

Meeting the team

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Meeting the team

by [WeirdV](#)

Summary

Ilya brings Shane to a team event for the first time - they haven't told anyone he wants to join the team next season. But Ilya can finally bring him as his plus one - and he will take advantage of that.

Notes

See the end of the work for [notes](#)

Caitlin is the first to greet them when they arrive at Zane's barbeque. She smiles brightly and hugs Shane, "It's so nice to finally meet you" she tells him, and she absolutely means it. Ilya is standing next to him, a dumb grin on his face as he kisses Caitlin's cheek in greeting, "Caitlin, looking beautiful as always" he says, making her blush. She can't handle a compliment, even now she knows he means absolutely nothing by it. She'd asked her husband so many questions after the video leaked, until he finally relented and said that he would probably be at the next team event and she could ask them herself. Which she obviously would not do, because she was not a weirdo.

"Ilya, Shane" Evan nods at them as he joins his wife - it's a no kids event today. So he's enjoying an evening with his wife, "Took you long enough to finally join."

"I was almost taking it personally" Zane says, "Of course now we know the real reason I can't really blame you. I would also dump these guys in a heartbeat if I had to scrounge for time with my wife."

"That is very kind of you to say" Ilya grins, "Now secret is out you will see us so much you will get sick of us."

They greet the other players and their partners, and then find a seat by the fire pit. Ilya can't help himself from pulling Shane into his lap and kissing his hair, feeling giddy with being able to show him off.

"So, what do you think?" Cassie asks her husband as he stands by the grill, "I know it was a bit strange at first but seeing them now?"

"He looks so fucking happy" Zane says, glancing at the couple, "Like, it seemed weird reconciling the idea of them together with twelve years of media telling me they're enemies. But just look at them, that's cute as fuck?"

"He looks smitten" she agrees, "Did you know Shane is learning Russian?"

"Seriously?" he glances over his shoulder again, "How do you know that?"

"He just answered Rozanov in Russian when he asked something" she says, blushing slightly, "I think it might have been slightly inappropriate because Shane was Blushing furiously when he said it."

"That does sound like something Ilya would do" Zane agrees, "Can you set out the vegetables please? The chicken is almost done."

She nods and disappears into the kitchen.

"Shane, Ilya" Wyatt hugs them both, and then his wife, Lisa, does the same, before sitting down next to them.

“You’ve had an interesting few weeks, I guess” Lisa says, smiling at the couple.

“That’s one way to put it” Shane says, Ilya snorts at that and easily agrees.

“I’m sorry about the voyagers being such dicks to you” Lisa tells him, “You didn’t deserve that treatment.”

“Thank you”

“Any plans yet for next season?”

He glances at Ilya, who just smiles, “There’s a few ideas” he tells her, “Nothing certain yet.”

“Well, hopefully you find a good team” she says, “Now, enough about that. I want to know more about this thing.”

“You mean us?” Ilya asks, holding onto Shane’s hand, “You are very curious?”

“I’m kind of perplexed” she shrugs, “I think I figured out a few things. But I’m just - I like to know things.”

“Okay, I love to know. What do you think you know? We will confirm or deny”

“Okay” she leans in, “So, first I figured you came to Ottawa to be closer to Shane. BUt I think you were already a thing before that - my guess is starting the charity was also partly to have people get used to you guys being around each other.”

“You are very clever” Ilya grins, “Why you with idiot like Wyatt?”

“Sush you” Shane says, elbowing his boyfriend, “Go on”

“Now, I do remember when you were injured and Ilya was pretty freaked out” she goes on, “So I think you were already something at that moment. So my guess is you’ve been a couple - or at least something - for 8 years? Give or take?”

“It’s funny how nobody else noticed from that footage after I got hit,” Shane says, “I was talking to you, calling you Ilya. I saw the video only a few months ago for the first time.”

“It was very scary” Ilya agrees. “Any more theories?”

“No, that’s about it. Give me a clue here?”

“He told me I shouldn’t smoke there and I haven’t stopped thinking about those freckles since” Ilya says, smiling softly at Shane.

“That doesn’t really give us a time frame” Cassie sighs, “But that is romantic as fuck.”

“Ilya is secretly a romantic” Shane says, “Have you seen his instagram?”

“Yeah - it’s very strange” Wyatt Hayes says, “What’s up with the plastic rings?”

“Oh, is from our wedding” he says, making Wyatt spit out his beer, “Very sweet.”

“What Ilya means” Shane says, “Is that last time we babysat Hayden’s kids, his daughters decided we should get married and set up a little pretend wedding for us.”

“What you mean, pretend?” Ilya scowls, enjoying this little banter, “We are not married?”

“Not yet”

“Ah yes, summer” Ilya sighs happily, pulling Shane in for a kiss and making Wyatt spit up his beer again.

“I’m sorry, what now?”

“Yeah, keep your eyes open for an invite” Shane says, “Don’t pretend you didn’t know, you must have seen the ring on Ilya’s neck?”

“I mean - sure, but I just didn’t really connect the dots I guess” he admits, “Congrats, you guys!”

“Yes, congratulations. Now can we get back to that timeline?”

“I have to confess I’m also very curious” Wyatt says, “Where did you first feel the spark? Was it a bar, were you drunk?”

“We weren’t even allowed to drink” Shane tells them offhandedly, closing his eyes for a second as Ilya kisses him behind his ear.

“Hold the fuck up” Cassia says, “You were still minors? Like, seventeen?”

“You guys started dating at 17?”

“Not dating” Ilya says, “Spark. You asked when we had spark.”

“So when did you start acting on the spark?”

“Oh, uhm” Shane is blushing, furiously, and it’s still one of Ilya’s favourite things to witness.

“A year later” Ilya says, “We were together for the first time.”

“So - it started as something - physical?”

“Kinda” Shane admits reluctantly.

“How even?” Boob asks as he joins the conversation, “You were on the road most of the time, and in two different cities.”

“A lot of sneaking around” Ilya explains, “So much sneaking around.”

“Mostly hiding and keeping secrets from everyone”

“Pretending to hate each other?”

“Oh no we definitely hated each other” Shane says, “But maybe that was just me also still hating myself a little bit for being gay.”

“Ouch”

“It’s okay now” Shane smiles, “Don’t worry.”

“OKay, so you were - ahum - having sex. But when did you become an actual thing?” Lisa asks, taking the plate of food her husband hands her.

“When my father died” Ilya says, “Shane was there for me.”

“After I got hit on the ice, I asked Ilya to come to my cottage for the summer” he continues.

“I was going to say no” Ilya admits, and Shane stares at him.

“What?” he asks, suddenly feeling cold, “You weren’t going to come?”

“Of course not, sweetheart” he sighs, “I was too scared.”

“What changed?” Cassie asks.

“Scott Hunter” Shane and Ilya answer at the same time, exchanging another look.

“That summer, we decided to give it an actual try” Shane says, “We came up with the plan. Ilya playing for Ottawa to be closer, starting the charity to get the public used to us.”

“What about your parents? When did they find out?”

“Ah, David walked in on us” Ilya says, unable to keep himself from laughing, “So they knew about a few days after we were official.”

“And?”

“They were amazing” Shane smiles, “Honestly - I was so scared and they just - accepted it. They love Ilya, he does puzzles with my dad and my mom is teaching him our family recipes. He’s family.”

“You know, when that video leaked it was very strange to picture you two together - but seeing you it feels very natural.”

“I just don’t get why you decided to go after the one guy everyone said wasn’t an option”

“It wasn’t really a choice” Ilya says, “Have you seen these freckles?”

He leans over again, softly kissing his cheek - and the aforementioned freckles.

“Damn - you really are a softy”

“We already knew this” Bood tells Cassie, “You’ve seen him with the kids.”

“Ilya is great with kids” Shane agrees, “Can’t wait until -.”

He cuts himself off before finishing the sentence, feeling like he’s saying too much all of the sudden.

“Okay, one more question?” Lisa says, “If this has been a thing for 12 years - what was happening when you were dating Rose Landry?”

“Right” Wyatt nods, “What was that all about?”

“Hollander got scared because I called him Shane” Ilya says, “Hadn’t done that before.”

“I’m sorry” Cassie laughs, “You’re telling me that for years of hooking up you just called each other by your last names?”

“Shut up” Shane says, blushing, “Rose is still a great friend - she was the first person I came out to. Well, technically - she grabbed me by the collar and dragged me out of the closet I guess”

“Rose is great” Ilya agrees, “You will meet her at the wedding.”

“You’re still friends?” Lisa asks, Shane nods, “That’s awesome! I love her, she always seems so genuine.”

“She is” Shane agrees, “I wouldn’t have been brave enough to come out if it wasn’t for her.”

“You know - I remember right after you guys broke up it was the all star weekend” Boodram says, “And you did seem to be getting along pretty good. The press was loving it. So you were sneaking around then as well?”

“Not really great with people knocking on the door asking Rozanov to come out and go party with them” Shane says, “But it was a good weekend.”

“The best.”

“I can’t believe you guys have been hiding this secret for 12 years” Lisa says again, “It must have been so hard. I can’t even imagine.”

“How do you even do that?”

“Fake names in phones”

“Wait” Wyatt points at Shane, “Wait a fucking minute - you’re the Jane he’s been texting?”

“Oh damn, ofcourse he is” Chouinard says, “It fucking rhymes and everything”

“I thought it was so obvious” Ilya says, “But luckily my teammates are idiots!”

“We were also kinda certain you were straight so” Chouinard tells him, “That helped your case a lot.”

“It’s also deleting photos” Ilya says, sounding sad, “So they don’t accidentally get out.”

“You mean to tell us that you have no photos of you guys as a couple from the last decade?”

“There’s a few” Shane says, “Those selfies from that award show.”

“You mean the terrible sketch where you presented that best sportsmanship award?” Lisa asks, “But you weren’t a couple yet?”

“We were not”

“So - you’ve been in love with him for a lot longer than you were willing to admit.”

“No comment”

“Had to delete every cute selfie he sent me” Shane sighs, still stuck on the pain of having to do so, “So many cute selfies.”

“Well I will send more and you can keep them now” Ilya says, pulling Shane in for a kiss, letting his hand travel down his back, “YA tak sil’no tebya lyublyu”

“YA tebya lyublyu” Shane mutters back.

“Okay this is too sweet for me to handle” Dykstra says, “And I’m hungry.”

“Yes, food” Ilya agrees, “Enough questions.”

He gets up, pulling Shane with him, to load up a plate.

“Is is what you hoped it would be like?” Shane asks him softly, “Being here, together?”

“Is even better” Ilya says, “But also cannot wait to get home and take you to bed.”

“Let’s eat and then head out?” Shane suggests, earning him another wide open smile from his fiancée.

“You have the best ideas, moy lyubovnik”

End Notes

Christmas break has started. I've been rewatching episode 5 more than is probably healthy but they did a really great adaptation from the books and I loved it. It was also spot on with what I hoped the timing would be like and I'm really hoping we get the dinner party with Hayden in episode six as well bc I loved that chapter in the book so much.

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