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Everything has calmed down at Nikola Tesla Middle School for Lucy “Spectra” Hene and her friends since their adventure with Tiffany Maxwell and her Demon in Issue #4. Over the last few months, Lucy has managed to focus on her training with the swim team. We start this tale with Lucy and her swimmates training at the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center in Pasadena, California.

C’MON CHARGERS!
GET BACK IN THE WATER!
YOU’VE GOT ONE MORE SET.
AFTER THAT, YOU ALL GET TO COOL DOWN.
YOU’VE ALL WORKED HARD,
BUT THIS ONE IS GOING TO BE ROUGH. ARE YOU READY?

AWHH COACH! WE’RE TIRED!
CAN WE TAKE A BREAK?

I THOUGHT I WAS TRAINING WINNERS, NOT WHINERS!
REMEMBER, EVERY TIME YOU WHINE,
THAT’S ANOTHER 100 METERS ADDED TO YOUR “WHINING” SET.
NOW GET READY.
3... 2... 1...

A-C! A-C! POWER LINES!
TESLA BEATS YOU EVERY TIME!
GO CHARGERS!

SPLOSH!!
IT’s Easier for water to flow around a triangle than a square, so FORM yourself INTO a triangle.

GO AGAIN.
3 ... 2 ... 1 ...

THAT SET HURT!
I sure FEL T like a barge, CERTAINLY not like an airplane wing.

THAT just DIDN’T feel RIGHT and my SHOULDERS are KILLING ME.

MINE too, IT’S LIKE the water was being PUSHED BACK AGAINST us.

Lucy’s already exhausted, but she and the rest of the team manage to push themselves off the wall.

THAT WASN’T GOOD ENOUGH!
EVERYBODY, MAKE SURE when you’re UNDERWATER, you LOOK more like an AIRPLANE WING than a BARGE.

BACK AT SCHOOL I know GENERAL RELATIVITY* DID an EXPERIMENT in PHYSICS class on THIS TOPIC.

IT’S EASIER FOR WATER to FLOW AROUND a TRIANGLE than a SQUARE, so form yourself INTO a TRIANGLE.

This year’s team is great. I think we can win it all!

I just need to push them a little harder.

Back at the team’s hotel I just need to push them a little harder.

As the swim team manager you know I have to keep up with everyone’s times. What was up with that last set? Why did you guys slow down on those last laps?

Maybe we can talk through this stuff after you stop chomping down all that junk food.
Alright CRYBABIES,
I’m going to the 
boardwalk to have 
SOME fun. You CAN join 
me if you WISH, but 
don’t act like ...            AGAINST 
THE CURRENT.

WELL, I DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU, “HOBBIT”, 
BUT “I” WAS GOING PLENTY FAST.

I DON’T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED. BUT IT SEEMED LIKE I WAS SWIMMING UPSTREAM AGAINST THE CURRENT.

I’m NOT A CRYBABY!
BUT THE BOARDWALK SOUNDS BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND HERE. SOMETHING ISN’T RIGHT AND MAYBE SOME FRESH AIR WILL HELP US FIGURE IT OUT. TIFFANY, WAIT FOR US.

A few minutes later, the adventurous girls explore the city’s popular beaches and Boardwalk District.

LUCY, DON’T WORRY TOO MUCH, EVERYONE WAS SLOW.

ALRIGHT CRYBABIES, I’M GOING TO THE BOARDWALK TO HAVE SOME FUN. YOU CAN JOIN ME IF YOU WISH, BUT DON’T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW ME, I DO HAVE AN IMAGE TO UPHOLD.
STOP POINTING THAT CAMERA PHONE THIS WAY! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO SEE MY FACE/uploaded to Instagram.

Oh, C'MON! STOP BEING SILLY! I'LL MAKE SURE YOU LOOK GOOD. DON'T YOU TRUST MY SKILLS?

The sunset is beautiful. I love being out here and seeing these waves, the lighting is perfect. NOW, JUST SMILE.

Hey Lucy, look over there. Is that who I think it is AND WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THOSE WAVES? THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT.

Oh, C'MON! STOP BEING SILLY! I'LL make sure you look good. Don't you trust my skills?

The sunset is beautiful. I love being out here and seeing these waves, the lighting is perfect. NOW, JUST SMILE.

Lucy and Ruby can't believe their eyes. It's their swim coach and it looks like he's controlling the water's movement. Ruby's “investigative blogger” instincts take over as she continues snapping photos with her camera phone.
I have no idea how I’m making this happen, but wow, this is amazing! Water can do whatever I tell it to do. Not only is this fun, it’s a great way to train the swim team. We’re definitely going to beat that Thomas A. Edison Middle School at the meet this year!

I always come in second, but not this year. Not with this power! The championship will be mine! Mine I say!

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In the morning, the swim team flies back home. Still confused at what they saw last night, Lucy nor Ruby mention it to the coach or the other swimmers.

WELCOME BACK! HOW WAS THE TRAINING IN CALI? YOU HARDLY SENT ME ANY TEXT MESSAGES. I WAS WORRIED.

KAS, IT WAS BRUTAL! I'VE NEVER SWUM SO HARD IN MY LIFE. IT FELT LIKE THE WATER WAS FIGHTING AGAINST ME WITH EACH LAP.

LET'S MEET UP AFTER SCHOOL; BRING GORDY. RUBY AND I WILL FILL YOU IN.

Later that day, the friends meet up at the Pizza Joint. They tell the guys about the coach’s alleged powers.

SEE LUCY, YOU LOOK GREAT IN THAT PIC. THAT’S DEFINITELY A PROFILE PHOTO.

RUBY, PLEASE FOCUS! WE’RE TRYING TO SEE IF YOU GOT A PICTURE OF COACH MOVING WATER AND HOPEFULY WE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW HE DOES IT.

IF WE HAVE A PICTURE, WE CAN PROVE IT IF WE NEED TO.

IT’S BLURRY, BUT LOOK AT THIS ONE, I DON’T KNOW IF THAT’S WATER GOING THE WRONG WAY OR JUST A SMUDGE.

WELL, IT’S NOT CONVINCING AT ALL. MAYBE IT WAS NOTHING. AND EVEN IF IT WAS SOMETHING, MAYBE IT DOESN’T MATTER, IT’S NOT LIKE HE WAS HURTING ANYONE.
Lucy, You aren’t being very helpful. It’s not like we know he’s going to do anything. So far there have been surprisingly few threats to take over the world or kill us all. He just splashes water around. What exactly do you want us to do?

Super powers are never nothing. Maybe that’s why we had to work twice as hard at swim practice.

If I were a coach and I wanted my team to be fit and work harder, I’d use anything necessary with the water to make them work harder!

His "power" was hurting people. The whole team is on the verge of being injured or worse!

I don’t know! I just know that a coach who has superpowers and an unswerving desire to win is never a good combination.

He’s losing his mind and I’m worried we will all be in the way. Just promise me you will be at the swim meet this Friday and keep an eye out for anything odd.

Ok, ok, calm down. We had planned to be there anyway. Now we’ll be on the lookout for anything strange.

Thanks guys!

Friday’s State Championship Swim Meet features the Nikola Tesla Junior High School Chargers vs. the Thomas A. Edison Middle School Wizards. The schools have a long running and competitive rivalry.

*To find out why Nikola Tesla believes Thomas Edison owes him $50,000; see PhysicsQuest 2008 Nikola Tesla and the Electric Fair
STOP MAKING EXCUSES, LUCY. GET READY FOR THE NEXT RACE! AND JUST TO MAKE CERTAIN OF VICTORY, I WILL BE TO USING MY “SPECIAL” GIFT...

A crazed coach H20 uses his power of water manipulation to attack the other team. He doesn’t stop at the Edison Middle School swimmers. He also goes after the Edison and Tesla Middle School fans. No one is excluded from the chaos.

COACH, YOU WORKED US SO HARD AT PRACTICE THAT ALL OUR SHOULDERS AND LEGS ARE ACHING! I CAN BARELY SWIM!

TO WIN IT ALL!

CHARGERS! I'M NOT HAPPY! LOOK AT THAT SCORE. WHY ARE WE TIED WITH THOSE WIZARDS!

THE SCORE IS TIED BECAUSE OF YOUR WEAK RELAY PERFORMANCE!

JUST ONCE I WOULD LIKE A FAIR RELAY RACE. LAST YEAR I WAS ALMOST BOILED ALIVE. THIS YEAR THE WATER IS GOING THE WRONG WAY! WHY DOES THIS PLACE MAKE IT SO HARD!

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I just felt like I should be ready. We are saving the school, aren’t we? How is a laser supposed to help you move stuff? DUMP IT NOW!

HE HA! DE HA! HA DA! You can’t trap me! FOOLISH CHILDREN, while the Coach is distracted by Spectra, Gordy, Ruby and Kas take the tops off the corn starch and ketchup. The Coach focuses his attention on Spectra and he loses control of the pool’s water. He stumbles and falls back into the pool. Spectra yells, “Gordy, your plan is working.”

The group takes all the ketchup and corn starch they can carry to the pool. Coach attempts to continue his outburst at the aquatic center. He tries to create a vortex and only succeeds in mixing the corn starch, ketchup and water even more. The more he tries to move the water, the thicker the mixture becomes. A LASER CAN’T, but you CAN! aren’t you a swimmer with big arms? Forget the laser stuff and HELP! BTW, why are you in your Spectra outfit?

Everyone dumps the corn starch and ketchup in the water. They make a mess! Hey Coach, over here! If you want to attack someone, attack me! I’m the one that lost the big relay. It’s my fault. We lost! Lucy?!!

BUT GUYS, ISN’T THERE WATER IN KETCHUP? WE’VE GOT TO STOP COACH! I’m not a fan of Edison Middle School either, but he’s really hurting people! He’s too powerful and I don’t know what my laser powers can do against him!

OK! BUT I THINK IT’S TIME FOR SPECTRA TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE!

The quartet of young heroes burst into the school’s kitchen. OK! BUT I THINK IT’S TIME FOR SPECTRA TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE!

YOU’RE RIGHT RUBY, REMEMBER WHAT WE LEARNED IN PHYSICS CLASS. WE’RE JUST GOING TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM, NOT TRAP HIM. WHEN YOU MOVE KETCHUP, IT BECOMES EASIER TO MOVE. LUCY, HELP ME WITH THIS CORN STARCH!
I just felt like I should be ready. We are saving the school, aren't we?

A laser can't, but you can! Aren't you a swimmer with big arms? Forget the laser stuff and help! BTW, why are you in your Spectra Outfit?

Hey coach, over here! If you want to attack someone, attack me! I'm the one that lost the big relay. It's my fault we lost!

Dump it now!

I mean, you can't trap me!

How is a laser supposed to help you move stuff?

The group takes all the corn starch they can carry to the pool.

While the coach is distracted by Spectra, Gordy, Ruby and Kas take the tops off the corn starch.

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Everyone dumps the corn starch into the water. They make a mess!

Foolish children, you can't trap me!

Coach attempts to continue his outburst at the aquatic center. He tries to create a vortex and only succeeds in mixing the corn starch and water even more. The more he tries to move the water, the thicker the mixture becomes.
AParently, this one does.
HA HA HA!
Sorry!

Well, since I'm still suited up! How about I bounce around a bit in different colors for my closing act. Kas, get on the loud speakers and play some music. Let's end with a dance party while we wait for the police to take away Coach H2O!

Uhh, Coach, it's called, Physics!

Huh? But the laws of physics don't apply to me!

I'm glad we stopped him, though I'll miss those vibrant water patterns.

Spectra, weren't you supposed to use your laser powers in this adventure? I mean, the gang has sort of come to expect it, and you do have fans out there that want to see you in action.

The End?