

epilogue

CHARLES XAVIER RETIRED as the headmaster of Xavier's School, which was renamed The Jean Grey School for Gifted Youngsters in commemoration of their fallen friend. Hank took over as dean of the school as Charles set off to enjoy retirement. ^a

Nova and Peter continued living at the mansion, earning their living as teachers to the young mutants that came to the school for protection and education. They held back on further X-Men missions, instead focussing on their own lives for a change.

Nova fell pregnant a year after the events that tore apart their lives, and nine months after that she gave birth to hers and Peter's first child. She was born with a serious set of lungs, screaming her little heart out as she came into the world as two in the morning, which seemed fitting since Peter was usually still awake at that time anyway.

There was no contest when it came to naming her, and they settled on Raven Jean Maximo, which paid homage to two of their fallen friends whose memories would live on in the minds of those who loved them. ^a

It wasn't until eight minutes after the birth of Raven that Nova felt contractions again, and when Hank, who was delivering the baby, announced that there was a second baby, Nova's eyes widened. Twelve minutes after Raven was born, Nova was holding a little baby boy in her arms. ^a

It took a lot of deliberating before they found a name for their son, but they finally decided to name him Charlie, after Charles. Charlie Erik Maximo was named for both Nova and Peter's fathers (one of whom still had yet to find out that he was actually a father). ^a

Despite everything that had happened to them; all the grief and the hurt and the heartache, Nova and Peter had come out stronger than ever. A lifelong bond had been forged between them, and now that they had finally started their own little family, Nova knew that nothing, not even heaven, could compare to the feeling she felt as she held her baby boy in her arms and saw Peter cradling their little girl.

As long as she had Peter by her side, Nova knew that she would move heaven and earth to be with him, to raise a family with him and to simply have a love like that which she shared with him.

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