

To catch a homophobe or two, (or twenty)

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To catch a homophobe or two, (or twenty)

by [VicIsWriting](#)

Summary

Shane volunteers to be mic'd up on his first game against the Voyageurs in his first season with the Centaurs. What could go wrong?

A lot... He hopes.

Notes

WARNING: Homophobic language and slurs. Writer is queer and does not like them but fuck it we ball for the narrative.

Love to [Extra](#) for cheerleading! And Kate for the prompt this was all her idea!!

also Abbey for just being <3 my beloved.

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

To say Harris was surprised when Shane walked up after warmups and offered to be mic'd was an understatement.

He hadn't been on the Centaurs for that long, but had already made it clear social media— or media in general— wasn't his *favourite* part of playing professional hockey. But here he was, willingly having a mic pack fitted though his gear and strapped across his back.

“Are you sure you want to do this?” Harris asks again, eyeing Shane sceptically.

“I'm sure,” Shane said. *Again.*

“What are you planning?” Harris cocks his eyebrow as the technician adjusts the mic on Shane's jersey.

“Nothing. But the media are going to want either me or Ilya to be mic'd for this. What do you think will happen if it's my husband?”

Shane watched Harris think about that. He could practically see him pale and shiver at the thought.

“Exactly.”

Shane wasn't being completely honest, although the idea of Ilya being mic'd up against Montreal was still *definitely* not an option. And the media would want it to be one of them on the mic tonight. But in reality Shane wanted everyone to see— or hear his side.

Ever since he tripped. Ever since he moved teams. Everyone online and off has wondered, asked and theorised what happened. *Had* he really tripped? Was he fired or did he quit on his own terms? Was it because he was gay or because he was in love with his 'rival'? Was it both? Was it neither?

Shane could make a statement, could just tell the world what had happened in a press conference or social media post. But with the league already breathing down his and Ilya's neck would it matter? Would he be believed?

Unfortunately, probably not.

Like all best laid plans in Shane's (and Ilya's) life, this idea came from the mastermind that is Yuna Hollander.

Although not intentionally, when they'd gone over for dinner with Shane's parents last night, Yuna had simply said *I wish everyone could hear what they were saying to you* and like a lightbulb going off, Shane realised that was possible.

It was almost guaranteed that Shane was a target tonight for his first game against his old team. JJ and Hayden had already warned him, Coach Wiebe had already offered to let Shane sit it out, Ilya had already threatened to kill everyone *except* Hayden (and maybe JJ. He still holds a grudge).

But this. This would be better. This would be the trash taking itself out.

-

@NHLOFFICIAL

Next game tonight is Ottawa Centaurs VS Montreal Voyageurs.

Watch [Here](#)

-

@OttawaCentaursOfficial

Tonight @ShaneHollander will be Mic'd up for the Centaurs game against the Montreal Voyageurs!

Tune in [Here](#)

-

@MontrealVoyaguersHockey

@J.J.Boiziau16 is Mic'd tonight against the Ottawa Centaurs.

[Link](#)

-

@hockeyfan2481

the league claims it doesn't like drama but then chooses to mic //this// game??? Oh I'm so sure you messy bitches.

-

Entering the Bell Centre ice as a visitor was weird, but still familiar and routine enough to be okay. Entering to boos from the crowd however? That was new, and not in the good way that things have been new lately. It was easier knowing Ilya was skating behind him. His husband was here so everything would be fine— even if his nervous system hadn't gotten the memo.

Rose sent him a meme once claiming Shane had 'scary dog privileges', and though he'd scoffed and rolled his eyes at the time, she might've been onto something. Nothing beats the six foot three of muscle and sex on his back-- guarding, protecting, loving, adoring. It's everything Shane thought he'd never have and somehow gets.

Standing across from his old team during the anthem was like putting on the left skate first— normal enough but something definitely wasn't right. He still managed to catch Hayden's eye and they both smiled at each other. So at least *that* was normal. J.J also glanced over and

nodded his head in friendly acknowledgement, but nobody else even looked Shane's way. As if looking at him would turn them to stone.

He wished it would.

-

@letsgocens

The way only Hayden and J.J are even looking at Hollander oh boyyyyy #fuckthevoyaguers

-

@VoyaguersFan3334

I hope Holzy trips again. Traitor. #fuckhollander

-

@rozanovsmole

I just know Roz is ready to commit a crime if anyone so much as looks at his husband wrong and I personally am here for it #fuckthevoyageurs

-

The first period is going fine, a goal each on both sides. Shane feels the win in his bones even though he would never ever risk saying that aloud. The Centaurs are on fire tonight, everyone's moving like a well oiled machine, and despite getting one clumsy goal past Hayes, the Voyageurs are clunky.

Shane feels good as he speeds down the ice, puck on his stick and Haas not far behind. The goal is in his sights. He's gotten enough pucks past Drapaeu in practice's past to not be overly worried, until suddenly he's not flying forward and is slammed to the side in a hard check against the boards.

"Faggot." Comeau spits, digging his elbow into Shane's side for good measure before skating away.

Shane sucks in a breath since his lungs emptied at the hard check. But he's smiling. He's *sure* the mic caught that.

-

@hockeyfan2481

We heard that right? WE ALL HEARD THAT RIGHT?????? #FUCKTHEVOYAGEURS

-

@hollanovmybeloveds

Oh my fucking god?

-

@VoyageurForever556

Might need a new @...

-

To Shane's confusing concoction of distress and satisfaction. It keeps happening.

By the second period they're up 3-1 with goals from Haas, Ilya and Shane. Shane is on his way for his second goal and the Centaurs' fourth. The puck flies over Drapaeu's shoulder in textbook fashion, and Shane can't help the grin on his face as his momentum drags him closer to the enemy goal.

"I let that one in," Drapaeu snarls. "Gotta let you score to get you to suck my dick, right?"

"You wish." Shane laughs, before skating away.

-

@rozanovsmole

When you're so homophobic it just loops back around to being homo #fuckthevoyageurs #hesnotgonnasuckyourdickbro #youwish

-

@hollandershole

I can't fucking believe the way the voyageurs are speaking to their former captain makes you wonder what the locker room was like hmmmmm

-

@hockeyfan2481

With the rumours that Holzy was gay coming WAY before the fanmail leak, this shit really makes me think his move wasn't about tripgate.

-

@VoyaguersFan3334

Hollander's playing better now he doesn't have to fumble so his boyfriend fucks him. Coincidence? Probably not.

@hollanovforever replying to @VoyaguersFan3334

I ask you to use critical thinking...

-

J.J skates over at the end of the second period. Shane is bruised in places he didn't think could bruise but vindication washes over him like a soothing balm.

"I'm mic'd," J.J warns. As is common practice during these situations. It's just a common practice he's chosen to ignore today.

"Me too," he replies, dripping with nonchalance.

"You're—" J.J stuns, before a reserved smile graces his face. One the cameras or other players would barely notice. One Shane knows is meant just for his eyes.

"Incredible," J.J mutters after. "Hello Centaurs fans!"

"Hello Voyageurs fans," Shane says back, laughing awkwardly.

It's at that moment Ilya decides to skate over and join them. "What's left of them, anyway."

He flings his arms across Shane's shoulders, toeing the line of their heavily prediscussed PDA guidelines.

"J.J," he greets, extending a gloved fist across Shane's body and towards his friend.

"Ilya," J.J responds, meeting the fist with his own but stumbling over Ilya's first name— still clearly unfamiliar on his tongue.

"Are we still on for drinks with you and the Pike's after we beat you?" Ilya chirps, though really at 4-1 Shane thinks it might just be stating facts.

"Of course! Wouldn't want to fifth wheel anyone else," J.J says, a teasing smile cracking across his face.

"Good, I'll buy you a shot for every goal I score." Ilya blows a kiss and winks at JJ's half-hearted scowl before smacking an obnoxious kiss to Shane's cheek that *definitely* breaks the guidelines and dragging them both away.

"Only one so far Roz! I won't even get drunk!" J.J yells after them. "Tell him to score more, *capitaine*, I'll need it!"

"You okay, moya lyubov?" Ilya asks, still holding Shane's wrist as they make it off the ice to the rest of the team.

"Da, ya tebya lyublyu." Shane reaches for his water and squirts some into his mouth.

"Ya tozhe tebya lyublyu," Ilya says, then after a moment. "They are like me."

Ilya tips some of his own water down and into his jersey. Shane wishes he could drink it from between his pecs.

“What do you mean?” Shane asks.

“Useless without you.”

-

@rozanovsmole

“Useless without you” !!!!!!!

SAY IT FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE BACK #fuckthevoyageurs

-

@hockeyfan2481

'capitaine!'

I KNOW THATS RIGHT J.J!! #fuckthevoyageurs #exceptjjandhayden

-

Harris knew Shane was doing *something* when he offered to be mic'd. He wasn't stupid.

He'd *thought* that Shane would announce he was mic'd to avoid dealing with the verbal abuse he and everyone was expecting him to get from his former team. What he never could've anticipated was him going complete stealth mode, grinning and baring it while slurs and vitriol was thrown at him harder than a puck to the damn face.

He knew how the game was going to go the second Montreal announced they'd mic'd JJ. They were playing safe. But little did they know Shane *motherfucking* Hollander wasn't playing— Full stop.

By the third period, Harris already had a statement drafted and approved by Wiebe and the GM, while his colleagues listened to the mic stream with a mix of anger, horror and surprising glee.

And listen, Harris was very comfortable in his sexuality. He had been since he was young and he had been surrounded by love and support. He was the practical posterchild for a safe and comfortable coming out. But that doesn't mean he is immune to the harsh realities of being queer. That doesn't mean he doesn't flinch or frown or get upset when a slur is slung carelessly into society.

Shane was not an open book. He hated talking about himself, or anything that wasn't Ilya or hockey. He hated the spotlight, he hated making any kind of wave— or even ripple. He *definitely* hated being reduced to his sexuality-- especially since the coming out. He didn't want it to define him, but to Harris it was also clear that he was *scared* it would define him.

But here he was, gliding around the ice and catching homophobe after homophobe and showing their disgusting underbellies in 4K (or whatever the sound version of 4K was.)

He *especially* hated talking about what happened on his former team. And Harris, his colleagues, and the whole damn world were now finding out why in real time. Harris had never even heard half of the shit they were slinging. *Buttmucher, cocksucker, knobjockey, fairy*— Literally anything these bastards could say, they were saying. Right to Shane, right to his mic.

Watch Crowell try and weasel his spineless ass outta this one.

-

By halfway through the third period, the Voyageurs aside from Hayden, JJ and a few rookies seem to have forgotten this was hockey. Centaurs are up 6-1 with another goal from Shane and one from Troy in quick succession, and there is more verbal abuse than actual attempts at getting the puck at this point.

When Troy scores again, and Drapeau launches his stick at the posts, Shane skates over fast while the shattered remains skip across the ice. Ilya hops the boards and follows, along with Haas, Young and Chouinard. Out of the corner of Shane's eye he sees Comeau, speeding down the ice— Hayden, JJ and one of the linesmen hot on his tail.

“What the *fuck* did you just say?” Troy shouts, his face tense and red.

“You heard me.” Drapeau shrugs.

“Say it again,” Troy dares, eyeing Shane as he skates in close.

“Was just wondering if being a queer is contagious in Ottawa,” he sneers.

Comeau snorts, a vile smile twisting his features.

“That's enough,” the ref tries, but it seems to fall on deaf, ignorant ears.

The rest of the players on ice began to skate over and form sides on the ice.

“Three fags on one team is sure something. What's the saying? Twice is a coincidence, three times a pattern?” Comeau literally spits on the ice, although it's clear the direction of his gross, homophobic bodily fluid was aiming for Shane's skate.

He missed. Much like he misses goals.

“Shut the fuck up, Comeau,” Hayden skates forward, to Shane's side.

“He sucking your dick too, Pike?” Comeau starts. “His mouth that magical?”

Shane vehemently ignores Ilya muttering *yes* behind him. He's sure the mic managed to pick that up too, and *that* wasn't part of the plan.

“This isn’t a fucking pride parade.” Drapeau grunts.

“We’re aware. Did that last goal take your last braincell with it?” Ilya laughs, knocking his shoulder against Shane’s and then Troy’s. “We’re playing hockey. you know? H-O-C-K--”

“All I’m saying is this *shit*--” Drapeau waves his hands out at the three openly queer players in front of him, “should stay out of hockey.”

“And yet you’re the one who keeps bringing it into hockey,” Shane snaps before he even thinks.

He takes a breath, and Ilya’s shoulder bumps him again. Haas skates closer and knocks his knuckles against Shane’s elbow.

“You brought it in first,” Comeau says petulantly. Like a damn child.

“I told my team I was gay because I thought my team was my family and I trusted you. Didn’t realise knowing my sexuality would turn you all into fucking assholes.” Shane feels his anger finally resurface. “I didn’t realise the team had a *straights only* clause when I signed. I didn’t realise me being in love with a man— me having sex with a man— meant I couldn’t score a goal or steal the puck. Especially since I’ve been in love with this man or sleeping with this man since my rookie year and still led you assholes to three Stanley cups while being a cocksucking, faggot queer.”

Shane turned away, his *real* team following suit and beginning to skate off before the second linesman finally made his way down the ice.

“Oh, by the way,” Shane says, turning his head over his shoulder to look at his former team. The people he spent ten years with on ice, the people who’ve spent the last two hours calling him every slur and insult under the sun. “I’m mic’d.”

@cocksuckingfaggotqueer

New @ who dis?

-

@hollanovforever

DID HE SAY SINCE HIS ROOKIE YEAR?????????

-

@NHLOFFICIAL

Ottawa Centaurs beat Montreal Voyageurs 7-1.

Watch the highlights [Here](#)

-

@hollandershole

NHL official like here's the highlights and not a single Hollander moment in sight despite getting a hat trick oh i know they're not fr rn.

-

@hockeyfan2481

#dontfuckthevoyageurs #nobodywantstofuckhomophobes

-

@OttawaCentaursOfficial

The Ottawa Centaurs team and players do not condone any forms of bigotry or homophobia. We apologise for the offensive language heard from the other team over the course of the game, and we believe it is important for this issue to be addressed by the league and the commissioner. Slurs and offensive language have no place on the ice or in locker rooms, Hockey is for everyone.

We are disgusted by the language targeted at our team tonight, but we are proud of them for an incredible game and win. Especially from Shane Hollander with a hat trick, as well as Barrett, Haas, and our incredible Captain Ilya Rozanov.

Tonight we want to offer our support and our love to anyone who has been affected by what they heard tonight. You are not alone.

Love is Love!

Ottawa Centaurs Team.

@LucaHaasOtwa replying to @OttawaCentaursOfficial

Every goal tonight from Ottawa was scored by a queer player! LETS GO!

-

@letsgocens

DID HAAS JUST COME OUT???????

-

The game was one thing, sitting in front of the press was another entirely.

Shane felt the sweat pooling at his collar. This was it. Everyone had the evidence now. He could back his own claims with recorded fucking footage. Ilya sits to his left, Troy to his right and Harris only a metre to the side, surrounded by as many Centaurs as can fit into the small space side stage.

“Shane, how do you feel about tonight's game?” The first reporter started, clearly and mercifully not going straight for the jugular.

“Tonight went great, the team played amazing. We have been training very hard and have an incredible coach and captain. Couldn't have wished for better play from anyone tonight.”

Good, Polite, PR friendly.

“You were mic'd tonight, do you think this affected yours or others' game?” Another reporter asked, skating closer to what they all wanted to ask.

“No, players are often mic'd during games. It very rarely has an impact on how a player acts.”

Ilya's foot taps his own under the table. Supportive and familiar.

A younger reporter stands up, they look green with nerves. “Would you like to make a comment about the language used by the other team against yourself and others during the game?”

The young reporter wobbles as they sit back down. *Brave.*

“The language used tonight is nothing I, or any other hockey player, has not heard before.”

He stops. He should stop. That's where the PR appropriate answer ends. But that young shaking reporter was brave enough to ask. Shane can be brave too. Hell he's been brave this whole night. What's some more?

“I cannot speak to everyone's experiences, but my experience is this.”

He takes a deep breath. Ilya reaches for his hand under the table. Troy's shoulder nudges him and Harris gives him an approving nod.

“I have known I was not straight since 2009, I have been in love with a man for nearly as long. I was signed to the NHL when I was gay, I have played every game as a gay man, I have won three Stanley cups as a gay man. I came out to my team in 2018 as a gay man.”

He pauses, taking a shaky breath. Ilya squeezes his hand.

“Suddenly none of my goals mattered. None of the cups or stats or plays mattered. My ability on ice meant nothing. I was the thing everyone used as an insult.”

The young reporter's shoulders sagged. Scribbling in their notes with water in their eyes.

“The locker room became silent, except for a few. The upper offices became silent. I lost the respect of a team and an institution I had been with for nearly a decade simply because of who I love.”

“The language you heard tonight is nothing I, or any players, haven’t heard a million times. But it is not every team, and it is not every player. Eventually the players who are done with hearing it move to a team where they don’t have to hear it.”

“Are you saying that is why you were traded?” Another reporter asks, far back in the scrum so Shane can’t see who.

“I’m saying me being a gay man, and me being in a committed relationship with a bisexual man, has *no* impact on me scoring goals despite what people think. That was proven tonight. I also think if other players focused more on the puck and less on who I’m in bed with, they might score some goals too.”

-

@hollanovmybeloveds

Shane said i get bitches(men[rozanov]), I score goals, i kill homophobes.

THATS. MY. BABY. GIRL.

-

@Rozanov

My husband is so sexy @ShaneHollander

-

@hockeyfan2481

Holzy’s PR manager needs a raise cause how did he just fucking slam dunk the entire NHL and Voyageurs without even breaking a sweat??

-

@WyattHayesGoalie

So proud of my team tonight! #loveislove #gocens

-

@LucaHaasOtwa

Yes I’m queer, no I will not elaborate #gocens

-

@HaydenPikeMontVoy

That's my best friend y'all! #loveislove #goshane

-

@CommissionerNHL

Myself and the league have received several reports of misconduct after tonight's game, and will investigate accordingly.

@cocksuckingfaggotqueer *Replying to @CommissionerNHL*

Not sure what there is to 'investigate' but //sure jan//

-

@MontrealVoyaguersHockey

We are disappointed with the team's performance and behaviour on ice tonight. The situation will be appropriately handled.

-

@ShaneHollander

Hat Trick!!!

#gocens

-

@ScottHunterAdmiral

Won the Stanley cup and got married as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

-

@RyanPriceForce

Met the love of my life and found joy as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

-

@kipgray

Landed a hockey player and a master's degree as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

-

@Fabian

Got a record deal and sold out shows as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

-

@BennettGoalieNYA

Met my person as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

-

@kylebabyyy

Found everything I was looking for as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

-

@TroyBarrettOTOOfficial

Met a man who smells like apples and loves me for me as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

-

@DroverH

Is this safe to post on main? BAGGED A FUCKING HOCKEY PLAYER AS A
#COCKSUCKINGFAGGOTQUEER

-

@Rozanov

Became the best version of myself. Became a partner, a lover, a boyfriend, a fiancé and husband as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

I love **@ShaneHollander**

-

@LucaHaasOtwa

Joined the best team in the league as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

no, i still won't elaborate.

-

@ShaneHollander

My husband made me post this as a #cocksuckingfaggotqueer

I hate him.

-

@cocksuckingfaggotqueer

My mentions are going CRAZY.

-

End Notes

I am [vicstweeting](#) over on Twitter, come say hi!

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