

It takes a lot of bravery

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It takes a lot of bravery

by [Bundog](#)

Summary

Following Scott Hunter coming out, Ilya takes social justice into his own hands and decides to belittle homophobes online.

While Shane ends up having a heart to heart with Scott Hunter, helping him to come out to Hayden.

Notes

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

[Professional shot of Scott kissing Kip after winning the Stanley cup]

Shanehollander24, **Pikehayds**, **Ilyarozanov81** and 30k others liked this post

Scotthunterofficial I want to thank everyone for the kind messages and the support after I decided to come out. I'm eternally grateful for the support from my own teammates and fellow hockey players.

It took a lot of bravery to do this, but I realised that by suppressing such an important part of myself I was being unkind to myself and to the man I love the most. Kip, thank you for being there for me, even though I was very undeserving. I love you so much.

(2,649 comments)

Pikehayds: wife and I send our love ❤️

Cvaughn: That's our captain ❤️

| **Nhllov**: @Cvaughn #notourcaptain hockey is for real men

| **Ilyarozanov81**: @Nhllov shut up little baby. Hunter is real man, you are loser.

—

Rozanov's wife (real) @rozycheeks

Ilya Rozanov shutting down bigots online isn't what I expected to see but I'm not complaining ❤️

Freddy @raidersfan627839

Replying to @rozycheeks

Rozanov must've been hacked, no way a cool russian dude like that would support the downfall of western civilisation #notourcaptain

Rozanov's wife (real) @rozycheeks

Replying to @raidersfan627839

He's literally been caught liking Hollanov ship edits, and immediately after his comment he posted a picture of himself at the gym on his insta story.

“Mr Rozanov the internet has been set aflame by your response to a homophobe under Scott Hunter’s post, some people have suggested that you were hacked, do you care to comment?” Ilya rolled his eyes, reporters always cared too much about their personal lives.

“I think Scott Hunter is a good man, he was very brave,” Ilya said. “He is good player, for his age,” he joked, drawing a few chuckles from the other reporters, “I was not hacked, whoever is saying that, they are lying, I’m done.”

Ilya sauntered off to the bar, where Scott Hunter himself was sitting, “Congratulations on award, fossil,” he said, clapping a hand on Hunter’s shoulder, “And I respect what you did, kissing boyfriend in public, if people give you hard time, tell me, I love fighting.”

Hunter gave him an odd look and chuckled, “Thanks, Rozanov. How's your boy Hollander doing?”

Ilya felt his blood run cold, “Huh?”

“Relax, we all saw you at the game when Hollander was knocked on his ass, you two come as a set, ‘Hollander and Rozanov’” Hunter gave him a knowing look, his voice quiet.

“How did you know?” he asked quietly, voice cracking at the end.

“The all stars game, I could hear Hollander talking through the walls,” He laughed softly, “I won’t say anything, it’s your life not mine,” Ilya let out a sigh of relief. “You should be able to come out on your own terms.”

“Thank you,” he whispered. Slowly he watched Hunter’s face darken. “Uh, Hollander—Shane, he is at home, with mother and father, concussed, but well.”

“I know it’s not my business, but the NHL barely tolerated my little stunt, they’re only okay with it cause Kip isn’t involved in Hockey, and I’m old, nearing retirement. You need to stay safe Rozanov, you and Hollander,” Hunter whispered, before getting up, “I’ll see you around, and thanks,” With that he left, leaving Ilya a little stunned.

[Homophobic post about Scott Hunter]

1,672 likes

ConservativeDad we should not allow such filth to exist in these games, what about the kids, this is just pure indoctrination, @NHL do better! Until Scott Hunter is reprimanded for

his actions I will not support.

(67 comments)

Ilyarozanov81: Cry harder, Scott Hunter won trophy, you have nothing. 🙄 sad loser you are.

| **lichen5273**: @Ilyarozanov81 I used to like you, now you're a washed up pencil pusher

| **Ilyarozanov81**: @lichen5273 I have trophy, you have nothing. I don't need sad loser validation.

—

“Mr. Rozanov, two comments of yours have once again gone viral. Do you have anything to say?”

“I thought this was interview about hockey, not instagram,” He joked, smiling at the reporter, “I do not know why it matters, so what, man is gay, the world won't end. Homophobes are dramatic crybabies.”

—

[Picture of Ilya Rozanov facing off Scott Hunter at a Boston Bears vs. New York Admirals match]

Scotthunterofficial, **Cvaughn**, **xxxibgdrgn** and 20k others liked this post

Ilyarozanov81 Hello is Ilya Rozanov, the best Hockey player in the world, here. Apparently people are sad that I think they are losers, too bad, that's not my fault. No apology here, that is not why I am making a post.

Scott Hunter is a good man, alright player, and someone I enjoy beating. Him having a boyfriend does not change him, he is still an alright player, he still won a trophy. Even though we have our differences, I still respect him, and I respect his bravery. From one beautiful, youthful Captain to an old fossil captain, well done on winning cup. Now can people stop asking me about this, I want to talk Hockey, not Scott Hunter.

(1,058 comments)

Scotthunterofficial: Never change Rozanov, I still beat your ass that last time though

| **Ilyarozanov81:** @Scotthunterofficial 🏒

—

Lacy ~ Boston 🐻 @ilyaspuck

Ilya's post about Scott Hunter was kinda sweet, he didn't need to do that, but he did.

Gigi Hollander @hollanderfan24

Replying to @ilyaspuck

Was it though? All he did was insult Scott Hunter

Lacy ~ Boston 🐻 @ilyaspuck

@hollanderfan24

Yeah, for Ilya Rozanov it's sweet. He's known for being arrogant.

Gigi Hollander @hollanderfan24

Replying to @ilyaspuck

How does he have fans?

—

“Mr. Hollander, you’ve just made your comeback on the ice, after suffering a concussion and broken collarbone, how are you feeling?”

“Yeah, you know, I’m ecstatic to be back, I missed playing, and was super bummed I couldn’t do anything,” He said, as cheerfully as he could.

“Mr. Hollander, in the finals last season, Scott Hunter shocked everyone with the revelation that he’s gay and in a loving relationship with a man, you have a history with Mr. Hunter, having played all stars with him and of course your infamous fight, do you have anything to say for that?” A different reporter this time.

“Scott Hunter and I have had our differences, but I still appreciate how he looked out for me when I was a rookie. I’m happy for him, you know, it was a big moment for the sport, an active Hockey player coming out like that, I hope it brings about more change,” He tried to be as careful as he could about his words. Lest he accidentally outs himself.

Tonight it had been a game against the New York Admirals, so Shane had had a chance to talk to Hunter. He’d found him outside getting into his car, and had flagged him down, sliding into the passenger seat.

“Hey, uh, Hunter,” Shane started. “I didn’t get a chance before, since I had that whole concussion and broken collarbone, but I wanted to congratulate you on your victory, both the trophy and coming out.”

“Thanks Hollander, before I say anything else promise you won’t beat me up again?” Shane nodded. “I assume your boy Rozanov told you about our conversation,” he said matter of factly in a low voice.

“Yeah, uh, sorry about the hotel thing, I hope you didn’t hear anything too traumatic.”

Hunter laughed, throwing his head back, “It’s fine kid. I’m over it, it’s been years. I’ll tell you what I told Rozanov, the two of you really, really need to be sure if you ever plan on going public.”

“I know, we’ve got a plan, one where we’ll work towards potentially going public, or at least be able to be seen together without raising eyebrows,” Shane rambled, it was the first time he was able to talk to someone other than, his parents, Rose or Ilya about it. He felt as though a weight was being lifted off his shoulders.

“I’ve got to ask Hollander, was that rivalry ever real?”

“To an extent, yeah, but we’re both just competitive,” Shane muttered, kinda embarrassed.

“Was some of it just weird foreplay?” Hunter asked, looking slightly alarmed.

“I, uh– we, no um–” Shane stuttered, lost for words. “Maybe,” he finally confessed.

Scott Hunter cackled loudly, hands clutching his stomach, “I won’t kink shame you, but oh god, I’m not surprised Rozanov would like that,” He was howling with laughter, and Shane was growing pinker and pinker.

“I’m gonna leave now,” Shane opened the car door.

“Okay, bye Hollander, thanks for the blackmail against Rozanov.”

Shane rolled his eyes, and got out, he looked back at Hunter in the driver's seat. “Thanks, for letting me talk about this, I don’t have many people to talk to.”

He rushed off into the night (to his car), going through that conversation over and over. He knew Scott was right, that he had to be completely sure about going public. He knew what sort of questions would be asked, he knew the sort of uproar it would cause, and he wasn’t

certain about whether or not he could actually tell his team, he wasn't even sure he could tell Hayden.

[Breaking!] Scott Hunter and Shane Hollander spotted having an intimate moment in a car

Pictures sent to SportsStar magazine by an anonymous source show what appears to be a rather intimate moment between New York Admirals captain, Scott Hunter, and Montreal Voyageurs captain, Shane Hollander, in Hunter's car. Shane Hollander can then be seen leaving the car, smiling and redfaced. Questions are arising as the last public interaction between the two was a fight, and about whether Hunter is cheating on his boyfriend, Kip.

[Statement from Scott Hunter]

Shanehollander24, xxxibgdrgn and 32k others liked this post

Scotthunterofficial pictures of me and Hollander have been spread with a twisted narrative that is implying something rather outrageous. For starters I do not appreciate the insinuation that I have cheated on my boyfriend, that is not the sort of man I am, and I love Kip very dearly, and I wouldn't knowingly do anything to hurt him. Second of all, did anyone not think for a moment about the potential implications of this, just because I am out does not give people free rein to try and connect me romantically with other players, especially since I am the only openly gay player, it just helps to reinforce out-dated stereotypes. In the future I will not allow these media sites to spread such rumours without consequences.

Shane had decided that he'd come out to Hayden, he at least deserved to know, he was his best friend. He'd set up this whole elaborate plan, where he'd invite Hayden and Jackie over for dinner one night. He'd ease them up with some wine, and mundane small talk. Jackie had a rule about no shop talk at the dinner table, so nothing about hockey. Then he'd casually tell them that he's gay, simples.

Except it wasn't so simple, the entire day before he was sweating, he almost cancelled a few times, and a few times he'd had to call Rose or Ilya for some reassurance. Ilya had said that as long as Shane was okay to do it, he didn't mind if Shane told Hayden and Jackie about him. Rose already knew she was the first person he told after he told his parents, and she'd be sworn to an oath of silence about him and Ilya.

Eventually 6 pm rolled around, and Shane had the food in the oven, ready for when Hayden and Jackie would show up. Shane nervously stood by the door, ready to let them into the

building when they arrived. He paced nervously counting down in 5 second intervals, until he heard the doorbell ring.

Immediately he was buzzing the Pikes in and opening the door for them, kissing Jackie on the cheeks and giving Hayden a hug. They'd brought wine and ginger ale, which Shane appreciated. They went and sat at the table and Shane served up dinner.

He was still scared as shit, waiting for the right opportunity to drop them a truth bomb, they discussed recent events in the world, then moved onto Scott Hunter. Shane knew Hayden had offered him support, online, but that didn't make it any less nerve wracking.

"That was such a weird article, about you and Scott Hunter, I mean Hunter has a whole boyfriend he came out for," Jackie commented, sipping from her glass of wine, "And it was such an invasion of privacy."

"Yeah, that's kinda why I invited you guys over," Shane started, not really looking at them, his palms were sweaty and he kept rubbing them on his legs, "I had a small heart to heart with Scott Hunter, he's quite easy to talk to, and I just thought, well Hayden you're like one of my closest friends, and I babysit for you guys all the time--"

"For which we are grateful," Hayden interjected.

"Yeah," Shane chuckled, "The truth is, I'm gay."

Silence, he looked up to gauge how they'd reacted, both had their mouths slightly agape. Slowly Hayden got up and walked around the table to pull Shane into a hug. Almost immediately relief flushed over him, he relaxed into Hayden's arms, and wrapped his own. "Hey, don't cry buddy," Hayden murmured, was he crying? "And I kinda already knew, I accidentally saw one of 'Lily's' dick pics and put it together." Shane laughed into Hayden's stomach.

"Sorry about that," Shane mumbled.

He pulled back slightly to wipe at his face and found that he had been crying and there was now a small wet patch on Hayden's shirt. Jackie reached out a hand to place on his arm, "We'll support you no matter what Shane, you know that right? Must've taken a lot of bravery to do this." he nodded.

"I take it you haven't told a lot of people," Hayden softly said. He went to sit back down in his original seat, smiling at Shane.

"Well technically you're like the first people I've had to tell, except maybe my mum," He lightly chuckled.

"Wait so, you didn't tell Scott Hunter?" Jackie asked.

"He already sort of knew I guess. Probably before I did," Shane laughed without humour. "I only figured it out maybe about a year or two ago, now."

"If you don't mind me asking, who else knows," Hayden said.

“My parents, Rose Landry, she kinda helped me realise that I’m gay, she has like sixth sense for it,” He chuckled. “Scott Hunter, you guys and my, uh, partner.”

“So not a lot of people,” Hayden responded. “That’s rough, I can’t imagine how hard it is to live like that.”

“That’s what my mum said to a degree, my dad had accidentally seen me kissing my partner, so that’s when I properly came out to them.”

“So how did Scott Hunter know? Does he know your partner?” Jackie questioned.

“Technically he does, yeah, but he figured it out years ago. Remember when I went at him?” Hayden nodded, “Yeah, he’d been taunting me about my partner.”

“That’s mean,” Jackie pouted, “I guess he’s different now, given how quickly he went to clear up those rumours about the two of you. Is your partner another player?”

Damn Jackie was perceptive. Shane bit his lip, nervous, Ilya had given him permission to tell them as long as they swore the same pact of secrecy as Rose. He’d been very specific, and had given Shane a script for them to follow.

“Yeah he is.”

“Do we know him?” Hayden exclaimed, a little loud, “Wait, is it someone on our team?”

“Well, you do know him, somewhat well actually, but no he’s not on our team. I’ve kinda been in love with Ilya Rozanov for a few years, and seeing him casually for about 10 years. And before you say anything I swear that I never let him win on purpose, I’m too competitive for that, and neither has he let me win on purpose.”

Hayden and Jackie looked gobsmacked, they didn’t say anything for a good minute. Shane was kinda scared that this would be a deal breaker for them that Hayden would leave and never want to be his friend anymore.

Almost as if he could read his thoughts, Hayden said, “I have so many questions, but I’m not gonna get mad at you for that. I’ve watched you two play against each other for years, you’re both ferocious on the ice. And I’ll try not to judge your taste in men.” Jackie whacked his arm. “Ow”

“I guess it is shocking,” Shane bemused.

“So all these years, while publicly being pitted as rivals, you and Ilya have been in love?” Jackie asked, barely above a whisper.

“When we first started out,” He paused thinking of the word, “Thing, there weren’t really any feelings involved. Then something changed, just before I dated Rose, and that was kinda why I dated Rose, I just panicked and couldn’t deal with it. Rose then told me that I’m gay, broke up with me, but she’s like one of my best friends now, and yeah.”

He spilled everything about his life, everything he couldn't tell people for years, it was freeing. He left some of the more nsfw parts out, he didn't think Hayden or Jackie would appreciate it at all.

"That explains a lot, and I'm sorry you had to go through that alone, but I guess for Ilya's sake you couldn't. I take it he's given you permission to tell us this?" Jackie mused. Shane nodded.

"So how did Scott Hunter know about you two?" Hayden piped up, suddenly remembering that Scott Hunter also knew.

"The all stars game, back when Ilya and I first started out as hockey players, he was in the room next door to Ilya's and he, uh, kinda heard us."

Hayden burst out laughing, finding humour in that statement, "Sorry it's just, did you know that he was next door?" Shane nodded, sheepish. "So despite knowing he was next door the two of you were being loud," Hayden couldn't hold it together, he was laughing after every word.

"Yeah, we maybe weren't thinking straight," He joked, he felt as though he could breathe much easier now. Late into the night they talked and talked and talked until it got quite late, and they had to go relieve JJ of his babysitting duties.

"Look, Shane, I don't know how the others will react to you telling them you're gay, let alone dating Rozanov, but it might be worth telling JJ at least, you need people on your side, I'm sure Scott Hunter told you as much, he's gotten lucky with his support from his team. Just think about it, I'm willing to help you tell him as well."

"I just want to formally invite you and Ilya round for dinner, get to know him more than the persona we see on the ice," Jackie kissed his cheek.

"Okay," he smiled, closing the door behind the Pikes.

He immediately called Ilya, who picked up on the second ring.

"I told them," he sighed.

"Did Pike look like he swallowed flies?" Ilya asked, giddy.

"Yeah he did, but, uh, they were really supportive, I mean they were a little taken aback about it being you, but Jackie's invited both of us for tea."

"Good, I will teach the Pike children to become fans of me, I will be the fun uncle."

Shane laughed, "Sure, just remember they have a swear jar, Ilya."

[Picture of two hands clasped together, any distinguishable characteristics of who they belong to is obscured]

Ilyarozanov81, **Pikehayds**, **Scotthunterofficial** and 50k others liked this post.

Shanehollander24 Love of my life

(5,783 comments)

Pikehayds: proud of you buddy

JJboiziau: So happy for you Hollander!!!!!!

Ilyarozanov81: (っ●_●)っ

| **Shanehollander24**: wtf does that mean

End Notes

Hayden: wait a second that was Rozanov's dick??!?! Jackie get me bleach!

I hope you enjoyed this, it is kinda all over the place, but to me it makes sense and thats what matters.

xxxibgdrn is a reference to an idol known for liking random posts on instagram, and it'd just make sense for him to be randomly liking these posts.

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