

Looking at Pictures of You (Boring) With Your Dad (Who Is Also Boring)

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Looking at Pictures of You (Boring) With Your Dad (Who Is Also Boring)

by [SirLadyBlueletter](#)

Summary

My take on what Ilya and David did while Shane and Yuna were outside. Also, Yuna becomes fond of Ilya against her ~~better judgement~~ less-than-rational hostility.

Notes

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

Shane follows his mother out, leaving Ilya alone with David Hollander. Nervous but not letting it show, Ilya is pondering whether to ask about his boring Treasury Board job or his readership of the boring New Yorker when Shane's boring dad speaks up first.

"I don't want to pry, but I'm just still confused, you two were together—sorry, uh, 'seeing each other'" — he made air quotes to show he understood the less romantic nature of that relationship — "for how long before you were in love with each other? And how often were you even seeing each other?" David hesitates. "If Shane's been going to Boston or someplace to see you, he's covered it up really well..."

An awkward, but understandable, question. Ilya sighs. "Is complicated. Very casual for long time. We only see each other at hockey. Not 'together' until, uh, last year? But also, in love long time before serious." He looks at the door. "For me at least. What can I say, was very complicated." Ilya shrugs. "But now boyfriends." His lips curl into a small smile.

"Okay, got it." David pauses and adds slowly, "I appreciate your trust," like he's had a sensitivity training to do that. Ilya is both amused and touched. Following through on not wanting to pry, David does not have any follow-up questions. "You want to see some pictures of Shane as a kid?"

Ilya definitely wants to.

He eagerly follows David to the living room and immediately giggles at how many pictures of Shane are hanging up. "This one, how did he get mark on his chin?"

David laughs and starts telling Ilya stories about Shane's younger years, moving from one picture to the next, and then to a photo album Yuna made that has a clear bias towards recording Shane's hockey career. Ilya eagerly flips to the back, delighted to see himself poorly cropped out of a picture of the MLH draft with pieces of his hand and jersey still within frame.

Ilya points to it, and David shakes his head in disbelief. "I can't believe you're here, looking at this. Ilya Rozanov in our home, and I'm showing him pictures of Shane." Ilya just grins.

~

After they clear their eyes, Shane and Yuna go back inside, expecting to see their partners still at the table. Instead, they hear voices from the living room.

Yuna notices Shane's relief at the sight of his boyfriend and dad getting along, but his face quickly changes as he sees the photo album between them.

He groans. "Dad, please don't be embarrassing me." David puts his hands up to say he's innocent.

"Not embarrassing," Ilya says with a smile. "You were very cute."

Shane narrows his eyes at Ilya. "*Were?*"

Keeping his face straight, Ilya corrects himself, "Are. Are very cute."

Yuna and David make eye contact. *Why is their son's disreputable boyfriend kind of adorable with him?*

"This isn't fair. Do you even have any baby pictures?" Shane complains, then winces. Remembering Ilya's father's death, Yuna realizes Shane is probably cringing at himself for bringing attention to their unequal family situations. Shane got that lack of social grace from her, of course. (Not that she's proud of that.)

Ilya shrugs. "Maybe you meet Svetlana, if you are nice, she like you, maybe she tell stories. Not many pictures anyways." He paused, his teasing tone fully dissipating. "Actually, I have one album, in box in Boston. My mother made, only one and very small. But I will show you."

So Rozanov can be *not* an asshole if he wants to. Yuna begrudgingly feels affectionate towards her son's greatest rival. And apparent boyfriend. *Why* did he have to choose Ilya Rozanov? She feels bad thinking that because attraction isn't a choice and it's evident that she hadn't been clear enough with Shane about that. But surely he wouldn't have become *attached* if he hadn't chosen to be friendly at some point. You don't fall in love on the first date, or rather the first— *let's not go there*.

Yet the more she thinks about Ilya, the more she's in favor. Sure, there are nice boys in Montreal, but how many would be as impressive as Rozanov to bring home? He's the captain of Boston, was the first draft pick, won the Cup, and has consistently been Shane's biggest competition. Rivals are only worth hating if they are worthy of attention, and Ilya Rozanov has been very worthy.

Watching Rozanov as she thinks, she's impressed by how centered he is on Shane, and how friendly his face is, cute even, when it's glowing with a smile aimed at her son.

Ugh. Okay. Rozanov charmed her way too easily, and all he's doing is sitting there — for the most part she convinced herself! Yuna resolves to not let this change of heart show immediately. Too embarrassing to admit how quickly she became fond of the guy she spent years hating, the guy who is known to be a total asshole. (...Except for that time he visited Shane in the hospital — oh my god! he visited Shane in the hospital, because they were ~~lovers~~ dating!)

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Ilya can't forget that Shane's parents are just watching them talk. It's a little intimidating, to be honest. Ilya doesn't know what to do next. His instinct is to kiss Shane after he says in a soft voice he's looking forward to seeing the book Irina made, but this is obviously not the right time and place.

Once again, David saves him. "Well, there is some pasta left, so if anyone wants to join me in eating it before it gets cold..." He points his thumb to the kitchen.

Ilya follows close behind him, still hungry. Then they are all back at the table, as if they never left.

Yuna seems to have gotten out whatever feelings she needed to with Shane and come around to their relationship, because she starts happily taking control of it. Ilya can tell Shane is tensing up the same as he is on the inside. But they are boyfriends now (and that little exchange certainly doesn't help Shane's parents' confusion at their relationship), so there is not much Ilya is scared of, and very little that he is not confident he could defeat.

"I think we all need to take a moment to ourselves. A lot just happened," David starts, and they make plans to split up and meet for dinner at Shane's place and talk more there.

Ilya is happy just to go home to Shane's cottage. Yuna is a bit frightening, he decides (only a little bit), but boring David Hollander is not so bad — nice, even. Maybe just "normal," as Shane said.

But he will not say so, of course, because he must keep teasing Shane about being boring.

End Notes

1. Ilya's accent might be overdone but it was fun to write. LMK if anything stands out as unrealistic if you speak Russian
2. That picture of baby Shane with a red spot on his chin grabbed my attention but frankly I can't decipher what kind of injury it is. I looked at it a lot trying to come up with something but all I could think of was either a hockey puck hit him right in the chin or he fell onto the edge of a table face-first, and neither of those really seemed plausible, so sorry for the cop-out
3. At first I had "infamously rude boyfriend" but "disreputable" made me laugh
4. I felt like David should say more than "okay, got it" but went like, well this is going to be stereotypically bad dialogue. then i remembered workplace sensitivity trainings. It's 2017, surely he's had one about people coming out to you? and uh he just didn't remember earlier. because he doesn't feel the need to rely on such things with his son, but Ilya is a stranger. Also, almost put in a line "my wife can be very intense about hockey" but I couldn't word the rest of it (David telling Ilya he does not/will not hold the rivalry against him) & get it in right.

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