

[twenty seven] the fight on the train

NOVA SAT BETWEEN ERIK AND HANK on a train bound for who knows where, a collar around her neck which suppressed her powers. Her friends surrounded her and the guards paced back and forth, eyeing them with distaste every time they caught their eyes.

"My kid used to be a fan," one spat at Scott.

"Raven had the right of it," Charles said. "Jean was never the villain. I was. I should never have lied to her. I was wrong. But this power... inside of her, I never put that there. I would never do anything intentionally to hurt her. That isn't me and this is not Jean. We can still save her. She's still Jean inside."

"How do we do that?" Nova asked.

"What exactly is controlling her?" Erik asked.

"I don't know," Charles replied. "But this woman, this... thing has had a taste of that power and she'll be coming back for me. She'll be coming back for Jean."

"Good," Erik said. "Let her."

"She'll kill her to get it," Charles said. "And I promise you, the killing will not end there."

"That's not what Raven would have wanted," Scott said. "You know that. You both do."

Nova heard a rattling above them and glanced up. She heard the guards yelling amongst themselves, seemingly in a panic. Erik shouted at her, "Don't be fools! You need our help!"

"Goddamn muties come to spring you," one of the guards said.

"They're not mutants," Charles snapped. "Free us, you're going to need our help."

"We're the only chance you have," Erik agreed.

"Keep your mouth shut," the guard snapped.

"Idiots," Nova said, loud enough that the guard heard.

"What was that?" he asked.

"I said you're idiots," Nova snapped. "Idiots for thinking you can face this alone. When have guns ever done you any good against mutants?"

The guard ignored her, instead asking, "What's the status on those mutants?" through his comms.

"We're falling back now," came the reply. "They're not—"

"What? They're not what?"

"They're not mutants!"

"They're here for Jean," Scott said.

"Get ready to open fire," the guard instructed.

"Y-Your kid was right about us!" Kurt shouted. "We could help you!" the wall began to cave in. "Please!"

It burst open and revealed a man. Gunfire rang out, but nothing seemed to affect the creature before them. In fact, he healed faster than the bullets could pierce his skin. When he finally dropped, more took his place. One guard ran the length of the train car and fumbled with the panel on the wall, releasing them all from their shackles.

Getting to her feet, Nova stood at the forefront of the group, Erik and Hank on either side of her. She faced off with the man opposite her, who said, "We only want the girl. Step aside."

"No!" Hank shouted.

"What are you doing?" asked Erik's friend.

"What Raven would have," Hank answered, turning blue.

Nova slammed her foot on the ground and let out a yell. Every single creature went flying backwards and Erik trapped the one that had made the demand behind a wall of metal. Their daze gave the others a chance to engage, and Nova used her powers to crush one of the hostiles into nothing.

She couldn't let these creatures take Jean; not when the fate of the world rested on her remaining safe. As she moved her hands, she could feel electricity crackling through her veins, and when she looked down, between her hands was a miniature black hole.

"Huh," she said. "Never done that before."

She was tackled to the ground before she could experiment further and the black hole disappeared. She hit the ground and struggled under the weight of the man on top of her, but Erik slammed into him with a sheet of metal and knocked him aside. Getting to her feet, Nova saw Hank struggling with three men and let out a yell.

"Hank! Over here!"

She concentrated as hard as she could and tried to replicate the black hole, focussing all of her rage on making it grow. It started out small, but with each trigger she added to the list, the black hole grew. Her mom. Her dad. Alex Summers. Raven. Peter getting hurt. Hank's heartache. Getting angry at Charles. Jean.

By the time she opened her eyes, a six foot black hole stood between Nova and Hank, and when he saw what it was, he didn't hesitate to launch two of the hostiles right into the darkness. Nova let it snap closed as they disappeared and Hank rushed over to her.

"What the hell was that?" he asked.

"Black hole," Nova replied. "Pretty cool, huh?"

"We are definitely experimenting with that when we get home," he said.

"Most definitely," Nova replied.

"Hank! Nova!" Erik yelled. "Help Storm!"

Nova flew up through the hole in the roof and found Storm struggling. With a yell, Nova used her powers to simultaneously lift several of the hostiles into the air, shouting as she threw them as far away as her powers would allow.

She was flying above the train when she saw the woman from before slam through the roof, taking Hank down with her.

"Hank!" Storm yelled.

She dropped down into the train car and summoned as much lightning as she could muster, thrusting it at the woman. She absorbed it into her hands before returning the lightning strike in Storm's direction.

Nova dropped between them just in time, bringing her arm down in front of her to create a shield, bouncing the lightning back at the woman. The woman merely smirked at Nova before she sent her and Storm flying backwards. Nova crashed into her friend and the two of them went sprawling into the wall, hitting the ground hard. Storm was passed out, having taken the full force of the impact, but Nova was conscious.

She felt like every bone in her body was on fire, watching as Erik raised an arsenal of guns to his command and fired them at the woman. She walked onwards as though they didn't affect her, and Nova watched from where she lay as the woman got closer to Erik.

"No," she gasped. "Erik... Dad..."

She got shakily to her feet, clenching her fists. Erik was slammed into one wall, then another, then the floor, and lay there unmoving when she released him. Nova looked down at her hands and saw them glowing purple, unsure what that meant but ready to find out.

With the woman's back to her, Nova thrust out her hands and waves of purple energy hit the woman. She merely reflected them back on Nova, who flew backwards into the wall. She hit it sideways and heard a sickening crack that sent pain flaring through her leg. She hit the ground and let out a scream, unable to move as she looked down at her leg.

Her knee definitely wasn't supposed to be angled that way.

Nausea rose up in her throat and Nova watched as, despite all of their efforts, the woman made it through the train to where Jean was lying.

[Continue reading next part](#) □