

Centaur WAGs Chat

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Centaur WAGs Chat

by [yourlocalgarbagebag](#)

Summary

Ilya gives away “Jane’s” number for the Centaur WAGs group chat.

- Inspired by [please leave a message](#) by [subcorax](#)

Upon Ilya's signing with the Centaurs, the first order of business to attend to was the WAGs group chat.

"Do you have anyone that you might want to include? I can send her number over to my wife, Cassie." Boodram explained.

Ilya couldn't help the smirk that crossed over his face in that moment.

"Yes. There is someone..."

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Cassie added ###-###-####.

Cassie: Hey everyone! This is Jane. She's Ilya Rozanov's WAG?

Cassie: Sorry. Zane didn't really specify what the situation was with you two, but apparently Ilya said it was okay to add you here?

Shane was going to kill Ilya later.

Staring at the open "Centaur WAGs" chat, he wasn't even sure what to say in this situation.

The truth?

Jane: Ilya and I have been dating for a while, but we've been a thing for much longer.

Jane: He gave you my number to add here?

Cassie: Well, he gave it to my husband so that he could give it to me, but yes! Welcome! No matter the situation, we're excited to have you.

Lisa: Hi Jane!! I'm Lisa, Wyatt Hayes's wife. It's nice to meet you!

Caitlin: Glad to have you! I'm Evan Dykstra's wife, Caitlin.

Selena: I'm Selena— Nick Chouinard's wife. It's so exciting to have someone new! You're with a good bunch. Promise.

The whole thing was interesting.

He appreciated the added outlet— in the least— considering how Hayden had little interest in speaking about the intricacies of his relationship, and how Rose was usually too busy to talk much.

Maybe it had been done with the intent of getting on his nerves, but perhaps Ilya had done him a favor, after all.

Jane: It's great you meet you all. A WAGs chat will be a new experience for me.

Shane wouldn't tell them that that was because he was usually the player over the partner.

Of course, he also wouldn't mention that he was neither a "wife" nor "girlfriend."

Cassie: Most of the time, we just talk about the boys and what our lives are like as their partners. It can be stressful, can't it? Hopefully, we can provide you a good space to open up and release that stress!

That was easy enough.

Shane was often stressed out by how little he and Ilya's schedules overlapped throughout the season— although, he couldn't help but feel somewhat guilty as a contributor to the problem.

A part of him felt as if he was out of his element, so he decided to text an expert in the subject.

Shane: Ilya had me added to the Centaur WAGs group chat. What do I do?

Jackie: He did????!

Jackie: I thought you guys were still keeping things under wraps!

Shane: He introduced me as "Jane." It's the name he has for me in his phone, since we have to be careful about who we're caught texting and calling.

Jackie: Hm. Okay.

Jackie: Well, just play it cool! The girls will probably talk about hockey and the boys and their own experiences as WAGs. Do your best to contribute, and don't be afraid to have fun! I love the MTL WAG chat. It can be a super fun community!

Jackie: Put yourself out there, Shane. This will be good for you! How often do you get to talk about you and Ilya as a couple?

Jackie was right, just as she always was.

His attention was captured by another notification from the Centaur WAGs chat.

Lisa: How do you feel about Ilya's transfer to Ottawa, Jane?

Lisa: I know there's certainly a lot of discourse about it online. People saying he's throwing his career away. Do you have any thoughts?

Caitlin: OMG YES!!! Do you happen to know why he transferred? We've been theorizing, but we haven't reached a conclusion yet!

Just like that, he'd been accepted into the conversation.

Shane considered his answers, debating whether or not to act on the side of caution before ultimately going for it.

These weren't just some random people, after all: they were the partners of players who fully understood what it was like to be stuck under the lens of the public eye.

Jane: I'm really excited! Ilya's move to Ottawa means he'll be a lot closer. I'm hoping it will give us more opportunities for our relationship. I won't say that's the reason he did it or anything, but...

Jane: No, yes. That's why he did it. We're hoping that his leaving Boston will help us in taking our next steps.

Cassie: Shut up. Ilya Rozanov leaving Boston for a relationship?? I'm gagged.

Caitlin: Oh, I'm so sat. Tell us EVERYTHING! When did you two meet? What's he like off the ice?? What do you mean by "next steps"???

Shane couldn't help but smile at his phone, glad to share this piece of his life with new people.

He told them as much as he could without giving anything away: how they'd met when Ilya was a rookie, how spent years holding their breaths before finally admitting they loved one another, and how they eventually planned to tie the knot and settle for good.

The Centaur WAGs responded without judgement— instead expressing their kindness and excitement for the couple.

It was nice, and Shane hoped they could receive the same treatment from others when they finally did go public.

...

Lisa added ###-###-####.

Lisa: Wyatt and I thought it was only right to add Harris, now that he's dating Troy Barrett!

Harris: Hello!!!! I'm so so so excited to be included in the amazing Centaur WAGs group!! If any of you have requests regarding the Centaur socials and your respective partners, let me know ;))

Selena: Harris! Great you have you here. You know, I'd love it if you'd doll Nick up for a change. I swear, he only wears his sweaty jerseys and t-shirts nowadays!

Harris: Absolutely heard and I can make that happen. Without you all, I'm sure this team would fall into shambles! Anything for the WAGs!!!

Cassie: Well, you're technically one of us now!

Harris: And I'm so honored!!! I seem to have everyone's number but one? Who haven't I met???

Lisa: Have you met Jane? She's Ilya's girlfriend!! She never has time to make it to the team gatherings, though, unfortunately...

Harris: ILYA HAS A GIRLFRIEND??? This is news to me! Him and Troy are somewhat close. I'd have thought he would tell me.

Shane was surprised to see that one of the Centaurs— Troy Barrett, nonetheless— had a boyfriend.

It furthered his hope for the eventual release of his and Ilya's relationship to the public.

Still, he wondered how best to address his presence in the chat, despite never showing up for events.

Jane: Hi Harris. You're the team's social media guy, right? Ilya's mentioned you before. Most people don't know we're together. We try our best to keep things on the down-low for now.

Harris: OMG so it's true!! Well, I am BEYOND excited to meet you! I'm glad to see there's someone taking care of our captain. Ilya's a good guy.

Jane: He is, isn't he?

Caitlin: Sorry to interrupt but... should we rename the chat? I'm not sure if "Centaur WAGs" cuts it anymore now that Harris is here.

Caitlin: Centaur WABGs? Centaur WAGs + Harris?

Harris: CenPaur(tners)?

Cassie: Clever! Changing it now.

...

The video had gone viral almost instantly.

Since Hayden had knocked on Shane's door with the news that morning, an inescapable dread had settled over him.

Going online was a nightmare, but as he unlocked his phone to a world of notifications, he couldn't help but worry about the Centaur partners' chat.

Caitlin: Holy shit! Jane?!

Caitlin: Shane??? Are you and Ilya okay??

Lisa: I just saw the video! I can't believe someone would post that and expose your relationship before you've spoken on it.

Cassie: I can, but that doesn't make it okay. Shane?? It is you, right? How are you doing? We're here for you.

Selena: We have your back no matter what! We're with the rest of the boys now. Please call when you can so we can check up.

Harris: This is unforgivable!!! People can be so cruel. I'm going to do whatever is in my power to smooth this over for you and Ilya.

Harris: Have you two been online yet? Has the press gotten to you? Do you need me to post something? What do you need?

Seeing their endless, unwavering support, Shane wanted to cry.

Tears brimmed his eyes as he attempted to form a response.

Shane: Hi. Sorry. It's been a morning. It is Shane. I'm sorry for lying to you all, but there were no ill intentions behind my actions. I was happy to have the normalcy of being with Ilya without all the... added baggage. Maybe you understand. Maybe not. Either way, I'm sorry.

Shane: I appreciate the support. We are braving it together. Our agent is currently writing up a statement, which she suggested releasing within in the next two days. Both coaches already informed us that we've been benched by the orders of the commissioner. The league also recommends we avoid speaking out.

Harris: Shane!!!! We're so glad to hear from you.

Cassie: There's no need to apologize to us. We understand that your circumstances were complicated. It's okay.

Lisa: You had to do what you had to do to protect yourselves. We could never hold that against you!

Caitlin: We're just happy that you felt comfortable enough to share any of this part of your life with us. We know it couldn't have been easy.

Selena: Exactly. No hard feelings.

Lisa: It's horrible what they're doing to you two. It's not fair.

Harris: They have no right to punish you for who you love!!!

Cassie: Agreed. Can you call right now?

Shane paused, glancing over to where Ilya sat dealing with his own phone.

The video had already ruined their chances of coming out to the world, but maybe it wasn't too late for some of their friends to see them as they wished to be perceived.

Shane: Yes.

Cassie: Video call?

Shane: Okay.

The ringing began just a second later, catching Ilya's attention.

"Who is calling you?"

Shane shuffled across the bed, settling down beside him.

"Harris and the Centaur WAGs."

He propped up his cellphone, assuring that the both of them were in the frame before sliding to answer.

Immediately, the faces of the Centaur partners filled the screen, with the players crowded around behind them.

"Shane! Ilya! Are you two okay?! How are you holding up?" Harris questioned, wasting no time.

"We are fine for now." Ilya answered.

Shane nodded, then sighed.

"We're fine, but we owe you all the truth. The full truth."

He looked to Ilya, expecting some sort of green light.

"What? You think I will say no, Hollander? There is video of us with tongues down each other's throats all over internet. Is too late for secret now. Besides, I would have shouted from rooftop already if was up to me..."

"Okay. That's dramatic."

"Tell story. Do not have all day. No wonder you cannot beat me when you are so slow."

"Fuck off! I beat you all the time!" Shane replied, smile curling up the corners of his lips.

He turned back towards the camera, focusing on their captive audience.

His lips settled back into a line, thinking of all the lies he'd told.

Still, he was determined to make it right.

"Not everything I told you was a lie. It was just a slightly altered version to sell Jane— a non-hockey-playing *woman*. Ilya and I have been a thing since we were rookies. We spent the entirety of our careers falling further and further in love, until we admitted it a few years ago and made things official. We've never just been *rivals*, just like we've never *really* hated each

other. When I said he moved to Ottawa for me and for furthering our relationship, that part was true. I just didn't mention how I also play hockey for what was at the time Boston's rival team. I also didn't lie about our keeping our relationship on the down-low. I just didn't say all the reasons why. It's not just about avoiding press coverage. It's not even about being queer. It's *everything*. It's the way people expect us to be. It's our careers and—*fuck*— Russia..."

Shane looked to Ilya with worry, but the man only took his hand and squeezed it.

He decided to take over in that moment.

"Is illegal in Russia for public figures to promote queerness, and if I lose career, I no longer have work visa. I have no citizenship. I will be deported to Russia and jailed."

On the other end of the phone, their eyes widened, but Ilya turned to Shane.

"I do not care. I choose you. Every time, I choose you, and I will not worry about what my home country has to say. By summer, it will not matter. It will be Hollander-Rozanov."

Shane couldn't help but smile.

"Hollander-Rozanov? I thought we decided that one was a mouthful."

"It is perfect. You are perfect. Everything will be okay, and then be perfect too."

He laughed, then, at the sureness of Ilya's words.

Because he meant it, and— as crazy as it was— Shane believed it.

His eyes settled on the screen once more, crinkled from his uncontainable happiness.

"That's the other thing, I guess, that I didn't mention. We're engaged. We're getting married in the summer, and we'd love it if you'd all be there."

"No way!" Harris began.

"No way! No way! No way! That's so exciting! I'm so happy for you two!"

"This is... wow. I can't believe it." Cassie added, and she turned to her husband for more words to say.

"Roz, you're one hell of a guy, you know that? I'm glad you're happy, dude— despite all this shit thrown your way. You fucking deserve it, and you bet your ass I'll be cheering you on."

Ilya smirked.

"Do not wait to cheer me on, Bood. Your flight for game leaves in hour, yes? Get there, get on ice, and cheer me on from center."

...

Shane created a new chat.

Shane named the chat “Hollander-Rozanov Wedding.”

Shane: Hi! If you're here, that means you've been invited to Ilya and I's wedding. Details will be given soon.

Hayden: Thank fuck. So glad I still make the cut.

Ilya: It was close one, Pike. I offer to replace you with Chiron, but Shane says there is enough room for both.

Hayden: Fuck you, Rozanov.

Ilya: I have fiancé. No thank you.

Jackie: Ignore my idiot husband. He is forgetting how easily you let him off after he accidentally exposed you two in his FanMail. We're happy to support you two, always!

Caitlin: SO EXCITED FOR BOTH OF YOU!!! I can't believe the day is finally in the works!

Dykstra: It's about time.

Harris: OMG I'm gonna need so many tissues.

Troy: I'll stock up on tissues beforehand.

Bood: Woohoooo partayyyy!!! We're gonna live it the fuck up in celebration of Roz and Hollzy.

Cassie: We're honored to be included in your big day! I'll do my best to make sure Zane doesn't go too crazy.

Wyatt: Awesome!! Consider us there.

Lisa: Doing everything I can to make sure I have work off as soon as I get the date!

Selena: This is so amazing! I can't believe how far you two have come.

Selena: And thanks to Harris, I can assure my husband will know how to wear something that isn't a sweaty jersey or t-shirt for the occasion.

Chouinard: Hey! What's that supposed to mean?

Coach Wiebe: Wouldn't miss it for the world! Glad to have both future Hollander-Rozanovs on my roster.

Dillon: Hell yeah!!!!

Haas: :))

Scott Hunter: Am I supposed to be here?

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