

## **It's been a long road getting from there to here**

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](https://archiveofourown.org/works/77338196) at <https://archiveofourown.org/works/77338196>.

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rating:          | <a href="#">Mature</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Archive Warning: | <a href="#">Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings</a>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Category:        | <a href="#">M/M</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Fandom:          | <a href="#">Heated Rivalry (TV)</a>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Relationship:    | <a href="#">Shane Hollander/Ilya Rozanov</a>                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Characters:      | <a href="#">Shane Hollander</a> , <a href="#">Ilya Rozanov</a>                                                                                                                                                               |
| Additional Tags: | <a href="#">Established Relationship</a> , <a href="#">Fluff and Hurt/Comfort</a> , <a href="#">Light Angst</a> , <a href="#">character introspection</a> , <a href="#">Fluff and Humor</a> , <a href="#">post episode 6</a> |
| Language:        | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Stats:           | Published: 2026-01-08 Words: 4,503 Chapters: 1/1                                                                                                                                                                             |

# **It's been a long road getting from there to here**

by [Blackstar \(BurnInFlames\)](#)

## Summary

Ilya hated that Shane noticed it as he had been hoping he distracted Shane enough to not notice that Ilya was in his own head again. Ilya felt like he should have known Shane would notice something was wrong because Shane always noticed everything about him like he noticed everything about Shane. Ilya let his hands trail along Shane's ribs and sighed as he looked at him before admitting "I don't want to go back to Boston, I want to stay here with you" softly.

or

Ilya tells Shane at the cottage he's tired of hiding and having to pretend he hates Shane for the media.

## Notes

So I decided to post this before I chicken out of it as it's my first time posting for this fandom. I need to say I know absolutely nothing about ice hockey or teams or when they play so if anything is wrong here then I'm sorry. I also haven't read the books and I'm using the TV characterisation of Shane and Ilya. I'm still stuck at the cottage to be honest.

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

Ilya knew he loved Shane so much that at times he still didn't know what to do with it even months after they had made their relationship official at Shane's cottage. At times he still couldn't quite believe he could have a future with Shane and other times he happily let himself be swept away in being loved by Shane. There were also times he still felt that creeping doubt about how long it would last and if their relationship was too good to be true whisper away in the back of his mind.

Those thoughts were easily pushed away when he was busy with hockey and with Shane along with other things going on in his life but when he was alone it was a different story. Ilya had barely seen Shane in the following months after their trip to the cottage as they were on the road for hockey games which meant they were back to texting and calling each other every day.

The only time he had gotten to see Shane in person was whenever Montreal and Boston were playing against each other but their time was limited to a night in Ilya's house or Shane's apartment for a few hours. Ilya hated the whole thing and he couldn't wait for the season to be over so he could move to Ottawa so he could be closer to Shane. That excitement was buzzing away like a restless itch under his skin as the trade negotiations were now entering their final stages.

Ilya couldn't wait for the whole thing to be finalized and announced even if he would have to deal with the fallout of leaving a top team for a team at the bottom of the league. Ilya didn't care if he wouldn't be winning because it meant getting to be two hours away from Shane then Ilya considered that to be a bigger win over winning any game. Ilya knew he liked hockey and while he loved winning and baiting other players on the ice he just didn't have the passion for the game in the same way that Shane did.

It still amused Ilya when he remembered the day Yuna questioned his loyalty to Boston where Ilya didn't even hesitate to tell her he would drop Boston and move to Ottawa for Shane. Ilya had felt elated when Shane told her that Ilya was being loyal to Shane and not Boston but seeing the way Shane was freaking out over the events of that afternoon it had been enough to put the brakes on that elation.

Ilya had put his arm around Shane and comforted him not missing the way Shane had started to calm down before they went back to eating their food. After seeing the look on Yuna's face over Ilya's move from Boston it made Ilya realise where Shane got his obsession with hockey from even if the whole interaction amused him to no end.

Ilya didn't even want to think about how his father would respond to the news of him leaving Boston for a lesser team but Ilya knew well enough to know it would just be another thing to add to the list of disappointments his father loved to remind him about when he was still alive. Ilya could still hear his father's put-downs of how he was a disappointment to the family and to Russia while also being lazy and never worked hard enough.

But now that his father was dead and he was no longer talking to his brother Ilya didn't care what they thought anymore knowing he wasn't lying when he told Shane he didn't want a Russian passport anymore. Ilya had no intention of ever going back to Russia knowing there

was no reason for him to go back there anymore as he hated it so much knowing his family hated him and that Russia would hate him too just because he dared to love another man.

Ilya wondered if he would ever tell Shane about what he told him that day when Shane asked him to say what he wanted to say in Russian. Shane had never asked and Ilya never told him even if it felt good to get the words out because English was so fucking hard when it came to expressing how he really felt in another language.

Ilya wasn't sure if those ghosts in his mind would ever go away but being with Shane made it easier and a little more bearable as Shane had given him a home and a safe place where Ilya didn't have to pretend to be someone he wasn't in front of people who expected him to behave a certain way. Ilya knew he was over-confident, cocky and came across as arrogant while people generally called him an asshole but Ilya was happy to lean into that image knowing it was what the media and fans wanted him to be.

But when he was alone with Shane that image and those walls he built around himself fell away and he finally felt safe enough with Shane to be himself and be more honest with Shane as they still had the agreement that while they were alone together they would be more honest with each other which they always were.

Ilya loved that he didn't have to be something he wasn't when he was with Shane and it was why when they finally had a few days off he talked Shane into meeting up with him at the cottage. He also missed Shane in more ways than one and when Shane admitted he felt that way too over the phone they decided to meet up at the cottage the first chance they got.

Ilya lay on the sofa while staring at the ceiling letting his thoughts drift through his mind not able to ignore the way he wished Shane would hurry up and come back home while also feeling like all of this with Shane was too good to be true. Shane had left the cottage to go buy groceries in town but not before trying to persuade Ilya to go with him so they could get out of the house for a while.

As much as Ilya wanted that he knew it wasn't a good idea as someone might see them together so he pushed Shane out the door while telling him that he could survive without him for a few hours even if they both knew it was a lie. Shane wanted nothing more for Ilya to go with him and begged Ilya to go with him and as much as Ilya wanted to he knew he couldn't and reminded Shane they couldn't be seen in public together at least not yet.

Even though their relationship had been accepted by Shane's parents Ilya wanted to stick to the plan that Shane had come up with that night the first time they had stayed in the cottage together. Ilya had been here several times since then and if anything it was starting to feel like a home that he was now building with Shane. Ilya loved every second of being alone with Shane and every time they came here it felt like they were living in their own bubble with the outside world completely forgotten about.

At the cottage they were just Ilya and Shane where they could relax and be themselves with no rivalry to maintain for the hockey world and the fans of Boston and Montreal. Ilya loved it here because he got to be alone with Shane and Ilya was getting tired of publicly pretending he hated Shane when he loved him so much he still didn't know what to do with it other than drown in it.

That feeling was much more intense every time Boston played against Montreal and the media would be looking for their scoop of the day by bringing up their rivalry every time. It was starting to get to Ilya and he knew it was bad when he nearly snapped at a pushy reporter after a game and just about stopped himself from telling the reporter that their rivalry was non-existent.

Ilya knew it was getting to Shane too even if Shane never said anything about it which was why he talked Shane into meeting up with him at the cottage. Ilya just hated that they would have to leave each other again and he wasn't looking forward to it at all and he knew Shane wasn't either.

Ilya's thoughts drifted to the first time he came here with Shane and Ilya still couldn't believe Shane stayed awake for half the night coming up with a plan for them to be together and to change the narrative of them hating each other to becoming friends and eventually revealing their relationship after they retired from hockey. When Ilya lay on Shane's lap in front of the fire and told him about his mother he hadn't been expecting Shane to react the way he did but it was also the first time Ilya felt safe enough to talk about it with another person.

Shane had been as understanding as ever and it made Ilya feel truly safe for the first time in his life. He hadn't been expecting the tears in Shane's eyes when he told him he could marry Svetlana for an American passport before Shane told him to not marry Svetlana and that they would work something out. He also hadn't been expecting Shane to stay awake for most of the night thinking up a plan for Ilya to get Canadian citizenship.

His beautiful Shane who thought up a whole plan about moving the narrative away from their decade long rivalry starting with Ilya moving to Ottawa where they could set up charity in his mother's name and give the money to suicide prevention charities while also setting up a hockey school. It had surprised Ilya that Shane had been thinking that far ahead and even though he had only woken up Ilya found himself desperately hoping and wanting Shane's plan to work out.

If Ilya hadn't been so sure he was in love with Shane by that point then he definitely would have been in love with him after hearing Shane's plan for their future. Deep down Ilya knew it was good idea and the hope of a future with Shane had been too good of an idea to resist so he quickly agreed to it.

Ilya hadn't been expecting Shane to admit he wanted it so much and while it scared him Ilya knew he felt the same way too. It made him tell Shane he loved him in Russian and English before he lay down on Shane almost in tears not able to ignore the way he felt so safe and warm when Shane hugged him tightly in his arms feeling relieved that Shane felt the same way.

Ilya had nearly panicked at Shane's response of holy shit and Ilya was about to backtrack like he did that day in his house in Boston when he slipped up and said Shane's name out loud. That night in the cottage Ilya had been so scared Shane didn't feel the same way but when Shane told him he loved him Ilya had just collapsed in relief not able to stop the tears at finally being loved by Shane.

Shane's admission had been enough to break the dam that Ilya had been holding back for a long time and it had been a very emotional night for both of them but they both knew it was needed as they had been avoiding their feelings for a long time. When Ilya realised Shane had been very serious about his plan it made Ilya realise he wanted all of that too with Shane before he broke down not able to hide the tears that formed in his eyes as he told Shane he loved him so much.

The other thing that scared Ilya was the way Shane always told him how much he needed him and wanted him even though Ilya had already admitted to Shane that he wanted him too and that Shane was a problem he never ever wanted to go away. Ilya hadn't been lying about that even though the love he felt for Shane was scaring the crap out of him but he loved Shane too much keep up the resistance he had over the last number of years.

Ilya remembered the first time Shane told him he needed him and it kept happening repeatedly over the years before they admitted their feelings to each other. Ilya only fully realised how much Shane needed him as he watched Shane anxiously spiral and shut down when their father caught them together outside the cottage. It had only gotten worse when they went to Shane's parents house to tell Yuna and David about their relationship.

Ilya knew Shane needed him but it also scared him with just how much he needed Shane and he wondered if Shane knew just how much he needed him too. Needing someone was something Ilya wasn't used to not with most of his life spent with his brother telling him that they didn't need him despite needing Ilya's money to fund his drug addiction. His father did nothing but berate him endlessly by calling him a disappointment to the family and to Russia while also publicly humiliating Ilya at any opportunity by telling people he was lazy and needed to work harder as if Ilya didn't win Boston the cup by being lazy.

Ilya didn't know what to think that day when he told Shane that he was lazy only for Shane to tell him he didn't know that side of him at all before it all went to hell when Ilya slipped up and said Shane's name out loud. Ilya preferred not to think about that day anymore now that it all worked out and he was lying on Shane's sofa in his very private cottage hours away from any living person where no would recognise either one of them.

Ilya hated that they only had few more days here before they had to leave and go back to the real world and it only made Ilya wish his season with Boston would quickly end so he could finally move to Ottawa and be with Shane once and for all. The trade negotiations were nearly finalized and Ilya couldn't wait to move so he could be closer to Shane and he knew Shane was looking forward to it too.

Ilya wished he had more time here with his boyfriend not having the energy to go back to Boston and pretend to hate Shane Hollander over some stupid rivalry the media and fans created back in their rookie year. Ilya didn't want to be anywhere else right now thinking that Shane had been right when he told him to let the newcomers fight it out amongst themselves with their rivalries while they moved on to better things like building a future together.

Ilya preferred that idea much more knowing that while he liked hockey he didn't have the passion for it the way Shane had over the years. Ilya saw it as his way out of Russia and something that would take him far away from his family but now that his father was dead and he cut his brother off Ilya had no reason to ever go back there any time soon. There was

something better waiting for him and Shane's plan for their future made Ilya hope and want something more or something different but most of all Ilya just wanted Shane.

As much as Ilya loved teasing Shane by calling him a boring, slow hockey player with a weak backhand and a terrible car he knew he never meant those words in a serious way. If anything the words were always loaded with endearment and affection and it made Ilya feel warm knowing Shane didn't take his words serious at all. It also helped that Shane just called him a fucking asshole while laughing at him before telling Ilya to hurry up and fuck him already.

Ilya was only too happy to give Shane what he wanted and Ilya hadn't missed the way Shane always looked at him like he was a starving man every time they met up in secret far away from prying eyes whenever they were playing in the same city. Ilya knew that being with Shane meant stability which was something he never got to have or something he ever felt with his family.

Shane made him feel safe and it was something Ilya craved so much because Shane felt like someone he could rely on and he trusted Shane with his life and with his thoughts and his feelings. Ilya loved Shane so much that he didn't know what to do with it but he did know that Shane made him feel safe enough to let him see the parts of him that Ilya would never let anyone else see.

He still couldn't believe that Shane loved him too and sometimes it made Ilya feel like he was going to wake up soon and this right now with Shane would just be the remnants of a lovely dream he dreamt before he would wake up alone in his bed at home in Boston.

Ilya quickly pushed that line of thought away to the darkest corners of his mind before he heard the door close and he didn't have to wait too long before Shane walked over to the sofa and lay down on top of him making himself nice and comfortable. Ilya softly laughed and grinned while wrapping his arms around Shane's back not missing the way Shane buried his face in his neck and sighed in contentment.

Ilya couldn't resist teasing his boyfriend "I told you that you should stay here" firmly.

Shane knew it wouldn't be Ilya if he didn't say I told you so as Ilya did say that before Shane left as he laughed into Ilya's neck "fuck you" firmly.

Ilya felt Shane's warm breath on his neck while lightly rubbing his hand along Shane's back not even hesitating "maybe later" firmly.

Shane knew they would be doing that much later but not after the last few hours as he leaned up on his elbow to look at Ilya before telling him "I know you told me not to go but we needed more food" firmly.

Ilya lightly rubbed his hands along Shane's ribs as he silently looked at him knowing Shane was right before admitting "I wanted to go with you but I'm also tired of hiding" softly.

Shane buried his hand in Ilya's hair knowing he was getting tired of it too not caring to admit "me too but we've got to stick to the plan, you're moving to Ottawa next season and then we

can set things in motion, get things started on the charity and publicly be friends, my mom is already working on it so it won't be so bad after that" firmly.

Ilya felt like the plan was taking too long even though he knew they had to take their time with it but it was leaving him frustrated and it showed on his face "I know that but I hate being so far away from you" firmly.

Shane couldn't disagree with that knowing he missed Ilya so much admitting "me too but it won't be for much longer, we're half-way through the season already" firmly.

As much as Ilya hated that he still grumbled "still too long" firmly. Shane thought that too as he silently looked at Ilya and not wanting to dwell on that Shane pointed out "Montreal still has some games left against Boston so we'll still see lots of each other" firmly.

Ilya grinned knowing what they would be getting up to after those games were finished "I'll come over to your apartment when I'm in Montreal and you can come to my house in Boston" firmly.

Shane knew he would do that with no hesitation while also loving that some things never changed between them as he told Ilya "sounds good to me, so are you ready to lose next time we play against each other" firmly.

Ilya laughed before teasing "in your dreams Hollander, not with that weak backhand" firmly.

Shane softly laughed before quickly snapping back "like you can talk, you're still behind me on the scoring race this season so maybe when you catch up to me then I'll listen to you about my fucking weak back-hand" firmly.

Ilya laughed knowing he loved the shit-talking they always did with each other in private or in public and he loved it even more on the ice as he told Shane "I'm still going to score more than goals than you Hollander so don't get too comfortable" firmly.

Shane loved nothing more than seeing Ilya brimming with confidence but Shane still challenged him with "bring it on Rozanov, it will be nice to see you lose to the best player in the league" firmly.

Ilya accepted the challenge but still corrected "wrong, you mean lose to the second best player in the league, it will never happen so don't get your hopes up" firmly.

Shane knew he loved Ilya but he was still going to win the scoring record for the season as he laughed "you fucking asshole, I'm still faster than you so you might want to catch up first" softly.

Ilya laughed as he stared at Shane thinking he missed this so much as it just wasn't the same over the phone but he also didn't feel like talking anymore and leaned up to kiss Shane almost smiling into it when Shane kissed him back slowly and lazily.

Seconds passed before Shane broke the kiss to look at Ilya deciding to just say it "you've been quiet since we got here, you want to tell me what it is" softly.

Ilya hated that Shane noticed it as he had been hoping he distracted Shane enough to not notice that Ilya was in his own head again. Ilya felt like he should have known Shane would notice something was wrong because Shane always noticed everything about him like he noticed everything about Shane.

Ilya let his hands trail along Shane's ribs and sighed as he looked at him before admitting "I don't want to go back to Boston, I want to stay here with you" softly.

Ilya shifted to make himself more comfortable with Shane lying on top of him before deciding to just say it "after the last game I nearly told a reporter that there was never was a rivalry between us and I don't hate you, I'm not sure if I ever did hate you but he was being an asshole and kept asking questions about Boston's next game with Montreal and he bought up the whole rivalry thing and asked if we'd fight it out on the ice" firmly.

Shane hated the media as much Ilya did and Shane looked tired too as he told Ilya "I'm sorry but we don't have much longer to go before the season is over" firmly.

Ilya looked away knowing Shane was right but there something else bothering him as he looked at Shane not caring to admit "I'm tired of pretending to hate you when I want to say I've been fucking you since 2008" softly.

Shane laughed with a wide grin on his face over Ilya being so blunt but he knew he wouldn't have Ilya any other way as he told him "I'm sure they would love that, just think of the headlines" firmly.

Ilya grinned while pushing his hips up against Shane before telling him "why wouldn't they love it, just think about it, Boston's loud mouth fucking Montreal's golden boy who can never do anything wrong, the media would eat it up for weeks" and then laughed to himself.

Shane could picture the headlines but there was no way Shane was going to let that happen as he looked at Ilya before teasing "I'd just blame it all on you and say you corrupted me, I didn't know what I was doing or plead temporary insanity, I could say it's not me and it's a distant cousin that I've never met who looks suspiciously like me, I'm sure mom would back me up" firmly.

Ilya laughed and lightly hit Shane's side with his hand muttering "fuck you, your mom loves me" firmly.

Shane laughed knowing it was true while lying down completely on top of Ilya before burying his face in Ilya's neck as he told him "but yeah I'm getting tired of those questions so much, I want to tell them I've never hated you" firmly.

Ilya slid his arms around Shane's back loving the way Shane's body-weight was pressing him down into the sofa like a warm weighted blanket making Ilya feel like he could stay here with Shane in his arms forever.

Ilya sighed in contentment before teasing "I like the headline about the distant cousin who is the slowest hockey player with an unbelievably weak back hand" softly but the words were loaded with affection.

Shane snuggled closer into Ilya's arms before mocking "and don't forget terribly boring with an awful car" before laughing to himself.

Ilya laughed while tightly hugging Shane in his arms teasing "that too" firmly.

There was lull in the conversation before Ilya spoke "I love you so much Shane" firmly.

Shane softly kissed the side of Ilya's neck while feeling warm all over now that he was in Ilya's arms needing Ilya to know "I love you too Ilya and I missed you so much" firmly.

Now that Shane was in his arms Ilya felt like he get through the rest of the season even if it would kill him as he told Shane "I missed you too but now I want to fuck you because I missed that too" firmly.

Shane wanted that too even though they couldn't keep their hands of each other since they got here and he didn't waste any time in kissing Ilya's lips almost sighing into it when Ilya kissed him back slowly and lazily. Seconds passed before Ilya wanted more and deepened the kiss which quickly turned more intense and it wasn't long before things turned more intimate between them on the sofa.

As Ilya got lost in Shane's arms he knew they would be okay and he knew Shane was right in that they didn't have long to go before the season was over and he would move to Ottawa. Ilya couldn't wait for their future together but for now he was happy to focus all of his attention on Shane who was determined to make Ilya forget a single thought in his head right now.

## End Notes

If you made it this far thank you for reading.

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