



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 rock climbing wall.
Magnus clings for dear life, sixty feet up.

VIGGO
Onward!

MAGNUS
I'm going to fall!

VIGGO
Good.

Magnus obliges. He grabs a small hold and pulls. Sweat slides off his forehead.

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

Magnus's handhold slips. He plummets toward the floor.

MAGNUS
Ah! No! No! NO! NO! NOOO!

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus jolts awake, screaming.

MAGNUS
AHHHHHH!
(a beat)
Was that - a nightmare?

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 doesn't hold a candle to the average Einherji. This weight should be a warm up for you.

MAGNUS

Are you sure? I've never lifted weights before. Will that make a difference?

Viggo approaches another barbell rack with over ten plates on each side.

VIGGO

I guess we'll find out.

Viggo un-racks his barbell and starts doing bicep curls.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Is he human?

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

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

MAGNUS

Ow.

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

Where's the 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 ignorant Einherjar challenge him, but he
cuts them down as if he's swatting a fruit fly.

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
Hand-eye coordination is key in
battle.

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 - OLYMPIC GYM - DAY

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

Viggo sweeps 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

A pool of lava bubbles inside a volcano.

MAGNUS
Why do we have to jump over a
volcano. Can't we just test how far
I land on level ground?

VIGGO
Improvement demands risk.

Viggo jogs up the slope of brown stone and leaps across an entire volcano vent.

MAGNUS
Way to make it look easy.

Magnus gathers momentum and speed, hurling his body upward. His jump is laughable. He splashes into the lava.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - FROZEN LAKE BATTLEGROUND - DAY

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

MAGNUS

Ah!

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

MAGNUS

Seriously? A grenade?

An 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.

A Mongolian warrior bashes Magnus with his shield.

MAGNUS

Ow.

The sky spins.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Is this a concussion?

The ground shakes. A rock golem nears.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

I should probably move.

The golem flattens Magnus with a footstep.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - LOUNGE NINETEEN - DAY

TJ

Why are you going after Viggo during our daily battles?

MAGNUS

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

The hallmates look to each other.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

What?

MALLORY

Good luck with that.

X

Scary man.

HALFBORN

Viggo is terrifyingly strong.

TJ

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

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MOUNTAIN TRAINING GROUND - 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 - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Viggo and Magnus face each other. They sit in meditative poses on the grassy living room floor. The sun from the ceiling beats down.

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 various different magics. Healing, defensive, calming, environmental are a few to name. Your cry was an example of a defensive spell. And I believe your incredible resurrection speed has to stem from your healing abilities.

MAGNUS

So why do I have to have my shirt off?

Magnus sits awkwardly, shirtless.

VIGGO

Solar meditation can strengthen your abilities. Learn to absorb its light.

Magnus squints up at the sunlight.

MAGNUS

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

VIGGO

Two. The Vanir are peaceful gods known for prosperity, health, and agriculture. The Aesir are 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 stands.

VIGGO

Its time. Back to training.

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

Seriously?

Magnus gets caught and drowns again.

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 meditates in the sunlight.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ARCHERY RANGE - DAY

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

Magnus draws and fires. Viggo jumps in the air to escape. Magnus smiles and fires another arrow while Viggo is mid air.

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

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 about halfway.

MAGNUS

Did you see that? I'm getting bet -

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.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Jump cuts of Magnus practicing versus doing battle in the arena. He jabs his dagger, carving away at a 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.

The knight reclaims his sword and raises it above Magnus.

MAGNUS

Thanks for the tip.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - MAGNUS'S ROOM - DAY

Magnus slashes again, chipping the wooden pillar further.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - BATTLEGROUND - DAY

Magnus dodges a spear. A Viking swings an axe at Magnus.

VIKING

For Odin!

Magnus cuts the axe's hilt in two.

VIKING (CONT'D)

Die!

The Viking lunges toward Magnus. A flying dagger skewers the Viking in the liver. Mallory retrieves it.

MALLORY

You know you have to kill them,
right?

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 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 he's hit puberty.

Magnus blocks Viggo's blade with a shield. The force sends him sliding back several feet.

MAGNUS

(smiling)

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 sorceress 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 flicks 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 (CONT'D)
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. Stupid 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. I'll 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 can't believe 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. So listen,
Hearthstone and I are in charge of
your safety from here on out. You
don't leave our sight, got it?

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. It's all new
and exciting, but you still have
things to do in Midgard.

MAGNUS
Yep, I'm ready to leave.

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 - it's the
worst.

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
We're leaving. Don't try to stop me.

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. Cracks spiderweb from the door's nameplate. A decorative spear falls off the wall of the corridor. The squirrel screeches.

HALFBORN (O.S.)
Should I kill the intruders?

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 attempting 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 - I'm so scared - 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