

the support group

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](https://archiveofourown.org/works/76653761) at <https://archiveofourown.org/works/76653761>.

Rating:	Not Rated
Archive Warning:	Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings
Category:	M/M
Fandom:	Heated Rivalry (TV)
Relationship:	Shane Hollander/Ilya Rozanov
Characters:	Cliff Marlow , Hayden Pike
Additional Tags:	Texting , Frenemies , Relationship Reveal , Humor , spreading the gospel of hayden&cliff bestism
Language:	English
Series:	Part 6 of ways they didn't find out , Part 1 of the unexpected besties of the MHL
Collections:	hollanov for the heart <3 , so obsessed i might actually watch hockey , Relationship Reveal HR , *Heated rivalry melts my heart*
Stats:	Published: 2026-01-05 Completed: 2026-01-06 Words: 3,744 Chapters: 2/2

the support group

by [goldengalaxies](#)

Summary

Hayden

I just called Shane. Pretty sure Roz was giving him head on the other side. Just a warning for you.

Cliff

Ha!

Hayden

My suffering is not funny.

Cliff

Thanks for the heads up

Cliff

Get it?

Hayden

I'm blocking you

(cliff & hayden's guide to surviving hollanov)

Notes

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

Chapter 1

Hayden

Hayden was pretty sure that the blood on Marlow's face was from his knuckles.

What the fuck was the guy even doing here?

He scowled across the waiting room, hoping Marlow would take the hint. Hayden had only just arrived because he'd had to call Yuna and David before leaving the rink. Apparently they were on their way soon, but they were still a few hours out. So Hayden had quickly made his way over to the hospital.

Unfortunately, it was apparently only one visitor at a time, and someone was already in there. Who it was, Hayden had no idea.

Marlow seemed to notice the disdainful look Hayden was giving him, because he spoke up, sounding annoyed. "Look, man, I'm really sorry about Hollander and I hope he's okay but relax. It's hockey. Shit happens."

"Why are you even here, then?" Hayden shot back.

Marlow huffed. "Captain's orders."

"What?"

Marlow shrugged. "Yeah, Cap's real fucking pissed at me."

"You're telling me that Rozanov asked you to come check on Shane?" Hayden said, his tone dubious.

It wasn't unheard of, players visiting their opponents after particularly bad hits, but this was *Rozanov*. He was the asshole who'd knocked out two of Hayden's teeth, and he certainly hadn't personally visited to make sure Hayden was alright.

Marlow shrugged. "It was a pretty bad hit. And I really do hope Hollander is okay, man. Trust me, I didn't do it on purpose."

"I know." Hayden would never accuse another player of purposely sending someone to hospital. Most of the guys were good, decent guys, and hockey was a rough game.

"Anyway, I think you got your payback already, dude." Marlow grinned, gesturing to the huge black and purple shiner that was covering his left eye.

Hayden grinned back. "Yeah. Guess I have to forgive you now."

A few minutes passed in silence, thankfully less tense than before.

Hayden checked his phone. On seeing the multiple texts from Yuna asking for updates on her son, he groaned, glancing at the clock.

Whoever the fuck was in there needed to hurry up.

“You know who’s in there with him now? I tried to go straight in but they said it’s one visitor at a time. And I need to get updates for Shane’s parents.”

Marlow looked confused for a moment. “Oh, shit. I guess forgot to say, but - Roz is in there right now.”

”*What?*”

“Yeah, he wanted to go in and apologise first, as Captain, and then he said I can go in.”

Hayden just stared at him.

What the fuck?

Well, there was no possible way that Ilya Rozanov actually had good intentions in doing this. So fuck the rules, Hayden was going to go find his best friend.

He stormed down the hall, ignoring Marlow’s shout behind him.

He got to the door and almost burst through when something stopped him cold. Behind him, Marlow smacked straight into his back, as he’d not expected Hayden to freeze to a dead stop in the middle of the hall.

“Bro, what the *fuck?*”

But Hayden couldn’t respond. Because, through the glass window, he could see his best friend reaching up to pull Ilya *fucking* Rozanov into a deep, frantic kiss.

Hayden

Hey this is Hayden.

Hayden

Hayden Pike

Hayden

Just thought after what we witnessed the other day I'd get your number.

Hayden

I know we didn’t really have a proper discussion on what we saw but I want you to guarantee you won’t tell anyone.

Hayden

Also, watched the game back and Shane was looking behind him, totally not your fault, I'm sorry.

Hayden

Guess now we know who he was looking at, huh?

Cliff

Hey Pike, all good here. My lips are sealed.

Cliff

LOL

Cliff

Has Hollander said anything to you about Rozy yet?

Hayden

No.

Hayden

I'm waiting for him to bring it up to me.

Hayden

Jackie says not to rush him until he's ready to come out on his own.

Hayden

And that we're assholes for spying.

Hayden

Jackie's my wife BTW.

Cliff

Yeah my girlfriend Emma said the same about Roz.

Cliff

Guess we'll have to wait for them to tell us themselves.

Cliff

Surely it won't be that long.

Cliff

This is random but how long do you think this has been going on?

Hayden

Idk.

Hayden

He never even told me he was gay.

Hayden

I mean he was super cagey about this girl Lily for ages.

Hayden

Starting to suspect it was a guy.

Hayden

But that only stopped just before Rose.

Hayden

So I'm guessing since All Stars??

Cliff

You are a moron.

Hayden

????????????????

Hayden

Go fuck yourself Marlow.

Cliff

Lily...

Cliff

Sound familiar???

Hayden

Oh my GOD.

Hayden

Ilya

Cliff

Well done for catching on, smart guy.

Hayden

FU.

Cliff

Okay sorry.

Cliff

I'll admit I only realised that Ilya's 'Montreal Girl' called 'Jane' was Shane like 2 days ago.

Cliff

Bit embarrassing.

Hayden

I guess we're both morons.

Cliff

But this means its been going on for years!!

Cliff

I mean, Roz was texting 'Jane' back in his Rook year.

Hayden

WHAT

Hayden

Holy shit???

Hayden

I only noticed Shane was texting Lily since idk maybe like 2015???

Hayden

Since rookie year...

Hayden

Motherfuckers.

Hayden

Holy shit did you just see that???

Hayden

Scott motherfucking Hunter!!!

Cliff

I know!

Hayden

Do you think it will change things?

Hayden

With you know.

Hayden

What we know.

Cliff

Fuck knows.

Cliff

I fucking hope so, I can't contain this secret for much longer.

Cliff

I mean, Hollander and Rozanov?? This is the news of the century and we can't fucking tell anyone.

Cliff

I texted him about Scott the other day. Thought maybe he'd at least tell me he's into dudes.

Cliff

No such luck.

Cliff

He just said Hunter should be arrested for cradle robbing...

Cliff

LOL

Hayden



Cliff

Come on, that was pretty funny.

Hayden

I like Hunter.

Hayden

He's a nice guy.

Cliff



Cliff

Roz being cagey about where he's going this summer, any insider information??

Hayden

Interesting...

Cliff

???

Hayden

Shane just texted saying he's going on a 'silent retreat' for two weeks.

Hayden

AKA not to be disturbed

Hayden

AKA calls only

Cliff

And you're supposed to believe that?

Cliff

Your boy is a shit liar.

Cliff

LOL

Hayden

Leave him alone!

Hayden

But yes, he's a dumbass if he thinks he's getting away with this silent retreat lie.

Hayden

You think Rozanov is going to Shane's cottage for the summer?

Cliff

Big step.

Cliff

Aw

Cliff

They'd be cute if they weren't ruining my life.

Hayden

Fucking tell me about it.

Hayden

Erm.

Hayden

I need help.

Hayden

Brain bleach if you have it.

Hayden

Possibly therapy...

Cliff

???????

Hayden

Do not under any circumstances call Rozanov.

Cliff

?????

Cliff

Explain.

Hayden

I just called Shane.

Hayden

Pretty sure Roz was giving him head on the other side.

Hayden

Just a warning for you.

Cliff

Ha!

Hayden

My suffering is not funny.

Cliff

Hahaha

Cliff

Thanks for the heads up.

Cliff

Get it?

Hayden

I'm blocking you.

Cliff

LOL

Cliff

Hey

Hayden

Hi?

Cliff

Hollander said anything to you about the cottage?

Cliff

Rozy's lips are sealed.

Cliff

I thought for sure them taking this big step would mean them telling us.

Hayden

I KNOW

Hayden

I don't know how much longer I can keep this a secret.

Hayden

IM DYING MARLEAU

Hayden

DYING

Cliff

You need to chill.

Hayden

How can I when I know my bestfriend is secretly fucking Ilya fucking Rozanov????

Hayden

That information haunts me, Marlow.

Hayden

And I can't even discuss with anyone except you!!!!

Hayden

And Jackie, but she's no help.

Hayden

She doesn't understand how evil Rozanov is!!!

Cliff

...

Cliff

Rozy just told me he's moving to Ottawa next year????

Cliff

????????????????

Cliff

Fucking Ottawa

Cliff

Did you know about this?

Cliff

Pike.

Hayden

WTF!!!

Hayden

Are you sure he's not fucking with you??

Cliff

He was dead serious.

Hayden

Are you sure?

Hayden

This is Rozanov we're talking about.

Hayden

He's an asshole just for the fun of it.

Cliff

Hey!

Cliff

I was gonna defend my boy but you're actually not wrong so...

Hayden

Exactly

Hayden

So.

Hayden

Ottawa...

Hayden

Surely this can't be real.

Cliff

I just asked Coach.

Cliff

Apparently this is not a joke.

Cliff

Management is PISSED.

Hayden

Somehow not surprised.

Hayden

Can't imagine any team would be happy about losing their best player.

Hayden

FUCK

Hayden

FUCK

Hayden

Pretend you never saw that.

Hayden

That never happened.

Cliff

...

Cliff

Knew you were a secret fan.

Cliff

You want a jersey for Christmas? I'll mail it to you, special order :)

Hayden

If you send me a Rozanov jersey I will burn it to ash.

Hayden

Going back to the Rozanov moving to Ottawa news...

Hayden

This has got to be for Shane, surely.

Hayden

Right??

Cliff

100%

Cliff

I tried to get Roz to admit it but no such luck.

Hayden

This is INSANE!

Hayden

Proud of my boy.

Hayden

He has this man WHIPPEDDDDDDD.

Cliff

Unfortunately you are not wrong.

Cliff

It's actually embarrassing how whipped this man is.

Cliff

And I can't even make fun of him for it!

Cliff

And we've lost our best player!!!!

Cliff

(as confirmed by you, Hayden Pike)

Cliff

This is torture.

Cliff

I actually think their relationship is going to kill me.

Hayden

Now who's being dramatic...

Hayden

Welcome to the club ;)

Cliff

This fucking sucks.

Cliff

Everyone's freaking out about the press conference man.

Cliff

What are you saying to your guys about it?

Hayden

Nothing.

Hayden

Don't want to give anything away.

Hayden

I'm terrible with secrets.

Hayden

Best thing is to keep the mouth shut.

Cliff

This is stressing me out.

Cliff

Everyone is so confused.

Cliff

I think the guys think the charity is cool and everything.

Cliff

But announcing a friendship with Hollander?

Cliff

They're freaking out.

Hayden

I know right!!

Hayden

The team hasn't stopped talking about it ALL DAY and I'm dying.

Hayden

Fuck someone just asked me if I knew they were friends.

Hayden

I just said no but I don't think I was very convincing.

Hayden

I'm not a good liar, okay?

Hayden

Marlow.

Hayden

I'm cracking under the pressure.

Hayden

God, this is so stressful.

Hayden

I want to kill these fuckers for putting me through this.

Hayden

Hey

Hayden

I just asked Shane outright if he's with Rozanov.

Hayden

And he just fucking told me.

Hayden

Just like that!

Hayden

Apparently it was as easy as that...

Hayden

All that stress of keeping their secret.

Hayden

And these grey hairs I got were for NOTHING!!!

Cliff

You've got to be fucking kidding me.

Chapter 2

Chapter Notes

part one of this chapter is for @phoenixpixie who commented asking my muses to do their work on the whole fanmail-gate incident, and part two is for @lila_Luna who requested a part 2 of hayden/cliff bestism at the wedding, and also @unfinishedduets, @ifitisntpassionthenwhat, @madrey7 & @anewdaysend who threw their votes in for this idea. i hope this lives up to expectations ;)

You have (1) missed call from Cliff Marlow.

You have (2) missed calls from Cliff Marlow.

You have (3) missed calls from Cliff Marlow.

Cliff

I know it's late in Montreal but pick up the fucking phone, Pike.

Hayden Pike has notifications silenced. Notify anyway.

Cliff

Pike.

Cliff

Pike!!!!

Cliff

Wake the fuck up.

Hayden

Fucking hell Marlow I have a newborn that doesn't bother me this much.

Hayden

It's half four in the fucking morning.

Hayden

You better have a good reason for waking me up.

Cliff

Are you fucking joking????

Cliff

Have you not been online???

Cliff

Go on fucking twitter right now.

Hayden

Holy fucking shit

Hayden

Fuck

Hayden

Fuck

Hayden

Fuck

Hayden

Fuck I need to call Shane. I'll call you in a bit.

Hayden

He's not picking up. Anything from Roz????

Cliff

No.

Hayden

They're probably asleep.

Hayden

Fuck. Is there any way we can get this taken down?? I've reported every video I've seen but should I like call someone??

Hayden

Why am I so shit at social media

Hayden

How do you even get a video taken down??

Cliff

Dude, it's all over the internet.

Cliff

The original video got 1.5 mill views.

Cliff

There's no going back now.

Cliff

Sorry to break it to you.

Hayden

Fuck.

Hayden

They'll know that I didn't mean to do this right?

Hayden

Like I would never have done this on purpose.

Hayden

I swear.

Cliff

Dude, relax. I believe you.

Cliff

We've kept this secret for years.

Cliff

It's fucking Brad's fault, not yours.

Hayden

Who the fuck is Brad??

Hayden

Oh.

Hayden

Right. Fan mail guy.

Hayden

What a fucking dick!

Hayden

Fucking Brad

Hayden

We kept this secret for years and Brad doesn't even wait a day??

Hayden

Why do people have to SUCK?

Hayden

God, what the fuck am I gonna tell Shane

Hayden

Cliff, I'm freaking out here

Hayden

What if he never talks to me again???

Cliff

Hayden. Fucking relax.

Cliff

What happened is fucked up.

Cliff

But there's no way Hollander will blame you for this.

Cliff

He's too nice.

Cliff

Trust me, it'll be fine, bro. Just try and talk to him.

Hayden

Okay. Going over in the morning if they don't answer by 9am.

Cliff

Good idea.

Hayden

Thanks for letting me know.

Cliff

I would say anytime, but let's not repeat this...

Cliff

LOL

Hayden

Not the fucking time, bro.

Cliff

Fair enough.

Cliff

Good luck tomorrow.

Cliff

Call if you need back up.

Hayden

Thanks.

Hayden Pike has unsilenced his notifications.

Hayden

Fuck I just took my phone off DND and literally the entire team has texted me.

Hayden

What the fuck do I say?

Hayden

Fuck, some of them are PISSED.

Hayden

Mostly everyone's just confused as fuck.

Hayden

What the fuck do I do?

Hayden

I shouldn't say anything before talking to Shane and Roz, right?

Cliff Marlow liked this message.

Cliff

Tell them they're gonna get fuckin battered by me next game if they've got anything to say.

Cliff

That will shut them up.

Hayden

Not helpful.

Cliff

You asked for solutions???

Hayden

Thanks, but I think I'll choose literally any other option!

Hayden

Oh, wait, I take it back.

Hayden

I think battering should be the solution, actually.

Hayden

I'm about to fight my own fucking team, care to join?

Hayden

I know it's been weeks and things are settling down but can I just say

Hayden

Fuck. Brad.

Cliff

LOL

Cliff

Fuck Brad!!!

Cliff

Heard Hollander's moving to Ottawa?

Hayden

Where did you hear this??

Cliff

Where'd you think

Cliff

Roz is fucking elated

Cliff

Meanwhile now we have to go up against Roz and Hollander on the same line...

Cliff

Is it too early to retire?

Hayden

You're fucking telling me.

Hayden

Honestly

Hayden

The fucking thanks we get

Hayden

We kept their secret for years and now this is what we get

Hayden

We deserve better

Cliff

Well...

Cliff

Some of us deserve better

Cliff

Others of us should be banned from posting on social media...

Hayden

Uncalled for.

Cliff

Hey I just got the invite to the wedding.

Cliff

It's in three weeks???

Cliff

Macy's losing her shit trying to find a dress.

Hayden

Jackie thinks they're insane.

Hayden

I mean three weeks seems enough time

Hayden

Like what do you need except tuxes and a priest or whatever, but what do I know?

Cliff

Jesus.

Hayden

What?

Cliff

How are you the married one?

Hayden Pike disliked this message.

Hayden

Jackie's asked who you're bringing so she can add her to the girls group chat.

Cliff

Share contact.

Katie: 02876 7780 90

Hayden

Errrrr

Hayden

What happened to Macy???

Cliff

Not the one.

Hayden

Jesus.

Hayden

Am I now going to be victimised by your love life as well?

Cliff

Fuck off.

Cliff

Not all of us can meet our fucking soulmate at 19.

Cliff

Prick.

Hayden

True :)

Hayden

I am very lucky.

Cliff

And you say Roz is whipped...

Hayden

Jackie wants me to check it is still Katie that you're bringing to the wedding.

Hayden

LOL

Cliff

Yes.

Cliff

And don't pretend this is Jackie asking, I know this is just you finishing for gossip.

Cliff

It's almost like you miss the stress...

Hayden

Never.

Cliff

Whatever.

Cliff

Will be good to see you (not on the ice) after all these years.

Hayden Pike liked this message.

Cliff

Cliff saw Hayden and whooped. "*Pike!*"

Hayden grinned when he spotted him. "Fucking Marlow!"

Cliff made his way through the crowd to a small group of Hollander's friends and a few Centaurs. He only recognised Hayes, the goalie, and Boodram, who he'd briefly met at an awards show once.

Hollander was standing next to Roz, both of them looking dapper as fuck in their tuxes. Hollander looked at Cliff and Hayden nervously, as if he was envisioning a fight about to break out. Though most players are chill off the ice, some don't forget the fights they've had on ice and have no problems holding it against each other. Cliff thought that was dumb - it was just a game, after all.

Instead, he held out his hand to dap Hayden up, pulling him into a hug and thumping him on the back.

"Look who it fuckin' is! My co-conspirator. My brother in arms."

Hayden rolled his eyes but thumped him back as Cliff let go. "You make it sound like we went to war together."

Cliff shrugged with a laugh.

Hayden shook his head. "Good to see you, Cliff."

"You too."

"Wow." Hollander looked shocked by the lack of animosity. "I thought we'd be tearing Metros and Bears away from each other all night."

Roz smirked. "There's still time. Just wait till everyone gets drunk."

Hollander pursed his lips in response. "It's almost like you want a fight at our wedding."

"Would be free entertainment." Roz shrugged, a shit-eating grin on his face.

He was playing with fire there.

"Our wedding isn't enough entertainment for you?" Hollander asked, exasperated. "Also why do you care if it's free, you're a millionaire."

Roz pouted. "Be nice to me, is my wedding day."

Hollander tried to glare at him but failed miserably as Roz crowded up to him, snaking his arms around Hollander from behind and resting his chin on the lapel of Hollander's tux.

Roz muttered something in Russian in Hollander's ear, planting a kiss on his temple as he spoke.

"So, where's Katie?" Hayden asked.

Cliff barely held back a groan. "At the bar."

"Not the one, then?" Hayden grinned.

Cliff flipped him off.

"Wait," Hayes interrupted. "Do you guys, like, know each other or something?"

"*What?*" Hollander asked. "You never told me you had a friend on the Bears, Hayd!"

Hayden raised an incredulous eyebrow, his gaze flickering to Roz and back. The words didn't even need to be spoken.

"Pot, kettle, *moy lyubimyy*."

Hollander blushed and raised his hands as if to take it back.

"Wait, do you guys actually like each other? Is this a joke?" Boiziau asked. "Is this another secret relationship I'm unaware of?"

Jackie cackled. "Okay, that's hilarious."

"So, you two are, what, *friends*?" Roz said.

"Wait," Jackie said. "You guys never told them about the hospital... incident?"

The group stared at her.

"What?" Hollander said. "What is the hospital incident?"

"I sense *drama*!" Boodram sang.

Hayden shrugged. "I guess once I knew about them it never came up. And Shane was already losing his shit about me knowing, I thought maybe it wasn't a good idea to tell him that Marlow also knew."

"Wait, *what*?" Hollander asked.

"What are you talking about?"

"Come on, Pike, spit it out!"

"Okay, okay! Back in - when was it?"

"2017, I think." Cliff interjected.

"Yeah, in 2017, when Marlow knocked Shane on the ice. Me and Marlow over there were in the hospital waiting room together. Then he fucking tells me that Rozanov is in your room, and I'm there conjuring up images of my best friend being smothered in his sleep by his fucking rival. Obviously, that was dumb because when we went to your room, what do we fucking see? You guys *making out*! Like there wasn't a fucking *window* on the door!"

"Oh my *God*," Hollander groaned, ranking his hands through his hair. "Will anyone find out about us without us making out?"

Roz smirked. "Not if I can help it."

Shane shoved him.

"Wait, Hayden, you knew since then and you never thought to mention it?" Hollander said, looking bemused.

Everyone turned to Hayden.

"Look, fucking hell! I have four kids, I have other things to worry about, leave me alone!"

Roz smirked. "Is that your excuse for everything, Pike?"

Hayden flipped him off.

Roz turned to Cliff. "Okay, what's your excuse, Marly?"

"Well, you fucking moved to Ottawa before I got the chance to say anything! Also, you're an awful texter, so when was I going to tell you. I mean, I'm kind of offended, because I know you used to answer the phone quickly. I'm lower down the food chain than your old booty calls used to be." He complained. "Uh, I mean-"

Hollander laughed. "Don't worry, I'm well aware my husband used to be a manwhore."

Roz's mouth dropped open in mock offence. "You all see how my own husband treats me! This is *abuse*!"

"Oh, poor you." Shane rolled his eyes.

"Wait, so both of you knew since 2017?" Hayes asked. "Jesus."

"Yes!" Hayden said. "And it was fucking torture not being able to talk about it. I had to turn to fucking Marlow for support."

Cliff snorted. "He was very stressed about it."

"I was getting grey hairs, wasn't I, Jackie!"

Jackie wisely kept silent, though her pursed lips showed she was trying not to laugh at her husband's expense.

Roz raised an eyebrow. "Is this why you leaked us online, Pike? To preserve your youth? Because I don't think it worked."

Hayden spluttered. "Obviously not, you know it wasn't on purpose - *Shane*, tell him!"

Shane glared at his husband. "Ilya."

Roz rolled his eyes. "Fine. I am joking. You are so boring, Hollander. Is my wedding day, let me have my fun."

"No." Hollander said, but then immediately leaned up to kiss Roz.

"I told you," Hayden smirked at Cliff. "Roz is whipped."

Hollander laughed. "How much did you guys talk about us?"

Cliff shrugged. "It's been a long six years."

"Well, at least you're free men now." Hayes said, grinning. "It's our problem now."

It sure fuckin' better be, Cliff thought as he watched Roz and Hollander ignore everyone around them to make out.

Cliff gestured his beer towards Hayden. "I'll cheers to that."

Hayden clinked his beer on Cliff's.

End Notes

super quick one to keep y'all fed

Please [drop by the Archive and comment](#) to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!