Laying the Tracks

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Laying the Tracks

by Fandom_Stuff

Summary

Ilya and Shane invite some of the neighborhood kids over to sled which naturally escalates into a snowball fight.

Shane and Ilya make a decision about their future.

Notes

This little fic is actually based off my own experience. I was outside laying down sledding tracks for the neighborhood kids to come over and sled on our hill and I thought to myself... Ilya would do this. Thus this fic was born.

Enjoy!

See the end of the work for more notes

Ilya spent all morning laying down the sledding tracks in the snow. He'd made Shane promise to keep Anya inside so he didn't have to worry about hitting her as he sped down the hill just behind their backyard. He'd invited the neighborhood kids over for sledding, cookies, and hot coco and he wanted everything to be perfect.

Ilya loved their neighborhood, it had been an unexpected perk of moving to Ottawa and he wouldn't change it for the world. He'd made quiet friends with a few of his neighbors, one of which being an elderly couple who lived a few houses down that Ilya met up with to play cards with whenever he could; he'd even paid for both of their hip replacement surgeries. Of course there were also Willa and Andrew, his number one fans as he liked to refer to them as, and their parents whom Ilya had gotten to know pretty well by now. Kate had told him that Willa was interested in playing hockey and Ilya promised he'd make sure she got a spot at the next summer camp.

A new family had moved in at the end of the street and they had two kids, Jake and Fiona, who were a few years younger than Willa and Andrew. Ilya had introduced himself after he'd driven by and spotted Jake practicing hockey in his driveway with a net and a ball. The four kids had been ecstatic when Ilya had put out the invitation to their parents to come sledding and Ilya was determined to make it as fun as it could be.

"They're here!" Shane called out from the house.

Ilya went down his latest track, packing it into the snow, before he trekked back to the house. Anya was barking excitedly and Ilya could hear Willa's giggles. He started to come into the house but Shane stopped him with a hand on his chest.

"What?"

"Boots off," Shane ordered. "You're not trekking snow in here."

Ilya could only grin at his husband. "So bossy." He took off his boots and then gave Shane a quick kiss. "Hey guys!" he called as he moved toward the front door.

"Ilya!" Willa exclaimed, abandoning Anya in favor of running into his arms.

"Woah, you've gotten bigger since last time I saw you, yes? All that hockey training making you grow?"

"I'm stronger than Andrew now!" Willa declared.

"You wish!" Andrew retorted, he'd been standing with Kate in the entryway and was now scratching Anya's ears.

"He's just mad it's true," Willa said.

"I believe you," Ilya replied. A knock on the door announced Jake and Fiona and Ilya ushered them inside. "Come in come in!"

Jake and Fiona's father, Brian, was with them and he looked slightly starstruck between Shane and Ilya. "Thank you for inviting them over," he said.

"Thanks for coming," Shane replied.

"We're big fans!" Jake said, staring up at Shane with wide eyes.

"We just moved from Montreal to Ottawa," Brian explained.

"Ottawa is much better, yes?" Ilya asked, ruffling Jake's hair.

"The best!"

Ilya crouched down so he was on Fiona's level, she was probably about seven years old and she looked up at him with big brown eyes. "And what about you? Do you like Ottawa?"

Fiona nodded minutely. "There is better sledding snow here, I think," Ilya said.

A shy smile spread across Fiona's face. "Really?"

"Really."

"Ilya's been outside laying down tracks all morning," Shane said.

Ilya straightened up and held his hand out for Fiona to take. "Do you want to see?"

Ilya led the gaggle of kids outside and Shane stayed back with Kate and Brain. He took them to the hill where he'd set out all different kinds of sleds for them to try out. Andrew and Willa ran ahead, each grabbing a sled and running to the top of the hill; Jake followed after them a little slower.

Ilya stayed with Fiona who was looking at the hill with trepidation. "Do you want to go down together?" Fiona hesitated and Ilya gave her little hand a squeeze. "We can watch instead."

Willa was already climbing into her sled at the top of the hill and Ilya and Fiona stood off to the side as she whizzed down it. Andrew and Jake had clearly decided to race as they got into their sleds at the same time. Jake won.

Ilya and Fiona watched a few more rounds before Fiona said, "I want to go."

"Then we go," Ilya said, beginning to walk with her up the hill. He grabbed a sled on the way and then held it in place for her at the top. "Do you want to go alone?"

Fiona shook her head. "Come with me?"

"Of course." He sat down in the sled and helped Fiona get situated in front of him, wrapping his arms around her like a makeshift seatbelt. "Ready?"

"Ready!"

Ilya sent them down the hill and Fiona let out a scream of delight. Ilya slowed them down at the bottom of the hill and let Fiona climb out of the sled. “Was fun, yes?”

“Yes!” Fiona exclaimed.

“Come on,” Willa said, she’d been waiting at the bottom of the hill. “I’ll go with you next time.”

Ilya stood back and watched the two girls go up the hill together and then come back down. Andrew challenged them to a race, girls vs boys, and Willa and Fiona quickly agreed. Ilya couldn’t help his smile as he watched the girls win, shooting down the hill and surpassing the boys by at least two feet.

“Well done,” Ilya praised. To the boys he said, “Better luck next time.”

“That’s so unfair!” Andrew huffed. “They weigh less than us!”

“Is still a win,” Ilya said. “You should learn to be less of a sore loser.” Ilya knew a thing or two about losing frequently. The Ottawa Centaurs might be one of the best teams in the league *now* but it hadn’t started that way. It had taken a lot of losses to get them where they were today, and of course it didn’t hurt that Shane had joined the team.

“Whatever,” Andrew muttered.

Ilya didn’t see who threw it but he was pretty sure it was Fiona, now that she was coming out of her shell Ilya could see she was a bit of a spitfire. The snowball hit Andrew square in the chest and Fiona giggled.

“Oh it’s on!” Andrew declared.

Snow was flying everywhere and so it was no surprise when an errant snowball found Ilya. All the kids exchanged a look and then Ilya was being pelted with snowballs. There was snow in his mouth, in his eyes, and some had found its way down his coat collar. He collapsed to the ground, making a dramatic pained noise as if he’d been shot.

Now that he was on the ground, the snowballs turned into just fistfulls of snow being dumped on him. “Let’s bury him!” Willa suggested.

Ilya spluttered as more snow landed on his face, followed by the sound of giggling children. “Miloserdiye! Mercy, please!”

A tiny body landed on top of him and Ilya blinked through the snow to see Fiona grinning at him, hands pinning him to the ground. “I’ve got him!”

Jake and Willa pounced on his legs and Ilya only had a few seconds to register that Andrew was not part of this pig pile, which meant that— “Ack!” he gasped as Andrew dumped snow on his face. He shook his head, dislodging most of it. “I surrender, I surrender!” he said, freeing a hand to wipe at his face.

“We’ve bested the great beast!” Willa exclaimed.

The three children scrambled off him and tossed more snow in the air like confetti, giggling and shoving at each other in celebration. Ilya lay winded on the ground, watching the scene fondly and feeling, not for the first time, that he wanted this. He wanted kids of his own to raise with Shane.

A shadow fell over Ilya's face and he squinted up at Shane. When had he come out here? "Having fun?"

"Mm, yes," he said. The plan formulated in his mind within half a second and before Shane could do anything about it, Ilya had rolled onto his side, compacted a snowball, and lobbed it directly at Shane, hitting him in the shoulder.

"Hey!" Shane yelped.

"Get him!" Ilya shouted to the kids.

With a new target in their sights, the kids let out shrieks of excitement and began to pelt Shane with snowballs. Ilya joined in and Shane started to run back towards the house. Ilya couldn't have that. He gave chase, catching up to his husband quickly and tackling him to the ground. Shane let out a loud *oomph* as Ilya landed on top of him and he squirmed under Ilya until they were facing each other, Ilya's hands on his arms keeping him down.

"Got you," Ilya said, gazing down at his husband and admiring the way the cold had reddened Shane's face, making his freckles stand out even more. God, he looked perfect.

"You did," Shane said, laughter and mischief in his eyes. "What're you gonna do with me?"

"Mm," Ilya pondered this. "A lot of things, I think. Later."

"Later," Shane agreed.

"Kids!" Kate shouted. "Come in for some hot coco!"

Ilya forced himself to get off his husband instead of doing something else that was definitely not appropriate with children around, and then he helped Shane to his feet and dusted off some of the snow on his husband's jacket. They watched as the kids ran past them, nothing but a whirlwind of excited laughter. Kate forced them to get out of their snowpants and boots before coming inside and Ilya found that he couldn't keep it in anymore.

"I want one," he said.

Shane nodded as they watched Kate help Fiona out of her boots. "Yeah. Me too."

They'd talked about it before but it had never been the right time. Now that they'd been married for a year and Shane had found his groove with the team, it seemed like they could manage having a baby around.

"So let's do it," Ilya said, as if it were that simple.

"Okay," Shane replied, tucking himself into Ilya's side. "Let's do it."

Neither of them could stop smiling as they joined the kids at the kitchen table, sipping hot chocolate and eating homemade sugar cookies. Ilya's hand never left Shane's where it rested on his thigh under the table, his thumb sweeping occasionally over Shane's knuckles.

The future looked positively blinding.

End Notes

Thank you for reading! I exist on Twitter and Tumblr if you want to come say hello!

Comments and kudos are always appreciated <3

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