

= Powerless ( Heroes ) =

" Powerless " is the 11th and final episode of the second season of the NBC science fiction drama series Heroes and thirty @-@ fourth episode overall . It was written by co @-@ executive producer Jeph Loeb and directed by executive producer Allan Arkush . The episode aired on December 3 , 2007 as the conclusion of the " Volume 2 : Generations " storyline . It is also the final episode of Heroes that was ready for broadcast prior to the 2007 ? 2008 Writers Guild of America strike , and acted as the season finale pending the resolution of the dispute .

The episode 's main storylines revolve around Peter Petrelli ( Milo Ventimiglia ) and Hiro Nakamura 's ( Masi Oka ) quest to stop the release of the Shanti virus , and Sylar 's ( Zachary Quinto ) attempt to regain his powers . The end of the episode features a brief prologue of the third volume , " Villains " , which features Sylar regaining his powers . Originally , the virus was going to be released , and Tim Kring said that it was to play a big role in Volume 3 . Kring stated that the ending had to be rewritten because they did not know when the show would return to air , and they wanted to make sure that they tied up all the loose ends . " Powerless " was watched by eleven million Americans and received mainly positive reviews from critics , with many saying that it was a positive end to a lackluster season .

= = Plot = =

Peter Petrelli ( Milo Ventimiglia ) and Adam Monroe ( David Anders ) break into the Primatch compound in Odessa to destroy the Shanti virus , a life @-@ threatening disease that prevents evolved humans from using their abilities , ultimately ending in their death . Nathan Petrelli ( Adrian Pasdar ) and Matt Parkman ( Greg Grunberg ) learn the virus 's location from Angela Petrelli ( Cristine Rose ) . Peter uses his powers to pry the vault open by force , and is confronted by Hiro Nakamura ( Masi Oka ) and Matt . Nathan appears and convinces Peter that Adam is trying to release the virus , not destroy it . Adam , already in possession of the virus , lets it fall just before Hiro teleports them both away . Peter enters the vault just in time to telekinetically grab the virus and vaporize it in his hands . Hiro has placed Adam where he " can never hurt anyone ever again " , in a casket buried in a Japanese cemetery .

After Monica Dawson ( Dana Davis ) is captured by a street gang , Micah Sanders ( Noah Gray @-@ Cabey ) turns to his mother Niki ( Ali Larter ) for help . Despite the fact that Niki no longer has her powers due to the virus , she agrees to help . They follow a GPS signal emitted by Monica 's cell phone and find her in an abandoned warehouse . She is tied up and the warehouse is burning around her . Using what remains of her superhuman strength , Niki manages to help Monica escape , but her strength eventually fails and she ends up trapped inside the building as it explodes .

Bob Bishop confronts Noah Bennet ( Jack Coleman ) , telling him that his daughter Claire Bennet ( Hayden Panettiere ) is trying to expose The Company and that they will have to take drastic measures . Claire is packing up her father 's files , when her boyfriend West Rosen arrives to try and stop her from revealing his secret . Angered , she gives him his file and breaks up with him . Noah returns home and tells Claire not to expose The Company , informing her that he has made a deal . He will work for them and in exchange his family will be left alone to lead normal lives .

Sylar reveals his true nature to Maya Herrera ( Dania Ramirez ) after he kidnaps Molly Walker ( Adair Tishler ) and Mohinder Suresh ( Sendhil Ramamurthy ) . While searching her father Bob 's office , Elle Bishop ( Kristen Bell ) discovers a video surveillance feed showing Sylar in Mohinder 's lab . She decides to play the hero in order to get back into her father 's good graces . When Sylar forces Mohinder to restore his powers , Maya learns from Molly that her brother was killed by Sylar himself . When Maya confronts him about this , he shoots her in the chest . Sylar has Mohinder test Claire 's restorative blood by reviving Maya . As she returns to life , Elle enters the laboratory and attacks Sylar . He escapes , but takes the blood with him .

Nathan calls a press meeting after deciding to expose the nature of the heroes and The Company . As he is about to announce his ability to fly , he is shot in the chest by an unknown assailant . Angela Petrelli watches a television news report about her son 's attack as she speaks to an

unidentified person on the phone . She calmly and firmly states that she understands the reason for the attack on Nathan , but that the assassination attempt has " opened Pandora 's box " .

= = = Volume Three : Villains = = =

Following the end of Volume Two , the third volume , " Villains " , begins with a brief prologue . Sylar , bloodied and hurt from Elle 's attack , injects himself with the supply of Claire 's blood that he took from Mohinder . His wounds heal immediately , and he is able to use his telekinetic abilities . The scene ends with Sylar stating with an evil grin , " I 'm back " .

= = Production = =

The episode was originally conceived to be the conclusion of " Generations " , the second volume in the series , as Kring wanted to have shorter volumes than in season one . As such , " Powerless " was timed to coincide with the Heroes winter hiatus . With the interruption in production as a result of the Writers ' Strike , Kring re @-@ wrote elements of the episode to act as " a de facto season finale " if there were no additional episodes the second season .

Allan Arkush and Kring revealed in an interview on The Post Show that many parts of the finale were re @-@ shot due to the Writers ' Strike . Kring and Arkush commented that they re @-@ shot the scene in which Peter telekenetically caught the virus . In the original cut , the virus was to shatter and be released . Kring admitted that the virus being released was to play a huge role in Volume 3 , however , they decided to go into a different direction and re @-@ shoot the ending , allowing Peter to catch the virus and destroy it . Kring also commented that the scenes where Matt , Peter and Nathan were talking in the vault were rewritten in and added later , as well as the Press Conference scene and the scene with Angela Petrelli talking on the cell phone . Kring and Arkush stated that the ending had to be rewritten and re @-@ shot because they did not know when the show would return to air , due to the Writer 's Strike , and they wanted to make sure that they tied up all the loose ends .

As of the end of this episode , the status of three main characters remained undetermined . Niki Sanders was last seen inside a burning building which subsequently exploded , and Nathan Petrelli was shot while attempting to speak out against the Company . Their fates were left intentionally ambiguous because the writers were unsure of whether they wanted to proceed with Niki and Nathan 's characters ; decisions were made following the Writers ' Strike resolution . As for the fate of Adam Monroe , Kring was more direct , saying " we 've given the audience no reason to believe that Adam can figure a way to get out of there . The fact that he can live forever makes this the most gruesome of internments . If this happened to any of us , at least we 'd know we 'd soon have the mercy of death . Not here . " Two of the series ' villains also saw changes . Elle 's decision to take on Sylar gave her a chance to use her abilities to help rather than to hurt people . Kring says " she 's been given an opportunity to use her powers in a good way . And she absolutely likes the sound of that word ' hero ' . " Sylar 's use of the stolen sample of Claire Bennet 's blood led to the restoration of his abilities . According to Kring , " Sylar getting his power back does not bode well for our heroes . " Originally , Sylar was not supposed to get his abilities back due to Zachary Quinto 's commitment to the new Star Trek film . However , due to the Writers ' Strike , Quinto completed his role in the film by the time Heroes returned to production .

= = Reception = =

" Powerless " was viewed live or recorded and watched within six hours of broadcast by 11 @. @ 06 million Americans , ranking seventeenth in the weekly charts .

Robert Canning of IGN felt that this episode was " exciting [ and ] pulse @-@ pounding " , being " the best episode of the season " . He continued by saying that it " almost made you forget the sub @-@ par episodes [ you ] had to sit through to get [ there ] " , and hoped it would be a set @-@ up for a " powerful , more consistent Volume Three " . He ended his review by giving the episode 9

@.@ 5 out of 10 , the highest rating he had given for the second season . Stephen Lackey of Mania gave the episode an " A " grading , though he felt it was " rushed overall " and thought the virus story was not as powerful as the explosion story in season one . Jason Hughes of TV Squad also felt that the stage was set for a good third volume , which he hoped would " get even darker and more dangerous " . Sean Elliott of If gave the episode a " B " grading , saying it was an " anti @-@ climactic ending to an uninspired second season " . He liked Kristen Bell 's character Elle , saying she was " interesting " , and " worth exploring and developing " . He said that his favourite part of the episode was that the " season [ was ] finally over " , and that it was " time to clean the slate and start with something better " . Robin Brownfield of SyFy Portal called it a " great finale " and said that " there were lots of twists [ she ] did not see coming " . Sean O 'Neal of The A.V. Club gave the episode a A- .