

The Offer

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The Offer

by [perachdavida](#)

Summary

Hayden's awesome wife Jackie makes a beautiful offer to Shane and Ilya, a year after the end of The Long Game.

Notes

While not strictly necessary, my Shane/Ilya fics are all conceptually linked and are best enjoyed in chronological order, which is as follows:

The Interview

The Offer

Two Are More Than Twice As Much Work As One

A Day In Disney

Date Night

First Day Of School

A Perfect Christmas

The Mouse House

The Hit

Family Hockey Game

The Changeling

Sasha's Story

Shane and Ilya walked up the pathway to Hayden and Jackie's house, feeling a little uneasy. Hayden had asked them to come over after their game in Montreal, so the four of them could talk about an idea Jackie had. Shane couldn't imagine what this was in regards to. An idea for the camp? A proposal for a joint vacation? A request to help with the kids somehow? Maybe they wanted Shane and Ilya to take all four kids for a weekend. Hayden and Jackie knew they had started looking into adoption. Maybe they thought Shane and Ilya should get a dose of real world parenting to make sure they didn't change their minds?

"I can hear you worrying from over here," Ilya said. "Relax, Hollander. Our friends invited us over for a chat. This is not...what do you call it, the thing that chops off your head?"

Shane turned to him with a bemused expression on his face. "A guillotine? What the fuck, Ilya."

"Yes! We are not marching to the guillotine. We are hanging out with friends. It will be fine."

"You don't find this weird?"

Ilya shrugged nonchalantly. "Hayden is weird. Who cares?"

Shane opened his mouth to retort when the door swung open and Hayden appeared. "Hey! Welcome. Good to see you." He gave Shane a hug and a pat on the back and then paused a moment before also giving Ilya a hug. Ilya chuckled. "Hello Hayden. Good to see you."

"Yeah. You too. So come on in. Jackie's in the kitchen. The kids are playing outside. We wanted to chat with you alone and then if you're up for it, stay and have some barbecue with us."

As they entered the kitchen, they saw Jackie chopping vegetables at the sink. "Hey guys! Welcome." She stepped over and kissed and hugged both of them. "So good to see you. I heard it was a great game."

"Yeah. It was a nail biter until the end," Shane offered, unsure if small talk or a more direct approach was better.

Ilya spoke up. "What Shane really wants to say is that he's freaking out about why you wanted to talk to us so I think you should, uh, put him out of his misery, yes?"

Shane winced and muttered, "That was tactful."

"No he's right," Jackie said. "Please sit down," she offered, waving at the kitchen table. They sat and looked at her, Ilya with curiosity and Shane with concern. "I know you've been talking to Hayden about how you're looking into adoption, and what a difficult process it is. How it could take years. Navigating all the different options." She inhaled a deep breath. "So we wanted to make you an offer. We totally understand if you say no, but we wanted to put it out there."

Shane and Ilya looked at each other uneasily. Ilya nodded for her to go ahead.

“Adoption is a wonderful thing, but we wanted you to know that there’s another option. I would carry a baby for you if you want.”

There was dead silence. Shane was stunned. Ilya was speechless, literally; English words vanishing from his mind. Shane tentatively said, “Come again?”

Hayden grabbed Jackie’s hand and she smiled. “I was thinking. You know that I had my tubes tied after Amber was born. I absolutely loved being pregnant, but four kids was more than enough for us to handle. And so if you were to get an egg donor, I would be willing to carry the baby for you. My tubes being tied doesn’t interfere with that. And that way if you wanted, instead of waiting to see if and when an adoption pans out, you could have a baby that’s biologically yours. Or even twins. I had no trouble carrying Jade and Ruby, so I’m certain I’d be able to do that again.”

Shane and Ilya just stared at each other uncomprehendingly before turning back to Jackie and Hayden. “Jackie,” Shane said quietly, tears pooling in the corner of his eyes, “that’s the most generous offer I could imagine. Thank you so much. You can’t know how much we appreciate it. But I feel like that’s something we all really have to think about and talk through. I wouldn’t want you to regret anything.”

“Of course. There would be a lot of details to work out. Nothing is happening tomorrow. But I can’t see myself regretting anything. Like I said, I loved being pregnant. It would be nice to get the joy of a pregnancy without another baby to take care of at the end of it. And watching you be able to have something that you want so badly would be its own reward. It’s a win-win all around.”

Shane and Ilya turned back to each other, this time with hope shining in their eyes.

“A baby who looks like you,” Ilya said dreamily.

“A baby who looks like YOU,” Shane said tearily.

Hayden shrugged. “Or one of each. Why not? Might as well go for it.”

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