

[eleven] everything has changed

1983:

NOVA XAVIER HAD GROWN UP in the ten years that followed the events of 1973. Not only had she matured into an adult, but she had built solid foundations around herself in order to start building a life of her own. Xavier's School had reopened and started taking on more and more mutant children, offering them a safe place to learn and grow and experiment with their abilities.

It was in 1978 that Charles reopened the school, bringing with him his first student. She was a girl named Jean Grey, and Charles informed Nova that she was a telepath that almost rivalled his own abilities. Intrigued, and worried that the girl would find the loneliness to be unbearable, Nova quickly befriended Jean and the two became almost as inseparable as she and Peter were.

Peter.

In the ten years since meeting him, Nova had only seen Peter a handful of times. He was adamant that he wasn't going to join the school, choosing to remain at home in his mom's basement, but every so often they would meet in the middle of their respective homes and spend a night somewhere. Their relationship was very stop-and-start, but there was no denying that they were very much in love.

He was the first to say 'I love you', one night when he and Nova were watching the stars on the roof of his mom's house. She was pointing out all the constellations that Charles had taught her as a child, which didn't really interest Peter, but seeing her face light up when she explained the constellations to him made it worth it. It was in that moment, with Nova lying so close to him that their hands almost touched, that he realised that he was in love with her.

He had leaned closer to her, and she had stopped talking to turn to him. "Yes?"

"Guess what?" he said.

"What?"

"I love you," he replied.

Nova's eyes had widened at his confession, and for a second Peter worried that he had overstepped. Maybe he had misread all the friendly embraces and the way they seemed so perfect for one another, and for those few seconds that Nova seemed too stunned to reply, he worried that he had messed everything up.

But then her face split into the biggest grin and she repeated those three little words to him, and Peter Maximo swore to heaven and earth that he had never felt happiness like that which he felt when Nova Xavier kissed him, on the roof of his mom's house underneath the stars.

From there, things had only gone up. Because they rarely saw one another, it made the moments that they actually spent together all the more special, and they rarely ever fought with one another, unless it was to argue over which Pink Floyd song was better. Nova had never felt happiness like she did when she was with Peter, and it was easy for everyone to see that she was in love.

Eventually Charles warmed up to the idea of his daughter dating, especially when she hit nineteen and he realised that she wasn't going to be a teenager for much longer. It wasn't until he heard Peter's thoughts one afternoon when he was picking Nova up for a date that he realised that every single thought in his head was of her; how she looked cute in that sweater and how he couldn't wait until the next time he saw her and how she always wore her hair a certain way that Peter loved. It was a relief that that Charles realised that Peter Maximo loved Nova more than even he was aware.

Nova became a teacher at the school when more kids started joining, and was very good at teaching them English. She loved to read, so poetry and classic novels were her forte. These kids needed to learn basic subjects as well as the more mutant-friendly ones.

The school really took off as more young mutants joined them, and because she was closer in age to the students than the older mutants who taught at the school, Nova was definitely the favourite among the kids, but Jean Grey was her favourite student. They found in each other the same loneliness they felt after growing up with next to no friends, feeling like an outcast in society, and thus blossomed a beautiful friendship.

One morning, Nova was walking down the stairs when she saw Alex Summers leading a boy with a bandage wrapped around his eyes down the steps and into the foyer. Smiling, she continued down the stairs towards them.

"Alex," she called out.

"Holy shit! Nova?" Alex grinned. "It's so good to see you," he hugged Nova before holding her at arm's length. "Last time I saw you, you were tiny."

"Not anymore," Nova replied with a smile. "Who's your friend?"

"Oh, this is my brother, Scott," Alex replied, turning to grab his brother.

As he brought his brother forwards, Jean Grey walked past them and bumped into Scott, sending her books spilling to the floor. She managed to catch them, returning them to her hands with her mind before she glared at Alex and Scott.

After a pause, Scott said, "I can't."

"Wha... Who are you talking to?" Alex asked.

"Me," Jean replied.

"I just heard you in my head," Scott said.

"I'm telepathic," Jean said. "I read minds."

"Well, stay out of mine," Scott replied. "I don't need some weird girl creeping around in there."

"Don't worry, Scott, there's not much to see," Jean answered, turning on her heel to walk away.

"Hey, wait," Scott called after her. "I didn't tell you my name."

"No, you didn't."

"Alex Summers?" Hank asked.

"Hank McCoy," Alex greeted. "Whoa, what happened to the big blue furry you?"

"Uh, I keep him under control now," Hank replied.

"This is my brother, Scott," Alex said.

"Hey, Scott," Hank said. "I'm Hank McCoy. I'm one of the teachers here."

"And I'm Nova," Nova chimed in. "Also a teacher here, but Hank likes to call me a nuisance."

"Isn't that right," Hank muttered.

Nova elbowed him in the ribs as Alex shook his head in amusement. "You guys haven't changed a bit. Where's the professor?"

"He's teaching," Nova replied.

"I'll take you to him," Hank offered. "Nova, don't you have a class to teach?"

"Nope," she replied. "I told them all to read a chapter of Brontë for tomorrow and dismissed the class."

Hank rolled his eyes. "Like I said. Nuisance."

"You're just jealous because all the kids like me more," Nova replied, kissing Hank's cheek. "Gotta go. I promised Jean I'd do some archery with her out in the grounds."

Archery proved eventful, as when Nova and Jean were in the middle of competing to see who could hit the bullseye first without using their powers to do so, Nova stopped when she saw Charles approaching with Alex, Hank and Scott.

They tried testing Scott's powers, and when he opened his eyes after having Alex remove his bandages, red beams of energy sent the lake water splashing, destroyed the target that Nova and Jean had been using and then continued to split a tree in half.

Nova watched it topple, two halves of the tree hitting the ground with a thud, and she sighed. "Charles's grandfather hit that tree."

Jean smirked. "I know."

"You're listening to their conversation, aren't you?" Nova asked.

Jean shrugged. "Maybe."

"Alright, so, tell me everything they're saying."

[Continue reading next part](#) □