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by [tuesdaymidnight](#)

Summary

We're here at Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov's house in Ottawa, asking them 73 questions before they get on with their day and head off to hockey practice. I was greeted at the door by their lovely dog Anya, and now we're heading to the kitchen for breakfast.

Notes

Thank you, as always, to B for making this better. And shoutout to Hudson Williams for the answer to Shane's favorite movie.

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

We're here at Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov's house in Ottawa, asking them 73 questions before they get on with their day and head off to hockey practice. I was greeted at the door by their lovely dog Anya, and now we're heading to the kitchen for breakfast.

It's pretty early still. What's the first thing you thought of this morning?

SH: That we need to get out of bed for this interview.

IR: That I need to [censored] my husband very soon before he remembers we have this interview.

SH: [Shane's mouth drops open]

What's the first thing you did this morning?

SH: [rolls his eyes] Don't answer that, Ilya.

IR: I think I already did, yes?

I think you did. I knew about your directness, Ilya, but I wasn't quite prepared. So, what's the *second* thing you did this morning?

IR: Took Anya for her [whispers] walk.

SH: She knows the word now, so we have to be careful. [pulls coffee pods out of a drawer]

What's your favorite thing about your dog?

SH: She's really easy going.

IR: Yes. She is great around children and other dogs.

Would you say that dogs are your favorite animal?

IR: Yes. I love dogs.

SH: I like both dogs and cats. I never had a pet growing up. But I think my favorite animal is actually the loon.

IR: [pauses in front of a cabinet] Oh. Maybe I change my answer.

What's your zodiac sign?

SH: Uh, Taurus, I think?

IR: You think? You are such a Taurus. I'm Gemini sun, Cancer moon, Taurus rising. You're Taurus sun, Aries moon, Scorpio rising. Your sun is conjunct in my Pluto.

SH: [stares at Ilya] How do you know all of that?

IR: I ask your mother what time you were born and look up your chart. [passes Shane two coffee mugs]

Where's your favorite place to be?

SH & IR: [at the same time] The cottage.

What are you having for breakfast today?

SH: Eggs and turkey sausage. I'm assuming Ilya will also have toast slathered in Nutella.

IR: Is seven-grain toast. Full of fiber and seeds. You love seeds.

What's your regular breakfast?

SH: I usually have a plant-based green protein shake and poached eggs.

IR: McGriddle.

SH: He's just saying that to piss me off.

IR: Pancakes as bread. Genius.

What do you put in your coffee?

SH: I drink it black.

IR: Milk and sugar. [Ilya pulls milk, eggs, and sausages out of the fridge]

If you could eat only one thing forever, what would it be?

SH: My regular protein shake provides a good balance of protein, fiber, fat, and essential micronutrients. I could easily sustain myself on that and still maintain the energy needed to perform as a professional athlete.

IR: Chicken parmesan.

What's your hidden talent?

SH: I think I'm getting to be a pretty good cook.

IR: Mine is deep—wait, I forget English. Is it thr—

SH: Ilya, do *not* finish that word.

IR: You're going to say I *don't* have this talent?

SH: You know everyone we play against is going to call you a [censored] now.

IR: Is not insult. I am a proud [censored].

Favorite alcoholic drink?

SH: I don't drink much. But I guess my favorite beer is La Fin du Monde. [passes the first mug of coffee to Ilya, who stirs in milk and sugar]

IR: Drover Cider from the Drover family cidery outside Ottawa.

SH: You are shameless.

IR: I'm supporting friend. Is good cider.

SH: It is really good cider.

Favorite non-alcoholic drink?

SH: Ginger ale.

IR: Coca-cola.

Most expensive thing you've ever splurged on for yourself?

SH: Uh, real estate, I guess.

IR: Probably the Lamborghini. No, the Ferrari. No, it was Lamborghini.

Do you drive to practice together?

SH: Usually. Ilya's the captain so sometimes he has extra meetings, but even then I'll go in with him and work out.

Who drives more?

SH: He hates my car, but probably me because I'm always ready first.

IR: Is true. Both things. [gets a pan out of a cabinet]

One thing you need in your gym bag at all times?

SH: Black Renfrew 1.5 inch tape.

IR: Black Renfrew 1.5 inch tape. I am not particular, but if Shane runs out he complains, so I keep spare.

What's your favorite workout?

SH: Running, I think. It helps me clear my head. [looks at Ilya] Don't say sex. That doesn't count.

IR: Get your mind out of gutter. I was going to say squats because they keep my ass perky.

SH: Perky?

IR: Am I not using that word right?

SH: No, your butt is definitely perky.

Would you consider yourself to be a routine person?

IR: [laughs]

SH: What?

IR: I'm curious to hear your answer. [starts to pan fry some sausages]

SH: I *know* I like routine, okay?

Let's get more specific, then. Hockey players are notoriously superstitious. Do you have any superstitions?

SH: The usual. I wrap my stick a certain way. I put my gear on in the same order. Don't shave during playoffs.

IR: Have lunch with your parents before first home game of season.

SH: Okay, that one might not be typical, but it works!

How do you get out of a slump?

IR: We wouldn't know. Neither of us have ever had slump.

SH: [shrugs and sips his black coffee]

Ilya, you're pretty notorious for getting under your opponents' skin. Would you both say Ilya's the better trash-talker?

SH: In hockey we call it chirping.

INT: Right, right.

SH: And yes, Ilya's much better than me.

IR: You have your moments. Remember the time you told Scott Hunter he is 45 years old?

SH: Shut up.

What's your favorite insult?

SH: I'll defer to the expert.

IR: It's not like I write them down after game. Hmm. I like reminding Pike he's 15th best player for Montreal. Though I guess he moved up to 14 now that Shane is no longer there.

SH: What about the other night when we were playing Edmonton and you told Gagnon he'd be more relevant to the game if he was wearing stripes?

IR: I truly forgot he was even playing. [turns the sausages in the pan]

You both get interviewed a lot as part of your jobs. What's a question you generally hate being asked?

SH: Well, lately I haven't been a fan of being asked if playing with my husband is a "distraction" whenever I happen to not score a goal.

IR: Is same. Is insulting to both of us. We are both playing great as always. If other players are distracted thinking about us together that's their problem.

What's a question you want to be asked more?

SH: I don't really know. More specific hockey questions, I guess.

IR: I would like to talk about my teammates more. Press never talk to Dykstra or Chouinard, so I talk them up.

Who's your favorite artist?

SH: Do you mean like *art* art? Or like a music artist?

INT: Visual art.

IR: Lyubov Popova. She was my mother's favorite. [looks at Shane] You don't know any artists, do you?

SH: I was going to say Keith Haring, but you already made it sad.

Since you mentioned it, who's your favorite music artist?

IR: AC/DC.

SH: Uh.

IR: You can't ask him this question. He doesn't like music.

We'll switch things up then, what's your favorite clothing brand or store?

SH: I swear this isn't sponsored content, but I really do like a lot of HUMAN MADE's stuff.

IR: Calvin Klein. I would make good model, yes? [winks at the camera]

What three staples should every man have in their closet?

SH: Uh, that's a hard question.

IR: Is easy question.

SH: Then *you* answer it.

IR: A suit that fits, plain white t-shirt, and a good pair of boots.

If you reduced your personality into one article of clothing, what would it be and why?

SH: Probably hockey skates. Is that too obvious?

IR: No, you are very much hockey skates.

SH: Then what are you?

IR: Leather jacket. Looks cool, but takes years to break in and be comfortable.

What's your favorite thing to see your husband wear?

IR: [grins] His glasses.

SH: My mom got him these flannel pajama pants for Christmas that have teddy bears on them. And Ilya wears them around the house a lot. They're really cute.

IR: You are killing my reputation, Hollander. [turns the sausages again]

SH: All the cute videos you post of Anya killed your reputation. Don't bring me into this.

Who's the most fashionable NHL player?

IR: Me.

SH: You're really not.

IR: I can't say anyone else. They will get a big ego.

SH: Bood dresses well.

IR: He is not bad. I will let him have this.

What does Ottawa have over Boston and Montreal, respectively?

IR: Family.

SH: [smiles] Yeah, family.

IR: And team dog.

What's the most Canadian thing about you, Shane, and what's the most Russian thing about you, Ilya?

IR: Russians are very funny like me.

SH: I've been told I apologize a lot.

What's your favorite English word?

IR: Perceptive.

SH: Am I supposed to answer this too?

INT: Yes, it's for both of you.

SH: Uh, inflatable.

IR: Why inflatable?

SH: [shrugs] It's fun to say.

What's your favorite Russian word?

IR: Недоперепил.

SH: I don't know that one.

IR: It doesn't exist in English. It means something like when you didn't drink as much as you could.

SH: Okay, yeah, we don't have a word like that. I don't have a favorite, but I did just learn Бабочка, which is butterfly. [hands Ilya a plate with a paper towel folded on it]

If you got a tattoo or another tattoo, what would it be?

IR: I already know what my next tattoo is! Our teammate Luca is good artist. He's drawing Anya for me.

SH: Uh, I've actually been thinking about getting a band around my ring finger.

IR: Oh?

SH: I'm always afraid of wearing my wedding ring when I play.

IR: We should get them together. [reaches over and touches the wedding ring around Shane's finger]

Do you prefer short hair or long hair on each other?

IR: I like when Shane's hair is long. It's perfect to grab when I [censored].

SH: You'll bleep that out, right?

INT: We'll bleep that out.

What style advice can you offer?

IR: [laughs]

SH: What?

IR: You go first. I want style advice from Shane Hollander.

SH: Um, I think you should wear what you feel comfortable in. It doesn't matter how stylish something is if you don't feel comfortable wearing it. [looks at Ilya] No commentary?

IR: Surprisingly good answer. [moves the sausages from the pan onto the plate]

Any trend you are uncomfortable trying?

SH: Big chains are in style right now, but they look silly on me. [goes to the pantry for bread and Nutella]

IR: I do not like flared trouser.

What was the last thing you purchased?

SH: Like clothing?

INT: Anything, but sure, let's go with clothing.

SH: Socks. *Someone* likes to wear mine and he has bigger feet than me so they get all stretched out.

IR: I resent this accusation. Last thing I bought was new sweater for Anya.

SH: She has more sweaters than you do at this point.

IR: I don't need them. I run hot. [cracks eggs into a bowl and starts to whisk them]

What's the most luxurious thing you've ever worn?

IR: Big fur coat. Shane would not let me buy it.

SH: I just said you'd never wear it.

IR: But I could put it on the floor, spread you out on top of it, and [censored].

INT: We'll bleep that out too.

What is something you can never over-invest in?

SH: Your health.

IR: Your mental health.

What is your most prized possession?

IR: My mother's kpect and my wedding ring.

SH: I know I don't *own* Ilya, but being loved by him is the best thing I have.

IR: [leans over and kisses Shane]

What's your proudest accomplishment?

IR: For me, I think taking Ottawa to playoffs last year.

SH: Mmm, probably fastest skater in the skills competition last All-Star Game.

IR: It was basically a tie! You see how he bullies me. [starts cooking the eggs]

What's your favorite award?

SH: Rookie of the Year.

IR: [sticks out his tongue at Shane] My gold medal from World Juniors.

SH: We won it the next year.

IR: I won it first.

Favorite place you've ever traveled to and why?

IR & SH: Spain.

IR: We took honeymoon in Spain. I assume it's beautiful country. We didn't see much of it.

You travel a lot for work. Window or aisle seat?

SH: Window.

IR: Aisle. Window seat is too cramped for someone as tall as me.

How do you pass time on planes?

SH: I watch a lot of movies.

IR: Sleep. Though now I get to bother my husband, which is fun.

What is your favorite movie of all time?

SH: Oh that's a tough one. Come back to me.

IR: The whole point of this is that you answer quickly.

SH: What's *your* favorite movie, then?

IR: *Captain America: Winter Soldier*. Tragic love story about two men being used by opposing militaries torn apart by decades finding their way back together.

SH: I don't think that's what happened in that movie.

IR: Was subtext.

SH: I mean, I guess.

IR: Did you think of favorite?

SH: I really liked *Wall-E*.

What's the last book you read?

SH: *Call Me Indian*, it's this great book about how Fred Saskamoose was sent to a residential school and eventually became the first Indigenous player in the NHL.

IR: I don't know English title, but probably *Казак* by Tolstoy.

SH: When did you read that?

IR: Last year of Basic General maybe?

SH: Isn't that like Grade 9?

IR: I was busy playing hockey! [scrambles the eggs]

What was your worst subject in school?

SH: Math. [puts two pieces of bread in the toaster]

IR: I was good at math. Not very good at history.

What makes you laugh no matter what?

SH: There's this video of a cat trying to get out of a bathtub that always cracks me up. I have it saved.

IR: Seeing Shane laugh makes me laugh. Is contagious.

What is something you've always wanted to try but you've been too scared to do?

SH: At the Olympics the luge looked fun, but scary as hell.

IR: I'm not scared to try anything.

SH: What about camping in the Canadian wilderness?

IR: Question was something you *want* to try. I am not stupid enough to go out in wilderness.

What's the best advice you've ever given or received?

SH: One of my first coaches taught me that it's easy to use your body to deceive an opponent, but your eyes will still give you away. That helped me get better at stickhandling so I can pretty much play by feel now.

IR: If people don't have your back, move your fucking back.

What advice would you give your 18-year-old self?

SH: You're not confused. You're gay.

IR: Stop caring what your father thinks. [clears his throat]

What's your favorite way to spend a day off?

IR: You will censor my answer again.

SH: You can say sex.

IR: That makes us sound boring. Is very good sex. Very creative. Shane is very—

SH: Please stop talking.

What do you do on date night?

SH: [laughs] We don't really go out much. When *was* the last time we went out?

IR: We went to dinner at your parents' last week.

SH: That makes it sound like you're courting me in the 1800s.

Favorite board game?

IR: Yahtzee. I play with Shane's parents.

SH: I guess Scrabble, but I don't really play many—

IR: Don't listen to him. He and Yuna are so competitive, David and I won't play with both of them at same time.

What's the best smell?

SH: The earthy smell right after a spring rain.

IR: Shane's fancy ocean shampoo.

What's something you can't live without?

SH: Ilya.

IR: I was going to say vodka, but you're all right too. [seasons the eggs]

One goal you are determined to achieve in your lifetime?

SH: Winning Ottawa the Cup

IR: You should make another goal. We are doing that this year.

SH: Oh are we?

IR: Yes.

SH: Building a dynasty in Ottawa then.

IR: Better.

How do you handle pressure in your career?

SH: By tuning out the noise and trusting myself and the work I put in.

IR: Same for me. I know I'm better than most players on the ice, knowing that keeps pressure off.

What do you want to be remembered for?

SH: For a long time I was worried about being remembered as "the gay hockey player," but the numbers don't lie. I'll always be a gay hockey player who was really fucking good at hockey.

IR: And we will be remembered as the first married couple to win the Stanley Cup.

SH: Damn right we will.

Who do you admire?

SH: I've always admired my parents.

IR: [looks away from the camera and focuses on arranging eggs and sausage on two plates]

SH: What? Who is it?

IR: You. I always admire you.

What's something you can't do, but wish you could?

SH: Speak Russian fluently. I'm learning, but it's a hard language.

IR: You're doing very well, мой цветочный горшок.

SH: What's that one?

IR: Flower pot.

SH: I thought I heard “flower” in there. What’s yours?

IR: Mmm, I’d like to learn how to make more Japanese dishes. Yuna offered to teach me, but we haven’t had time.

Who do you turn to when you’re sad?

SH: Ilya.

IR: Shane. And my therapist.

SH: You know you can talk to me about anything. [hands Ilya a plate with the toast on it]

IR: I don’t like worrying you about things you can’t fix.

If you could make a documentary about anything, what would it be?

SH: LGBTQ hockey players. [sits down with his plate]

IR: I’d like to redo that one about our rivalry. Take out the scene where Shane was knocked unconscious. Tell the real story.

SH: The real story?

IR: Maybe not all of it. Some things are private.

SH: *Now* you’re interested in privacy? What about [censored] on a fur coat?

What has been the most surprising response since coming out?

SH: I came out to my old team before they knew about my relationship with Ilya, and I was surprised how many of the guys wanted to set me up. I guess it was nice to see that they even *knew* gay men, let alone knew any well enough to set up with someone.

IR: I never got much chance to tell people I’m bisexual before—well, you know. [spreads a staggering amount of Nutella onto the toast]

So any surprising responses since your relationship was revealed?

IR: A lot of people on the internet make videos of us with our POP! figures. Creativity very surprising. We should have Harris do this. We could do voiceover.

SH: I’ll need one of me in a Centaurs jersey first.

IR: They already made it. Hazy showed me. [hands Shane cutlery before sitting down next to him]

SH: Why does Hazy have my POP! figure?

IR: He collects the comic book ones.

What's something your fans would be shocked to learn about you?

SH: I think we already shocked them enough.

IR: Our relationship is very normal. I think that might shock people.

After seeing you make breakfast together, I think people might be shocked at how domestic you are. Last question and then I'll leave you two to your breakfast. What's something you will not be doing in ten years?

SH: I'd like to still be playing hockey in ten years, but I don't think I'll still be winning fastest skater.

IR: Playing against Scott Hunter. He only has one, maybe two seasons left at most.

End Notes

I am still very much on [tumblr](#).

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