

[extra] the kids discover karaoke

NOVA KNEW IT WAS A BAD IDEA, but she was always down for a little reckless thinking. Given that she and Peter were legally able to buy alcohol, they were responsible for providing the booze for the night, and when they showed up with half a dozen bottles of vodka between them, the rest of the team knew that they were in for a good night.

They had been training so hard recently that Nova decided that it was time for them to let off some steam. She dug around in the attic until she eventually came up with an old microphone and a speaker, before she headed back downstairs with a variety of different vinyls in her possession.

When she spread the vinyls out on the table, Jean looked at them for a moment before reading Nova's thoughts. She smiled nervously and shook her head. "No way, not a chance."

"Ah, you don't get to back down, Miss Grey," Nova said. "We're going to have a karaoke competition."

They were down in the basement, using the training room as a hangout so as not to wake the other kids, and because of its soundproof walls, it was the perfect spot for a karaoke night. Armed with vodka and a wide variety of music, the team all agreed.

Team-building was essential, and not just in the field. There had to be some level of friendship between a team for them to operate well together, and given that they hadn't really had time to get to know one another outside of training, Nova and Peter had decided to take matters into their own hands.

When nobody volunteered to go first, Nova drank a shot of vodka and reached for the microphone. "Alright, since all of you are too scared, I'll go first, and just because I'm nice, I'll pick a song that you should all know."

She flipped through the vinyls until she found what she was looking for, putting it on the record player and dropping the needle. The opening tune of ABBA's 'Dancing Queen' filled the room, and everyone rolled their eyes as Nova grinned at them.

"See, I told you that you'd know it," she said.

She launched into song, keeping in time with the music, and when she got to the chorus, she approached Scott, who had recently turned seventeen, and started singing the chorus to him.

"You are the dancing queen, young and sweet, only seventeen," she sang, booping Scott's nose just to embarrass him a little further. His face turned red and Nova grinned, feeling successful.

After her song, she handed the microphone to Jean, who took it and shuffled through the vinyls, settling on a Queen vinyl. She sang along to 'Killer Queen', doing her best to impersonate Freddie Mercury, complete with all of the strutting and charisma he brought to the stage, and when she was finished, the entire team was in stitches, laughing at Jean as she pranced around dramatically.

Scott and Kurt went next, singing 'Highway to Hell' by AC/DC. The team were getting progressively more drunk as the night went on, and by the time Ororo had been and it was Peter's turn, he picked a slow song, changing up the atmosphere a little.

Jim Croce's 'Time in a Bottle' filled the room, and when Nova heard the song, she smiled. She and Peter always sang this song whenever they were together, and it had sort of become their song. When he sang, he looked directly at Nova, his voice barely heard over the actual music, but the sentiment was there.

She smiled at him as he sang, and he moved toward her slowly, resting his forehead against hers gently as he sang, "If I could save time in a bottle, the first thing that I'd like to do, is to save every day 'til eternity passes away, just to spend them with you."

When the song finished, the team applauded one another for their terrible renditions of what once had been great songs, but had now been tainted forever by their terrible voices and interpretations, and settled into a rather intense game of beer pong.

Powers were allowed, and when it came to deciding who would be on whose team, they settled on boys against girls. Nova was fine with that, because Ororo and Jean made worthy allies against the boys. Scott, Peter and Kurt were talking a big game as they played, but with the subtle interventions from the girls, they were soon falling behind.

Nova would apply gravity to their balls so that they lost their bounce, Jean would move cups to the side with her mind and Ororo would conjure little winds to blow the boy's ping-pong balls off their trajectory and onto the floor. Every so often, they would let one land in the cups before them, giving the boys false hope.

Kurt was rather sneaky, waiting for the ball to bounce before he teleported above the table and dropped it into a cup, preventing the girls from intercepting it, and Peter used his speed to move the girls' cups so that the balls landed directly inside.

It was intense, and because of the amount of alcohol already consumed, they fell about arguing over who the real winner was (they eventually decided on a tie so that nobody got killed in the name of bad sportsmanship), and that was when the party got busted.

The doors to the training room opened and Charles, Raven and Hank entered. Every member of the team stopped what they were doing and hid their alcohol behind their backs. Nova grinned as she saw Charles's expression, knowing that he wasn't really mad at them. The stern expression on his face was one she had seen plenty of times while she was growing up, but after he played the strict parents for a moment to intimidate her, he would always crack a smile.

"What's going on here?" he asked.

"Are you guys having a party?" Raven asked.

"Yeah," Nova replied. "It's called team building, and I feel like we deserve it."

"I could hear terrible singing in my head," Charles said. "Was that you lot, by any chance?"

The friends shared sheepish looks before nodding, and Hank chuckled. "I remember doing something like this back in the day."

"Me too," Raven smiled, pointing at Scott. "Your brother was there, and he was the life of the party."

"Are you here to shut us down?" Peter asked. "Because we totally understand if you are, you know?"

"Yeah," Jean said, a little drunk. "Because we're underage drinking."

Nova rolled her eyes. "Jean!"

"What?"

"You're not supposed to tell him that."

"Oh."

"On the contrary," Charles replied. "We just came to make sure that you were all okay, and maybe hear another round of your wonderful singing."

Scott grimaced. "Yeah, maybe another time."

"No, I want to hear you sing AC/DC again," Ororo said, trying not to laugh. "That was funny."

"Only if Kurt does it with me," Scott said.

"Okay," Kurt agreed, smiling.

"Alright," Nova said, clapping her hands together excitedly. "Let's get this party restarted!"

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