



MAGNUS CHASE EPISODE 7

Written by

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

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EPISODE 7: I CLIMB A BIG TREE

EXT. SEA - NIGHT

Harald drops his knife in horror. Two giant yellow eyes open underwater. The boat is microscopic in comparison. The irises jolt inward, glowering at the fishing vessel.

HARALD

Drop the pole, you fools! You'll
kill us all! That's the -

ELIZABETH

World serpent.

The boat lurches. Harald grabs the railing. Elizabeth grips Magnus's chair. The monster slowly rises above the water.

The snake opens it's maw. Rows of perfect white triangle teeth. The meat hook of the fishing pole is lodged good.

MAGNUS

I don't think we're getting our
bait back.

The serpent shakes back and forth. The fishing pole whips sideways. The boat seesaws port to starboard. Planks crack.

Elizabeth presses close to Magnus. Harald rolls around uncontrollably.

ELIZABETH

How much longer?

MAGNUS

Hang in there!

The serpent hisses. Purple globs of poison melt the deck. Harald dodges. The liquid splatters Magnus. His skin fizzes.

MAGNUS

Ow - ow - ow!

The serpent lifts it's head higher out of the water. It towers ten stories above. Magnus gives the line some slack.

MAGNUS

That's not good. We're in the
splash zone.

ELIZABETH

You think?

The serpent crashes down, creating a forty foot tall tsunami. Magnus drives the bottom of the fishing pole through the wood. He hugs the pole with one arm and pulls Elizabeth in close with the other.

Magnus takes a deep breath. The boat miraculously glides over the majority of the wave without capsizing.

After the sloshing subsides, Elizabeth and Magnus cough up water. The monster stares down at the boat as if to say: *Why are you not dead?*

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

So - what now?

Harald yelps.

HARALD (O.S.)

Ah - great Ran! Have mercy!

Magnus turns. A woman floats over a whirlpool. From the waist up, she wears a blouse of chain mail littered with barnacles. Pearlescent skin with seaweed green eyes.

From the waist down, stretches a silver fishing net over three hundred yards in diameter. The goddess of the sea speaks in a low baritone.

RAN

You dare to interrupt my scavenging?

Harald scrambles to the side of the boat, tossing gold coins overboard.

HARALD

NO! I would never!

(to Elizabeth)

Quick human, your payment! Give it to Ran!

Elizabeth tosses the red gold into the water. Instead of sinking, the coins swirl into Ran's net joining the debris.

HARALD (CONT'D)

Take me anchor! Take these humans!
They are the ones responsible for
this commotion!

RAN

Silence.

Harald freezes. He doesn't dare speak. Instead, he silently retreats below deck. The serpent hisses.

RAN (CONT'D)

YOU! Shut it. How many times have I told you not to eat rancid bull heads? They're not native to these waters. And you - little einherji.

Ran looks to Magnus.

RAN (CONT'D)

Now that Jormungand is connected to you by fate, what will do? Release the world serpent so he can return to his slumber or drown the entire world.

MAGNUS

I'll release the snake, don't worry. We just wanted to talk to you.

RAN

Talk?

MAGNUS

Barter.

RAN

What for?

MAGNUS

The sword of summer.

RAN

Your father's sword, I presume. Yes - quite the artifact. But in exchange, I'll need something equally as valuable.

MAGNUS

Like what?

RAN

I'm thinking - your soul.

MAGNUS

My soul? Why?

RAN

As a connoisseur, I collect many items. Treasures, ships, lost valuables of every description. And drowned souls are my property. My most wonderful collection -

Suddenly, human faces gasp, entangled in Ran's net. They plead for help.

DROWNED SOULS

Please... Help me... Free us...
Kill me... Release us...

Their arms stretch through the silvery web of netting. Magnus watches in disgust. His mouth twitches.

INT. HOTEL VALHALLA - ELEVATOR - FLASHBACK

Magnus recalls his first chat with Sam.

SAM

Trust me, there are worse places to
spend your afterlife in compared to
Valhalla.

EXT. SEA - NIGHT

Drowned souls claw at the surface. Plastic garbage pops like bubble wrap. Dead fish reek.

RAN

And you drowned in the Charles
River. Your soul rightfully belongs
to me.

ELIZABETH

Lady Ran. Magnus has already been
claimed by Odin. If what you said
is true and he is an Einherji, that
cannot be changed.

RAN

What do you offer me then? What
could possibly be worth that
magnificent sword? It's one of the
greatest pieces to have fallen into
my net. Unless -
(to Elizabeth)
I'll take your soul then. Fair
enough?

Magnus unstraps himself from the fishing chair. He removes the dagger from his belt and glares at Ran.

MAGNUS

This is a dagger. An authentic
blade from Valhalla. How many of
those do you have in your net?

RAN
Zero. But a weapon of that measly -

MAGNUS
The other option -

ELIZABETH
Magnus -

MAGNUS
Is that I take the sword of summer.

RAN
Are you threatening me?

The goddesses fingernails stretch into jagged points like shark teeth.

RAN (CONT'D)
On my turf?

MAGNUS
I can sense the sword's presence within your net. I pulled it from the depths once before - you should know. I'd hate to cut through your net, spill all your goodies and free those trapped souls. Actually, on second thought, I think I'd love that -

Magnus extends his hand over the water.

RAN
Stop.
(a beat)
I've heard enough. I'm not foolish to think I can keep the sharpest blade of the nine worlds.

Ran flicks her finger. The sword of summer flies out of the water into Magnus's grip. Immediately, the blade begins to hum, agitating every molecule in his body.

Magnus tosses his dagger into the water. The net snags it.

MAGNUS
And throw in one of Idun's apples for our trouble.

RAN
You said nothing about an apple of immortality.

MAGNUS

I know you've got an extra one
floating around in there somewhere.
I need it - then we'll go in peace
- and you can go back to your
scavenging.

Ran flicks her finger again. A piece of fruit shoots out
into Elizabeth's hands.

RAN

Leave as you promised. I hope
you're not planning any more sea
voyages. Cross my waters again and
I will personally drag you to the
bottom.

Ran spins. Her net wraps like twirled spaghetti. She sinks
into the depths, glowing like a massive jellyfish.

ELIZABETH

That was - interesting.

HARALD (O.S.)

Interestin'?

The ladder creaks. Harald's head pops up from below deck. He
climbs the stairs.

HARALD

World Serpent fishing - that's one
thing, but antagonizing Ran? I have
to make a living on the ocean! I
should throw you lot overboard -

MAGNUS

When we get to shore, we'll pay you
double.

Harald sighs and mans the steering.

HARALD

(muttering)

Ignorant - puny - mortals.

Magnus looks down to study the sword of summer. The steel
glows with its own light. Silvery runes. It radiates a sense
of warmth. Elizabeth pats his shoulder.

ELIZABETH

I cannot believe you -

MAGNUS

You want to hear something funny?

ELIZABETH

What?

MAGNUS

I couldn't feel the sword one bit.
There's no way I could've pulled it
out of the water. It was a total
bluff.

ELIZABETH

WHAT?

MAGNUS

By your reaction - I'm guessing
that I'm a pretty good liar.

Elizabeth smiles. The sword of summer pulses, like a
countdown.

ELIZABETH

Uh - what is it doing?

MAGNUS

I don't know.

ELIZABETH

Is it going to blow up?

The sword shrinks in Magnus's hand, melting into a runestone
on a gold chain. The small stone is emblazoned with a symbol
similar to the letter 'F'. Rune of Frey.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Stylish.

MAGNUS

I'm not really a jewelry guy.

Magnus tosses the chain around his neck. The stone
magnetically attaches to the bail making it easy to pull
off.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Hm - convenient.

EXT. PIER - DAY

Harald's boat chugs, leaving a trail of broken wood. Hearth
claps. Blitz and Sam help dock the boat.

BLITZ

So? How'd it go?

HARALD
Scoundrels.

Sam gives more red gold to Harald.

SAM
For your damages.

Harald snags the payment and trudges to his shed. Elizabeth and Magnus hop off.

ELIZABETH
Success!

HEARTH
(sign language)
You found the sword?

Magnus yanks the pendant. The stone transforms into the sword of summer.

BLITZ
Breathtaking.

Magnus hands the sword to Hearth. Hearth runs his hands over the embedded runes.

BLITZ (CONT'D)
Looks like bone steel. Or something even more exotic.

MAGNUS
Is bone steel special?

BLITZ
Very. If you smelt the bones of enemies, monsters, or your ancestors, bone steel can vanquish the toughest foes. Supernatural beings, giants, even gods. But you have to quench the blade in blood to harden it, preferably the blood of whatever creature you want the sword to be most lethal against.

Elizabeth peaks over Hearth's shoulder. She reads the runes.

ELIZABETH
(reads)
Gebo. Sowilo. Ingwaz.

Hearth nods.

HEARTH
(sign language)
Love. Sun. Growth.

SAM (O.S.)
Oh - look who it is.

A pelican lands on the pier. It's eyes, an orange color.

SAM (CONT'D)
Our friend, the giant. I hope you
didn't forget about the apple,
Magnus.

MAGNUS
Nope.

Elizabeth tosses Idun's apple to the pelican.

BIRD
Thank you, darling. Pleasure doing
business with you all.

MAGNUS
Yeah - yeah. Fly away already.

The pelican flies off, eating the apple.

ELIZABETH
I'm starving.

SAM
Any ideas for lunch?

BLITZ
You have any money?

EXT. PIER - DAY

The five each cast a worm. A red and white fishing bobber bounces on the water's surface. Elizabeth reels her line in with a fish on her hook. Hearth catches it with a net. The team celebrates.

EXT. PIER - DAY

Elizabeth holds her catch like a trophy. Hearth casts a rune onto the fish, multiplying it.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Hearth turns a fish over a fire. The group eats in a circle. A random homeless man joins them, keeping his palms warm.

BLITZ

Our next stop will be Nidavellir.

MAGNUS

The dwarf world?

BLITZ

Unfortunately. We were discussing the Norn's prophecy while you were on your excursion. The Valkyrie made a clever judgement.

SAM

My name is Sam.

BLITZ

Ere sword of summer unbinds the beast.

MAGNUS

Okay? Am I supposed to understand what -

SAM

It means Fenris the wolf will be free of his chains regardless if we try to stop him.

HEARTH

(sign language)

She means rope.

BLITZ

I think she meant is as a metaphor, but yes, we'll need a replacement Gleipnir.

ELIZABETH

Gleipnir, the godly rope.

BLITZ

The only place we'll be able to get one is in Nidavellir. So get some rest. We make the jump tomorrow morning.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Hearth snores. Magnus rolls over. Sam and Elizabeth are out cold. Blitz stares at the stars, unable to rest.

EXT. BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN - DAY

BLITZ

Behold! The nexus of the universe!

The crew stands in front of a 'Make Way for Ducks' sign. Underneath, sit statues of nine bronze ducklings.

MAGNUS

You're kidding.

BLITZ

Nine ducks. Nine worlds. You think it's a coincidence? The symbolism screams - portal!

Hearth passes his hand over the statues like he's testing a stovetop for heat. He digs into his pocket, pulling out a rune with an 'X' shape and line down the middle.

Hearth cups his hands with the rune and mutters silently. He throws the rune at the eighth duckling. The air parts like a curtain.

BLITZ (CONT'D)

Careful -

Hearth enters the rift. The others follow.

BLITZ (CONT'D)

The first time being on the tree can make you dizzy.

The rift closes.

EXT. YGGDRASIL - NIGHT

The group walks along a branch the size of an interstate highway. The branches crisscross endlessly with no canopy or root in sight. Just a shroud of mist in a dark dimension.

Each leaf and small crevice seem to lead to another world. Elizabeth leans over a leaf.

ELIZABETH

Wow.

BLITZ

Please try not to fall in.

EXT. YGGDRASIL - NIGHT

Hearth waves them on. He slides down ten feet from a curved branch. Sam anxiously scoots down like a scared child. She stares down into the abyss.

SAM
I liked Yggdrasil a lot better when
I could fly.

ELIZABETH
You could fly?

MAGNUS
Sam's a Valkyrie.

SAM
Was. Until you showed up.

ELIZABETH
Did you choose Magnus to become an
Einherji?

SAM
Worst decision I ever made.

The insult hits Magnus like a gut punch. Wind howls past
them. Branches sway. Lichen patches bloom.

BLITZ
We're getting close!

A low, booming voice echoes.

RATATOSKR (O.S.)
Foolish boy. You let your mother
die.

Magnus's head jolts.

MAGNUS
What was that?

Elizabeth's eyes glow.

ELIZABETH
Ratatosk.

BLITZ
Damnable squirrel! Always at the
worst times!

The group breaks into a sprint. Hearth leads the way.

RATATOSKR (O.S.)
(to Magnus)
A failure. You are dead. No home.
No parents. Your pendant looks
stupid.

MAGNUS
You guys hear that too?

RATATOSK (O.S.)
(to Sam)
You're a disgrace. Ugly. Weak.
Powerless. A worthless excuse for a
Valkyrie.

Sam grinds her teeth. Hearth stops and points down. Thirty feet below, a branch sways with a hot-tub size portal with soft neon light.

BLITZ
Is that it?

Hearth nods frantically.

SAM
Are you serious? I am not -

Hearth leaps down and passes through the rift. Missing the portal would mean - SPLAT!

BLITZ
Jump or die Valkyrie!

Blitz springs off. Elizabeth follows. They narrowly thread the needle.

MAGNUS
Death by falling isn't so bad. It's
instantaneous - you don't really
feel anything.

SAM
Shut up!

RATATOSK
(to Sam)
Forgotten. Disposable. You weren't
chosen. Only inherited. You watch
hero's die. You'll never be one.

Sam collapses to her knees. A tear streams down her cheek. Magnus makes sure not to leave her behind.

MAGNUS
(muffled)
Sam! What're you doing? Snap out of
it!

Ratatsok, the size of a tank with red fur, breaks through the foliage above. Its eyes are Sulphur yellow, burning with fury.

RATATOSK
(screeching)
YARK!

Magnus snatches Sam's wrist and drags her over the edge. He pulls Sam in for a hug. They fall and brace for impact -

BLACK FOR A MOMENT...

BRUNI (V.O.)
I present to you - sparkle spitter!

INT. CLASSROOM - FLASHBACK

Classroom show and tell. A dwarf child cranks a compact fire starter. As the name suggests, it ignites like a firecracker. Classmates watch in awe.

BRUNI
Crafted by me - Bruni, the son of Loretta.

CLASSMATE 1
Cool!

CLASSMATE 2
I want one!

CLASSMATE 3
Let me try!

Bruni grins with satisfaction.

TEACHER
Well done Bruni. Thank you for sharing. Next up is Blitzen. What have you brought us today?

All eyes turn to Blitz. Young. Cute. Innocent.

BLITZ
This is Twinkle Crown - 3000.

Blitz puts on a decorative helmet shaped like a spinning disco ball. He buckles the chin strap. A small cog spins and the helmet shines in all directions.

BLITZ
To help the miners see while they work! And be dazzling!

The helmet lights the room up in a rainbow of color.

CLASSMATE 1
That's called a flashlight dummy!

The class bursts out in laughter. Blitz's smile fades.

TEACHER
Wonderful creation. Very artistic.
Thank you for sharing Blitzen -

Blitz sulks back to his desk.

INT. BLITZ'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Blitz's father, Durvik, enters their claustrophobic home. His clothes are soaked in soot. Face streaked with sweat and dust. Durvik kicks his boots off.

DURVIK
I'm home!

INT. BLITZ'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Blitz and Durvik enjoy a meal over their miniature dinner table.

DURVIK
How was school?

Blitz shrugs his shoulders, sulking.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
Let me see. Where is it?

Blitz trudges to the sofa and grabs the Twinkle Crown - 3000. He gives it to his dad, reluctantly.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
What do we have here? A helmet?

Durvik places the crown on his head and clips in the chin strap.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
It's a little snug -

The crown spins and lights the entire room with bright color. Blitz lowers his eyes, ashamed.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
I see. Very neat! I could use this!

Blitz raises his head.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
It's much better than the
flashlight we use.

BLITZ
Really?

DURVIK
Oh yeah! And plus -

Durvik knocks the helmet with his fist.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
It's sturdy! Protection and
lighting? Talk about cracking two
geodes with one hammer!

Durvik pats Blitz on his head.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
Not bad.

Blitz grins, embarrassed.

EXT. ALLEY - FLASHBACK

The streets of Nidavellir. Smog choked. Neon moss.
Pollution. Nidavellir is a massive cavern, with stories of
crumbling infrastructure.

The air is littered with factory sounds. Metal shrieking
against metal. Gears turning. Hammers pounding.

DURVIK (O.S.)
How long are you going to ignore
the rumors of Gleipnir!

Two burly dwarven bodyguards toss Durvik into the muddy
street. Between them stands a white haired elder named
JUNIOR.

Durvik gets to his feet.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
It's been five centuries Junior!
The rope was made to only last
four!

Dwarves gather to the commotion.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
It has to be reexamined!

BYSTANDER 1
Is that the conspiracy theorist?

BYSTANDER 2
What did he say?

A bodyguard lifts Durvik by his collar.

BODYGUARD
Pipe down. You question the work of
the great sons of Ivaldi?

DURVIK
(choked)
Yes.

The bodyguard raises his fist. A pencil hits him in the temple. The culprit is Blitz, in the street with his school backpack.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
Blitz?

The bodyguard drops Durvik and kicks him.

DURVIK (CONT'D)
(winces)
Oof.

BLITZ
Dad!

Blitz runs over. His eyes connect with Junior. A hint of rage gleams in Blitz's pupils. Junior and the bodyguards turn and waltz away.

BLITZ (CONT'D)
Are you -

DURVIK
I'm okay, son.

Blitz frowns, worried.

EXT. ALLEY - FLASHBACK

Durvik lifts a crag bag full of traveling and climbing gear. He kneels down, greeting Blitz before his departure.

DURVIK
It's only one week, I promise.

BLITZ

Why do you have to go? It's not
your job -

DURVIK

Blitzen, my boy. Listen -

(a beat)

If there's one thing I want you to
learn from me - it's that you
should never stop trying to do
good. No matter what. Even if
others laugh at you - or doubt -
criticize - or despise you.
Continue to serve with good
intention.

(a beat)

Like this hat.

Durvik reaches behind his back and pulls out the Twinkle
Crown - 3000. He fits the crown over his head and leaves the
chin strap undone.

DURVIK (CONT'D)

I think it might come in handy
during my trip, so - would you mind
if I borrowed it?

Blitz nods.

DURVIK (CONT'D)

Yes, you would mind if I borrowed
it? Or no you don't mind?

Blitz nods again.

DURVIK (CONT'D)

I'll take that as - yes - go ahead,
Dad.

Durvik hugs Blitz.

DURVIK

Be back soon. Be good while I'm
gone.

EXT. ALLEY - FLASHBACK

Durvik waves goodbye to Blitz.

INT. BLITZ'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

The Crown Twinkler - 3000 is ruined. Once solid steel, now
torn like tin, riddled with dents and deep cuts. Streaks of
dry blood paint the interior.

Blitz holds his craft in the doorway. Another dwarf patrolman is explaining what occurred, but Blitz is in complete shock.

BLITZ (V.O.)
No - no - why? WHY?

EXT. ALLEY - FLASHBACK

Back to present. Dark street. Cloudy night. Magnus blinks his eyes open. Blitz removes his protective sun gear and takes a deep breath. He stands in the light of glowing moss.

MAGNUS
Blitz - the light - don't -

BLITZ
It's fine kid - I'm fine.

Magnus takes in his surroundings. The scent of burning oil. Scorched iron. Alchemic exhaust. Nearby, a dwarf with a mechanical leg clanks by.

BLITZ (CONT'D)
Welcome - to Nidavellir.

Stories upon stories of twisted vent work, coughing black smoke. Flickering rune lights. A world of poverty, orphans, graffiti, unregulated invention, and brilliant minds.