

the game plan

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Summary

Yuna is Shane Hollander's manager but she is also his mother. Before anything else, she will always be her son's mother. But also his manager.

She knows him best. Or Yuna had thought for many years that she knew Shane better than most other people. Still, Shane hid how he really feels for many, many years. Out of fear of being ostracized for being different. For several reasons.

Notes

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

Yuna is Shane Hollander's manager but she is also his mother. Before anything else, she will always be her son's mother. But also his manager.

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As someone who isn't a gay man, Yuna may not understand what it is like to hide being gay. But she knows what it is like to have one's love get questioned again and again just because it doesn't fit into what other people refer to as the norm.

Yuna has been looked at strangely for getting married not just to a white man but also to one who many other people in her friend group back then had described as a bit weird and too focused on certain things. It goes without saying that Yuna isn't friends with any of these people anymore who used to talk badly about David for whichever reasons.

He is special to her. David was already someone Yuna loved with all her heart even when she had not yet known that they would one day get married and have a wonderful son together.

Speaking of David's special interests, they are partially what drew Yuna in just like his talent for noticing even the tiniest detail in whatever he sees. He is a passionate man regarding the things he loves and Yuna admires that about him. David may be sparing with words from time to time, especially around people he doesn't feel comfortable with yet but she got the chance to get to know him better than anyone else. David loves to read from his newspapers and to have Yuna listen to every word he reads out loud to her.

Seated around the dinner table, that's usually how the Hollander family addresses important issues. Today, they had a very special guest over to eat with them, Shane's boyfriend.

"Shane is at the cottage with Ilya Rozanov." That's what David had told Yuna right after he had come home, holding his forgotten and retrieved phone charger as if it had personally offended him.

That is what Yuna had focused on, her husband seemingly not knowing how to deal with something.

"Oh, that's great." Yuna had answered gleefully because she had already been certain the rivalry between her son and his so-called arch-rival isn't nearly as bad as the press usually likes to portray it, even if it is quite good gossip material to keep people entertained, "So they really are quite friendly."

David had asked Yuna to take a seat then.

That's how Yuna knew there really was something else her husband had not talked about yet. He only ever asks her to sit down when he thinks she might start pacing around the room or curse someone out in several languages.

"They weren't fighting, weren't they?" Yuna had carefully asked her husband.

“I wouldn’t call it fighting, no.” David had said before he seemingly changed the topic but in reality, he didn’t change the topic at all and Yuna understood the connection between these two topics, albeit only after a moment of thinking about it, “Do you remember our talk after Shane told us he had broken up with that Rose girl and the other one after Scott Hunter’s speech?”

Based on the mention of Scott Hunter’s speech, about coming out as queer and about being in love with another man, Yuna had known what her husband had been alluding to.

She asks him now once again, that very same question which she had asked him just before Shane had made his way into his childhood home, with a certain other hockey player following right behind him like a shadow.

“Out of all men, it had to be his arch-enemy, Ilya Rozanov?”

“Arch-rival maybe. I don’t think they’d ever considered each other to be true enemies.” David answers while he pours himself another glass and he is keeping his eyes on the bottle Shane had asked they’d order to keep at their place some months ago.

Yuna watches her husband take a sip.

Russian vodka, especially good Russian vodka, is hard to come by as they both know. David had already said as much when Shane, who never really liked anything with so much as a drop of alcohol in it, had asked if they could get a specific bottle of it for all three of them to drink together.

Yuna holds out her hand and David hands her his glass. She takes a sip as well and immediately makes a face. This specific flavour really isn’t to her taste but in front of their guests, Yuna kept it down. Especially since she had been faced with a true Russian. Yuna isn’t one to admit defeat in front of anyone.

“They’ve been fooling around since their rookie season.” Yuna mumbles to herself as she walks over toward the kitchen to get herself a bottle of water to get rid of the aftertaste of the vodka.

“Since before that.” David calls after her. “Since the summer before their rookie season began.”

Yuna makes it back to her husband.

The bottle stands before him on the table, more or less in the spot where Ilya Rozanov had just been eating their home-cooked pasta.

Ilya Rozanov, their son’s boyfriend, just paid them a visit and ate a home-cooked meal with the gusto of a young boy.

Yuna might need another drink. How is that a part of her actual real life?

“They made it official at our dinner table.” Yuna tells David then, just as it occurs to her, right when she sits down next to him again.

“He, Rozanov, I mean Ilya, looked at Shane for answers. Did you notice that?” David asks Yuna. “He waited for Shane to speak first, accepted and went with the choices he made.”

Yuna did notice. She is used to the opposite happening to the people she loves. It was something she disliked so much when her so-called former friends did the absolute opposite when they started talking over David. Sometimes, they were even cutting him off in the middle of talking. Yuna didn't let it happen once she noticed it and in the end, she chose David over them. She never regretted her choice and she never will.

“I appreciate how direct Ilya is. But David, they weren't together yet when they came here and only made it official at this very table! It must have been so difficult for both of them to not know what they are to each other for so long!”

“They love each other.” That is all David has to say to that but then he looks at Yuna as if what he has to say then holds even more gravity. “Ilya tried to apologize for it, but I didn't let him.”

“Did he say anything else?” Yuna asks carefully.

“He said he started reading the New Yorker to improve his English reading skills years ago. He talked about the charity they want to start together, about how they wouldn't be far apart and actually have it much easier to meet each other. Ilya also told me it was his idea to come here, so that Shane wouldn't have to meet us alone and apparently Shane already includes him in his life plans after his retirement.”

All that, especially the last part in itself, says so much.

Yuna recalls Shane having tried to tell her that he kept trying to deny his true self, his true feelings and probably even his love for Ilya. She also recalls how Ilya managed to break through Shane's fears the moment he started to break down right here, in front of his family and the man he loves.

Yuna has always hoped her son would find a partner who would be able to be his anchor in the storm that is his world. She had always wanted for him to find someone who would see and understand Shane fully.

Ilya had talked softly, touching Shane without any hint of trying to hide his affection and genuine love for him. Shane's comfort and well-being in that moment of distress had been so evidently more important to Ilya than Ilya, maybe making himself look bad in the eyes of Shane's parents by reminding them that Shane is with another man.

All Yuna had seen was love and devotion and deep mutual trust.

It was not the quick kiss they shared but the moment before it, when Yuna knew her son had fallen in love with the right man. Shane had looked so hopeful and so delighted when Ilya had asked him to be his boyfriend. Yuna knows her son, he would never have asked that question first or used that word to describe them.

“They truly are each other's person, aren't they?” Yuna asks back and David nods.

“Do you need my help with that statement?”

David looks ready to get up and grab a pen and some paper to start working on an entire flowchart containing all the key words Yuna just used while she had been telling Shane and Ilya all about how they absolutely need to have a plan to fall back on in case anyone randomly leaks the nature of their relationship to the general public.

It is better to be safe than sorry.

“Yes and thank you.”

“Of course.”

Yuna gasps.

“The elevator!” She says.

“What is it? What elevator?”

There is no way Yuna will not share this information with her husband, especially not when she just recalled this buried memory and perhaps even connected some dots she didn’t even know existed in the first place all those years ago.

“I don’t know how I even remember that but ages ago, I ran into Ilya and he was probably on his way to meet up in Shane’s hotel room!” Yuna stops herself then, makes a face and her husband just looks at her, waiting for her to continue speaking, “Okay, no, I will not be thinking any further about my son’s and future son-in-law’s love life!”

“They just got together today.” David answers. “Give the boys some time, Yuna. They will get there when they get there. If they ever want to get married that is.”

It is highly likely it will take them roughly another decade or so to make their relationship public. But Yuna does not doubt for even a second that Shane and Ilya will still be a couple when that time comes for them to reveal their respective identities to the public. She doesn’t doubt that they will stay with each other and by each other’s side, no matter what kind of challenges may come their way.

“Oh, Ilya mentioned that by the way.” David mentions then. “He said he told Shane he could get fake-married to an American friend so that he could leave Russia behind and move here permanently.”

Just like that, Yuna is ready to call her son’s boyfriend while Shane and Ilya are still on the road, to then give him a piece of her mind regarding just what she thinks about such an idea.

No son of hers is going to be the secret boyfriend of someone who gets married to a foreign friend for dual citizenship or similar purposes!

David sees the subtle change in Yuna’s expression.

“It’s how he confessed to Shane by the way.” David tells his wife, “Ilya told Shane he couldn’t and wouldn’t marry anyone else, not even if it would benefit him somehow. Wait, does that mean he kind of already proposed to Shane without actually proposing to him?”

“They’re actually terrible at communication.” Yuna decides then and there. “I mean, does it really surprise you that they’re doing everything backwards? At least they didn’t get married first. That would be a total nightmare to try to explain if something like that got leaked.”

“Shane never liked doing things the easy way.” David agrees.

Standing right next to his seat, Yuna softly pats her husband’s shoulder and he puts his head against her side.

“Would he really be our son if he did things differently?”

David looks up at Yuna and his smile tells her he agrees with her, without a doubt.

End Notes

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