



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, NATALIE, stretches her arms Titanic style. She radiates joy.

NATALIE
Ahhhhh - can you feel it, Magnus?
Can you feel *him*?

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

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 giggles.

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. Dogs barking.

BLITZ (O.S.)
C'mon kid, get your smelly ass up!

Magnus blinks the gunk out of his eyes, pulling a sleeping bag over his yellow hair. His breath steams in the cold air.

BLITZ, a 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 rolls over.

MAGNUS

Ten more minutes. I was having a good dream -

Blitz kicks him again.

BLITZ

Not going to happen - they're two blocks away.

MAGNUS

Can't you just breathe in their general direction? The cops can't stand our breath. They'll veer off somewhere else.

Blitz shoves a half eaten cheeseburger into a backpack.

BLITZ

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

MAGNUS

And they have a photo of me? How's that possible?

BLITZ

Who cares! They know you're here!

Blitz lifts Magnus up and tosses him the backpack.

BLITZ (CONT'D)

Go lie low with Hearth. He's down by Copley square.

Magnus yawns.

BLITZ

Quick!

Blitz shoves Magnus out from under the bridge.

EXT. MUSPELHEIM 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 emotionless, celestial eyes.

His maroon suit and tie char from a fiery aura. He cups his hands together. We hear a quiet murmur.

LOKI (V.O.)
(a whisper)
Today's the big day.

Surtur closes his eyes.

SURTUR
At last.

EXT. BOSTON SIDEWALK - DAY

Magnus slips through sidewalks in ragged jeans and a torn yellow hoodie. Pedestrians either ignore him or give bitter expressions.

MAGNUS (V.O.)
Being homeless isn't so bad. 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 temper tantrums.

A group of drunks spit on and kick Magnus.

DRUNKARDS
Get a job, you filthy bum!

Magnus scrambles away with a bruised face.

DRUNKARDS (CONT'D)
Hey! Get back here!

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - FLASHBACK

MAGNUS (V.O.)
You're constant harrassment.

A police officer radios in and approaches Magnus.

POLICE

Dispatch - this is 2-11. I've got a P918, looks like a young kid on his own. I'm going to stick around with him until we can -

Magnus quickly stands.

POLICE (CONT'D)

Hey buddy, are you -

Magnus kicks the officer in the family jewels. The cop crumbles. Magnus dashes away from the scene.

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

No problem, gimme one sec -

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

EXT. BOSTON SIDEWALK - DAY

Back to present day. The streets bustle with pedestrians and street musicians.

BUSINESSMAN (O.S.)

If we miss earnings again, the board will have my head!

SPORTS FAN

These rookies gotta earn their place man! Ortiz started in the eighth spot. We can't give -

Magnus walks through like a ghost. Unseen. Unwanted. A suspicious shadow circles above him in the clouds.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

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

(MORE)

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

But then, you'd pray, oh I hope he
doesn't ask me for any money. What?
You can't spare a single dollar?
I'm fifteen years old, supposedly a
wanted murderer, down on my luck,
lying in a sleeping bag in the peak
of a Boston winter! It's not like
I'm asking to win the freakin'
lottery!

A school bus whizzes by. Magnus watches it.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

I'd be more than happy to live a
normal life. Make a few friends.
Get a decent job. Marry a beautiful
girl. Maybe even start a family
someday.

Magnus cups his hands and blows hot air into his palms.

MAGNUS (V.O.)

Now that would be the real jackpot.
Add a farm to that equation and
it'd be a dream come true!

Magnus slips and falls on a sheet of ice.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

God - damnit -

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

ELIZABETH

Hey, are you alright?

Magnus wipes snowflakes off his sweatshirt.

MAGNUS

Oh - yeah - I'm chilling - just
fine.

His voice wavers.

ELIZABETH

Here, take these.

Elizabeth 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 grabs his dirty hands and slips the mittens on him.

ELIZABETH
I think the words you're looking
for are - thank you.

Magnus watches in disbelief.

FATHER (O.S.)
Elizabeth!

MAGNUS
Thank you.

ELIZABETH
Don't mention it.

Elizabeth winks at Magnus.

MAGNUS
But you 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 think I'd rather die of
hypothermia than be seen in that
get up.

HEARTH
(sign language)
You look like a pimp.

MAGNUS
And it's way too big for 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. 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 dumb?

INVESTIGATOR 2
As long as Randolph keeps the cash coming, then I don't mind.

INVESTIGATOR 1
Let's hope we don't find this boy,
because if we do - then I'll
strangle the kid myself.

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 is NOT what we
agreed on. Randolph is -

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 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. If robin hood was
homeless and gave to himself.

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 luxurious 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 be this
big shot professor who went bonkers
over some conspiracy theory about -

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

MAGNUS
This room looks - new.

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! Swang! 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
opportunity 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 down
by -

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
You still have that great sense of
humor, uncle. Now 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 -

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 need to come with me.
RIGHT NOW.

MAGNUS
There's someone throwing rocks
outside -

Magnus looks out the window. A tall, pale man with brown
hair 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 a moment to spare.
They'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
Magnus, what do you know about the
Norse exploration to North America?

MAGNUS
Nothing - I don't care.

RANDOLPH
Vikings, Magnus! Their travel
history! They made settlements in
Greenland and Newfoundland - which
is present day New England. And
some studies theorized that they
made it all the way here! To
Massachusetts!

MAGNUS
Are we there yet?

A sharp left turn.

RANDOLPH
I believe 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.
(MORE)

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)

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 - were you discharged or did
you escape the mental institution?
Why don't you let me out and we can
have a normal chat.

Randolph slams pedal to the metal.

RANDOLPH

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

MAGNUS

A weapon?

RANDOLPH

You'll be safe 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 fails to
grasp -

MAGNUS

Enough, Uncle Randolph! I'm not
playing your pretend fantasy games!

RANDOLPH

They're not -

MAGNUS

Do you know what my mother said to
me - her last words before she -

Magnus pauses, unable to finish.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

It wasn't 'be safe' or 'I love you, Magnus'. No - she said, 'don't go to your uncle Randolph'.

RANDOLPH

I understand. She wished to shield you from reality.

The engine roars.

MAGNUS

Reality? Then tell me this. 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 for over a thousand years of shifting tidal patterns. Yes - yes - how could I have not seen this before?

(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.

RANDOLPH (CONT'D)
Do you sense it?

MAGNUS
How long -

RANDOLPH
Shh!

A beat of 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
- 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 -

(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.)

That devil -

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. Flashes of Surtur.

EXT. LONGFELLOW BRIDGE - DAY

Magnus staggers to the railing.

MAGNUS

(wincing)

Ah -

Reaches his broken 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 RIGHT NOW!

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 rolls over glass shards.

RANDOLPH
Ha - ha! I was right! Ow.

MAGNUS
Tell me what to do!

RANDOLPH
Renew it - the blade needs -

SURTUR
Chase!

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

MAGNUS
UGH!

RANDOLPH
Don't do it - run away -

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

SURTUR
There you are. 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.

Surtur raises a finger. Blue flames slither down his arm. Windshields crack. The ground bubbles.

Magnus recognizes a victim. Elizabeth, the one who lent him the mittens, is frightened and stuck in a smoking taxi with her dad.

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 - but where -

BLITZ (O.S.)
(battle cry)
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 -

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 pests. 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 like playdough. It reshapes, extends, and sharpens into a thin, glowing, golden blade.

SURTUR (CONT'D)
Yes! Give the sword to me!

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 like a whip. Surtur pulls it from Magnus's grasp.

SURTUR (CONT'D)
Finally.

The sword flies around but returns to Magnus's hand.

SURTUR (CONT'D)
You 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 one
bit!

EXT. BOSTON STREETS - FLASHBACK

Blitz carries a greasy box of pizza with a huge grin. Clearly, he got it from a dumpster.

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.)
BASTARD! I'll kill you - I'll KILL
you! You're going to pay for -

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

Magnus drops to the ground. Police sirens wail.

MAGNUS
(wheezes)
Hup. Hup.

Tires screech. A cop car halts facing the commotion. Surtur flicks his wrist. Flames engulf the vehicle. Two officers roll out of the doors, burning alive.

Blood seeps out of Magnus's 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
You wish to change fate?

Surtur kicks Magnus in the stomach.

MAGNUS
(grunts)
Oof.

Magnus's vision blurs. Blitz and Hearth lie motionless. Magnus gazes to the sky. The shadowy figure emerges. A girl with wings and flowing orange hair.

SURTUR
Pathetic mortals. This world shall
be reduced to cinders.

MAGNUS
If you're real - please -

The girl flaps her wings, but won't budge. Magnus lowers his head. Surtur picks up the blade to examine it.

Magnus immediately 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.)
Don't let go! Don't you dare let
go!

Magnus tightens his grip.

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 will CHANGE!

The dive speeds up. Magnus head butts Surtur. The girl with wings plummets after them. They plunge through the ice with a 'FLOOM'.

THE END