in Valhalla - it's a terrible omen!

RAGNAR

If it wasn't for that bloody Valkyrie -

Helgi interrupts the banter.

HELGI

We must enlist the aid of our mightiest warriors. Clearly, we can agree on that matter.

SIGURD

Indeed.

HAKON

Yes.

OTTOR

I vote Lucan.

LEIF

The dark elf?

BJORN

No - Lucan is not capable of being part of a team.

SIGURD

His bloodlust is uncontrollable.

OTTOR

He gets the job done!

HAKON

At the expense of how many lives?

SVEN

What about Michael?

LEIF  
I second.

OTTOR  
You would rather send a blind warrior on a quest? Are you mad?

ERIK BLOODAX  
Michael is currently dealing with our captured Einherjar in Jotunheim. In fact, all our S Rank warriors are on missions outside the hotel. Except for one, that is.

HELGI  
Viggo.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Magnus unlocks his door with the room key.

ADAM (O.S.)  
DAMNIT!

Magnus hears his next door roommate, Adam, angrily destroy his room.

MAGNUS  
Everything alright in there?

Magnus knocks on the door. No response.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Okay - nice to meet you too.

Magnus retreats to his own room. A purple light glimmers underneath Adam's door.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Morning. Two knocks come from the 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.*

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
Weapons and armor?

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Magnus opens his closet. Sure enough, a shield and a sheathed dagger. He removes both from coat hangers.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Left handed - goes on the right side.

He fastens the blade and slings the shield over his back. The strap digs into his neck making him gag.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Gah -

He looks in the bathroom mirror.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
What am I doing?

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LOUNGE 19 - DAY

Magnus trudges to the lounge area.

TJ  
There he is. The man of the hour!

TJ greets Magnus with a handshake.

TJ (CONT'D)  
The name's TJ. Mighty fine makin' your acquaintance. Please allow me to do some introductions. That there's miss Mallory.

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 sir Halfborn Gunderson.

Halfborn Gunderson looks like Robin Williams in Jumanji on steroids. He wears animal pelt clothing and gnaws on a rack of ribs. Magnus nods and points at TJ.

MAGNUS  
Why do I recognize your uniform?

TJ gives a salute.

TJ

Private in the 54th Massachusetts  
during the Civil War. Met my fate  
in the battle of Fort Wagner. My  
father is Tyr, god of courage, law,  
and -

X belches deeply.

MALLORY

Gods, 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 very glad you could make it for breakfast, Magnus.

MAGNUS  
Well, it happened to fit my agenda for today, so I figured I might as well.

TJ  
Plenty newcomers fail to fully grasp their new afterlife in Valhalla. They lose their wits, hole themselves up in their rooms for eternity. That's especially true for the old boys. Hits them the hardest.

MAGNUS  
I haven't seen any old people here.

TJ  
They keep us separate - on different floors and meal times. Supper begins at four o' clock for them. And no loud noise by eight.

Magnus and TJ join the others with their breakfast.

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

MAGNUS  
Ragnarok. I saw something about that in the library. What's that all about?

X  
Doom.

TJ  
We're all bound to take arms alongside the gods when doomsday arrives. On that day, 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

Cheery, isn't it?

TJ

Well yes and no, friend. Every  
decade, give or take, Einherjar get  
missions throughout the nine  
worlds. But the thanes only choose  
the most mighty and steadfast. I'll  
show you - let me see your room  
key.

Magnus obliges.

TJ (CONT'D)

Take a gander.

TJ points to the room key. It reads: *Magnus Chase. Rank E.*

TJ (CONT'D)

No surprise, most of the Einherjar  
are E rank, the lowest.

MAGNUS

What are you guys at?

TJ

I'm an E rank as well.

MALLORY

D.

X

Me - S.

MALLORY

No, you're a D rank too.

HALFBORN

I happen to be a C rank. Due to my  
superior intelligence -

MALLORY

Halfborn's been here the longest.

HALFBORN

That plays a factor as well.

MAGNUS  
What about Adam?

TJ  
Young Adam tends to keep to himself. He doesn't linger around the hotel much.

MAGNUS  
I heard him last night though. He sounded frustrated.

TJ  
Don't blame the poor boy. He's probably had it worse than anyone in the hotel. Adam is a son of -

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

X  
Fight time.

MALLORY  
Already?

Halfborn excitedly rubs his hands together.

HALFBORN  
Yes.

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

MAGNUS  
Wait - so if Adam leaves the hotel - 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.

They enter the elevator. TJ clicks floor 10.

MALLORY  
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.

TJ  
That's why E ranks like us never  
receive assigned missions.

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

TJ places his hand on Magnus's shoulder.

TJ  
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. Villages.  
Riverbanks. 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, firearms have little  
effect on Einherjar. All flash and  
noise. The bone steel on the other  
hand - 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 dagger.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

I have to kill somebody? What is  
going on?

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 trudges his shoes through a mix of mud and blood. He  
cowers behind his shield.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

How can everyone treat this like a  
silly videogame?

Dede, another newbie Einherji, sweeps an axe 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 guys 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.  
He's a brute -

*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 isn't an afterlife, this is  
hell.

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

MAGNUS  
Ow - son of a -

He snaps the shaft and ducks, crawling around.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Halfborn!

Magnus sees 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)  
Where are these coming from?

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. A yellow 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 the eyepatch man from the library, Viggo. He kneels down, grabbing a seven 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.

SAMURAI

It's Viggo! Run!

Warriors scatter. Viggo approaches Magnus, lifting his sword above his head. His eyes are peaceful, showing 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 FOR A MOMENT...

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.

Frey leans the sword of summer against the throne. As he slowly bends 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 pajama pants, throws the door open and comes face to face with Gunilla.

GUNILLA

Oh.

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 takes 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 a shirt.

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 red 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

Is there anything else I can do?

VIGGO  
That won't be necessary.

GUNILLA  
Yes of course.

She exits. Viggo continues to knit.

MAGNUS (V.O.)  
I couldn't tell before on the  
battlefield, but standing so close  
- this guy - he exudes power. Not  
even Halfborn would stand a chance  
against him.

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 the  
parrot -

VIGGO  
Twenty nine days. You don't seem to  
be concerned.

Magnus lowers his gaze.

VIGGO (CONT'D)  
The world hasn't been kind to you.

MAGNUS  
And I'm no longer alive, so why  
should I bother?

VIGGO  
In truth, I couldn't care less. My  
time is long since past. But you -  
you know someone who's still living  
on that rock, don't you?

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - FLASHBACK

Flashes of Elizabeth's smile.

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - FLASHBACK

Flashes of Blitz and Hearth.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - VIGGO'S ROOM - DAY

MAGNUS

Tell me, how do I get out of the hotel?

VIGGO

No.

MAGNUS

What?

VIGGO

I won't allow your departure until you defeat me in combat.

MAGNUS

You're kidding.

VIGGO

Could you hope to best 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 pale 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.

VIGGO (CONT'D)

You can no longer afford the luxury of being a victim.

Viggo sets his knitting kit and scarf aside. He rises, towering over Magnus.

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. He lifts his head with an uncharacteristic, 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