Drunk Ear-Piercings Make For Great Meet-Cutes

Posted originally on the Archive of Our Own at https://archiveofourown.org/works/77401521.

Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	M/M
Fandoms:	Heated Rivalry (TV), Game Changers Series - Rachel Reid
Relationship:	Shane Hollander/Ilya Rozanov
Characters:	Ilya Rozanov, Shane Hollander, Luca Haas, Zane Boodram, Evan Dykstra, Original Male Character(s)
Additional Tags:	Ear Piercings, Meet-Cute, for luca, Ottawa Centaurs (Game Changers), Married Shane Hollander/Ilya Rozanov, Post-Book 6: The Long Game (Game Changers), no spoilers for the book though, bobby orr reference for the real ones
Language:	English
Stats:	Published: 2026-01-09 Words: 2,142 Chapters: 1/1

Drunk Ear-Piercings Make For Great Meet-Cutes

by made_of_tea

Summary

Ilya smiled, obviously drunk. "I am a loverboy." Shane rolled his eyes.

"I fell in love with Cassie the first time I met her," Bood said. "I helped her find a lost earring at a party. It was blue and dangly."

Shane was about to question how Bood could possibly have fallen in love at first sight when Ilya suddenly slapped the table and yelled, "I should get earrings!"

~~~

The Centaurs are out drinking after a home win against Montreal. Amid a discussion of love and experimentation, Ilya decides he needs to get his ears pierced immediately. Luca gets a date and Shane falls even more in love with his husband.

Notes

See the end of the work for notes
~~~

The Ottawa Centaurs had made it to the playoffs once again. It turned out having Ilya Rozanov and Shane Hollander on the same team was a recipe for success. Shane had a feeling being out and married helped too.

After a particular brutal win against Montreal on home ice, the team was out celebrating. Which meant Shane was watching everyone else get drunk while he sipped a ginger ale.

He really didn't mind. He found it much more entertaining to collect videos of the team doing embarrassing shit and send it all to Harris.

Ilya was seated with a leg slung over Shane's lap in the booth they were crowded around. Luca Haas sat opposite them with Dykstra. Bood had elected to cram himself in beside Ilya and Shane.

"You know what I've been thinking about?" Dykstra said. "I've been wondering how many NHL players have just, like, experimented. Obviously yeah, some of them are gay, there's plenty of evidence of that, but y'know. The straight ones. How many have wondered what it would be like with a guy? 'Cause I know I've thought about it, catching glimpses of other guys' dicks in the shower and stuff."

"You sure you're straight, man?" Bood teased.

"Yes," Dykstra said. "But when I was eighteen my college buddy and I gave each other handjobs. Experimentation is normal."

Ilya nodded vigorously. "I have been on other end of this. When I was younger. Was gay for me, but not for other guy."

Shane shrugged. "It's always been gay for me, and Ilya's pretty much the only guy I've been with."

"Besides the other two disappointing ones," Ilya said, because apparently he could never let it go. "The ones you wished were me."

Bood cut in, "I won't lie and say I've never thought about it. I'd probably bang Wyatt if we were both gay. But I've never actually done anything with a guy. Never really wanted to."

Dykstra clapped a hand on Luca's shoulder. "What about you, Haas? Or are you a virgin?"

Luca turned bright red. "Why does it matter?"

Dykstra, Bood, and Ilya all looked at Haas, shocked. "Are you really a virgin?" Ilya asked.

Luca turned impossibly redder. "Maybe. It's hard to, like, find people. And I don't want casual hookups. I, like, want to fall in love."

Dykstra hugged Luca from the side. "Such a sweet, innocent child."

"Knock it off, dickwad," Shane said. "There's nothing wrong with being a virgin at 22. Virginity is a stupid concept, anyway."

Ilya looked at Shane suddenly. "Did I take your virginity?"

"Yeah. I was nineteen, and everything else about my life was hockey. Never had the opportunity before you."

Ilya's eyes darkened and he started pressing open-mouthed kisses to Shane's neck. Shane was vaguely aware this wasn't the time or place, but it felt nice. After a moment, Dykstra yelled, "Kiss penalty! Not at the table!"

Ilya pulled away with an eyeroll. Then his eyes lit up with a mischievous spark. "What if we made out in the penalty box?"

Bood directed the conversation away from Ilya, looking towards Luca. "That's really nice that you want to fall in love. Saves you from this kinda shit." He gestured at Ilya and Shane. "What's your ideal partner like?"

Luca couldn't seem to stop blushing. "I don't know… I'm fine with any gender. Someone… nice. Likes hockey. Well, they don't have to like hockey. I don't know. I'll just… know when I find them."

Dykstra nodded. "I knew I was in love with my wife when I watched her eat five hot dogs in a row while we were high. She's perfect."

They all looked at him strangely for a moment. Then Shane said, "I knew I loved Ilya at the All-Stars game in 2017."

Ilya looked at him appraisingly. "I'm not sure exactly when it was, but sometime before I made you tuna melts and made you run from my house. So, uh… around November of 2016?"

"*Roz* fell first? That's crazy," Dykstra said partially under his breath.

Ilya smiled, obviously drunk. "I am a loverboy." Shane rolled his eyes.

"I fell in love with Cassie the first time I met her," Bood said. "I helped her find a lost earring at a party. It was blue and dangly."

Shane was about to question how Bood could possibly have fallen in love at first sight when Ilya suddenly slapped the table and yelled, "I should get earrings!"

"What, now?" Dykstra said.

"That's a great idea! Yes, tonight," Ilya said excitedly.

Shane gave Dykstra a look. "Wrong thing to say."

Luca stared at Ilya for a long moment. "You would look good with pierced ears."

"Haas approves! Good sign." Ilya pulled out his phone, and Shane saw him searching for late-night tattoo parlours. "There is a place nearby. Who is coming with me? Shane, obviously. Haas, because he approved it."

"Count me out," Bood said. "I got a baby at home. Can't be out too late."

Dykstra shook his head. "I'm good. I don't like needles."

Ilya waved them off. "Is fine. I will show you my sexy new piercings tomorrow."

"You don't want to, like, think about it for a bit? You're drunk, Ilya," Shane said.

"Oh, so you think I won't look hot with ear piercings?"

Shane stared at him for a moment, trying to imagine it. Fuck. "I didn't say that. It just might be smarter to do it when you're sober, so you don't regret it."

"If I regret it, I take them out. No problem. Let's go, Hollander."

Shane begrudgingly got out of the booth, followed by Ilya and Luca. They said goodbye to the team, then headed out to the car Ilya had called for them.

"What if he really does regret it tomorrow?" Luca asked Shane quietly.

Shane sighed. "Honestly, he probably won't. If he doesn't like it, he'll still think it's funny. Better to just go along for the ride at this point."

"Yeah. And, uh, I won't be the one dealing with it when he wakes up, so…"

Shane gently smacked him on the back of the head as they got in the car. Luca laughed.

Ten minutes later, they were entering a quiet tattoo parlour. A woman with bright orange hair stood behind the desk. Her face was covered in piercings. "Welcome! What can we do for you?"

"I would like my ears pierced, please," Ilya said.

"No appointment?"

"No. Is that alright?"

She smiled. "At this time of night? Perfectly fine. I'll go ask Jasper to get set up. Just fill out this form, please." She handed Ilya some paperwork, then went into a backroom.

Once everything was signed and set, she gestured for them to follow her. The three of them went into Jasper's stall, which had a large glass case of jewelry to choose from. There was also a thin man with tattoo-covered arms sitting on a stool. He was wearing a loose black shirt, and had a backwards baseball cap covering his shaggy brown hair.

He looked up at them and did a double take. "Katie, you didn't tell me it was Ilya Rozanov and Shane Hollander!"

Katie looked confused. "Am I supposed to know those names?"

"Only if you know hockey," Shane said.

"Ah. I don't do sports. Jasper does, though."

Jasper turned his cap around, revealing it was a Boston Bears hat. "This is the best thing that could've happened all night." He turned the hat backwards again. "Sorry, I promise I won't be weird."

"I don't mind. Always happy to meet fans," Ilya said. "As long as you don't hate me too much for leaving Boston."

"Not at all, man. I only wear it 'cause I was raised there. I root for the Centaurs more often now." Jasper smiled at Luca. "I know who you are too, Luca Haas."

Luca turned pink. "Oh. Uh, thanks."

Jasper clapped his hands together. "Anyway! Piercings!"

Ilya grinned. "Yes. Just one in each ear."

"Perfect. Pick out the studs you'd like and we'll get you ready." Jasper set to preparing his station.

Shane looked over Ilya's shoulder at the glass case. Most were simple diamond studs in various shapes. There were also different colored gems, gold and silver in assorted shapes, and spikes. “Whatcha thinking?” Shane asked.

Ilya pointed at a set of onyx studs inlaid in silver. “These ones.”

“Good choice,” Luca said. “You’ll look good.”

“Agreed,” Jasper said as he took the chosen studs out of the case. “Ilya, sit on this chair here and we’ll mark where you want the studs.”

Ilya sat, and Shane stood next to Luca against the wall. As Jasper used a blue marker to indicate where the piercings would go, he looked around Jasper’s stall. There were an assortment of posters, some for bands and others for various sports. He smiled at the black and white Bobby Orr poster. There was also a small trans flag taped to the wall.

“Ready?” Jasper asked, piercing needle in hand. Ilya nodded. The first one was quick, though Ilya hissed as the needle pierced his skin.

Jasper switched to the other side, and Shane went over to hold Ilya’s other hand. Ilya gave him a sidelong look, but didn’t say anything.

Jasper smiled before focusing on Ilya's second piercing. "You know, just last week I tattooed your jersey numbers on someone's wrist. Cute little 24 and 81 together."

Shane raised his eyebrows. "Wow. That's… kind of a lot of pressure."

"We are role models, Hollander, people look up to us," Ilya said, squeezing Shane's hand slightly as the second needle went in.

Luca nodded "I get it. You two made it feel possible to succeed as queer hockey players. Hunter and Barrett are different, they don't date other players. But you two are married and play for the same team. It… gives a lot of us hope for our careers, I guess."

"Plus, the two of you were rivals for years. Seeing you two suddenly in love… It felt like anything was possible," Jasper said. He handed Ilya a hand mirror. "All set."

Ilya examined his new piercings. "Perfect." He looked up at Shane. "What do you think?"

Shane smiled at him. "Hot."

Jasper grinned. "Let's get you checked out, then."

They followed him back to the front desk, where he gave Ilya an aftercare instructions list. Ilya paid the tab, then said, "Would you like me to autograph your hat while we're here?"

"Sure." Jasper handed over his hat, then rummaged around for a white pen in the desk.

Ilya signed the brim, then handed it to Shane. "You want mine too?" Shane asked before he wrote anything.

Jasper grinned. "I won't say no to more famous hockey player autographs."

Shane signed his next to Ilya's, then put a little heart between their names. Ilya smiled sappily when he saw it.

Shane handed it over to Luca. Luca looked at Jasper questioningly. "Please. I've been following your career since you were drafted, 'cause we're the same age."

Luca smiled shyly and signed the hat. In a moment of boldness, he put the hat back on Jasper's head.

Jasper laughed. "One more thing." He took out a slip of paper and scribbled something on it. He tucked it into Luca's shirt pocket. "Text me?"

Luca turned bright red. "Okay."

Ilya grinned and patted Luca's shoulder. "Thank you, Jasper. Maybe I will see you for my next tattoo. Or when Luca introduces you to the team as his boy-"

"Okay, time to go home, Ilya," Shane said, grabbing Ilya's arm and tugging him towards the door. "Thank you, Jasper."

Luca nodded, still red, and waved goodbye to Jasper as they left the building.

Ilya laughed. “Nice pull, Haas.”

~

The next day in the locker room, Ilya was showing off his new piercings. Everyone gracefully ignored the hickey that sat beneath the right ear. Shane had tried to be gentle, but… well, his husband was hot. He couldn’t help it.

Luca’s attention was solely focused on his phone. Ilya poked his arm. “Texting the cute tattoo artist?”

Luca turned pink. “Yeah.”

Bood clapped him on the shoulder. “Found someone to take your virginity?”

“Shut up,” Luca said. “Maybe.”

“I take full credit for orchestrating this meet-cute,” Ilya said.

“It was partially my fault too, since I suggested you get the piercings last night,” Dykstra said.

“That is, like, ten percent of the work. Basically nothing,” Ilya said.

Ilya and Dykstra continued to argue, so Shane tuned them out. Luca smiled dopily at his phone. It reminded Shane of when Hayden would tease him in the locker room for being in love with Boston Lily.

He looked over at Ilya, with his new piercings and the hickey on his throat. He hoped Luca and Jasper found the love that Shane had.

End Notes

I've become consumed by gay hockey. please give me writing prompts, I want to write more about them but I'm lost for ideas. there will be a soulmate AU at some point, but I would love some ideas :)

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!