

LEAP YEAR BEER

Written by

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EXT. 7 ELEVEN PARKING LOT - DAY

OSCAR a sixteen year old boy wearing Keds, jeans, a NASA t-shirt and an open parka coat, paces in front of the newspaper stand in front of a 7 Eleven store.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE, WHICH READS;

--"Rebels kill 84 Russian paratroopers in Ulus Kert, Chechnya"

He rubs his bare hands together as he glances nervously at the door.

Suddenly AVA a sixteen year old girl dressed in boots, jeans and a zipped up fur collared sherpa coat swings open the glass front door covered in potato chip advertisements.

A smile as big as manifest destiny is on her face. Her hips in full swing cool.

Ava walks past Oscar leading him to the front corner of the salt frost covered parking lot.

OSCAR
Did you get it?

AVA
Why didn't you get it?

OSCAR
That Bubba hood lookin' clerk
wouldn't take his eyes off of me.

AVA
(laughing)
He's got a lazy eye you idiot. And
yes I got it. How dare you doubt
me.

OSCAR
Not a can of Coors again.

Ava opens her coat a peek and tugs out a 40oz beer.

AVA
Mickey's forty ounce!

OSCAR
Woo hoo! That'll get us both
buzzed.

Ava takes a mitten out of her pocket and slips the Mickey's in.

AVA
(twisting off the top)
Ladies first.

She guzzles a big swig, spinning her back to the 7 eleven.

OSCAR
Hey!

Ava leans into Oscar, her eyes wide open and presses her lips against his as she slides the beer in her coat pocket.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(through mumbled lips)
Your parents are still out of town.

Ava suddenly does a spit take all over Oscars face.

Oscar jumps back as his coat sleeve wipes his face.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(confused)
You will love sex.

AVA
You act like you're four years old.

OSCAR
I stole condoms after church today.

Ava take another swig of Mickey's as she rolls her eyes.

AVA
You forgot didn't you.

OSCAR
What?

AVA
How you forgot I'll never know.
February twenty ninth? Every four
years?

OSCAR
Oh yeah, leap year.

Ava side punches Oscar in the shoulder.

AVA
My birthday. Your Birthday!

Oscar spins around on his heel and then goes down on one knee.

OSCAR
Oh contraire.

He lift a black ring box out of his coat pocket.
Ava steps back waving the beer in front of her.

AVA
(eyes in a panic)
Oh no. No, no , NO, NO, NO!

OSCAR
Ava, these last nine months--

AVA
Shut up. You're not doing this.

OSCAR
I know now I'll never want to be
with anyone else. I--

AVA
There are girls way hotter than me.
Do you look at porn? You should
look at some porn. A lot of it.

OSCAR
I--

AVA
We have to graduate first and you
might not.

OSCAR
I know I don't have much money.

AVA
You have no money.

OSCAR
Ava Normous--

AVA
I'm keeping my last name I refuse
to take you. I will forever refuse.

Oscar flips open the rings box with a grand hand gesture.
Ava leans over mouth wide open.

AVA (CONT'D)
(laughing)
A gumball machine ring. That's the
commitment I was looking for.

She elegantly hold out her hand like a princess and Oscar slips it on very loosely.

OSCAR

It's supposed to be magical.

Oscar stand to his feet as Ave admires the sparkling ring.

AVA

Madame Wow-O's Crystal ball ring it says. Well bring on the magic!

Ava holds out her hand, wrist bent elegantly down.

Oscar slides the oversized ring onto Ava's ring finger.

OSCAR

My fair maiden may our future
always leap with love.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

In front of a fridge with a sign on it that reads "Benton Elementary Spring Fest 2028" Oscar, wearing a suite, is looking up at a two carat diamond ring, behind it a wedding band.

Ava in a sundress looks down amazed. Her mouth falls open.

They glance at other and freeze. Both are fuller and their eyes sparkle surrounded by laugh wrinkles.

JULIE

Mom!!!

Oscar shoots up. Both he and Ava spin around very startled

The little girl tugs her dress crinkling the flower pattern.

Three boys come rushing in wild and chaotic. Ages five, Seven and eight.

HENRY

Julie let the ants out of my ant farm again.

JULIE

They need to be free.

GRANT

Free all over the bathroom.

HENRY
Are we having pizza?

JULIE
Pizza, Pizza!

JULIE, HENRY, GRANT
PIZZA! PIZZA! PIZZA!

Oscar looks at Ava bewildered.

AVA
(with the ease she's done
it a thousand times)
All over you, out now so I can hear
to call for pizza! And no cookie
grabbin' on your way out!

The kids scatter out of the kitchen.

GRANT (O.S.)
Don't forget my permission slip

OSCAR
You're a natural.

AVA
My poor vagina.

OSCAR
All I can think about is we finally
had sex and by the looks of things
we never stopped.

Ava punches Oscar in the shoulder.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
How do we get back?

AVA
I don't know I'd kinda like to stay
maybe. We have money.

Julie comes racing back into the kitchen, Oscar spins out of her way.

JULIE
Brian ripped the arm off of my
Barbie.

A boy age eight comes rolling into the kitchen in a motorized wheelchair, whirling the Barbie around in his hand.

Oscar suddenly holds Ava's hand and squeezes tight.

JULIE (CONT'D)
He's an evil empire!

A tear well's up in Ava's eyes as she bends down.

AVA
Brian why would you do such a
thing?

Oscar bends down next to Ava his arm around her back.

BRIAN
It wasn't me honest, it was Gary or
Barry.

OSCAR
(winking at Ava)
Oh yeah.

AVA
My poor--

Suddenly two Saint Bernard dogs come bounding and slobbering into the kitchen jumping on and knocking Ava and Oscar over.

EXT. GRAVESIDE SERVICE - DAY

Everyone is dressed in futuristic black suits and dresses.

Fifty bagpipers in full Scottish kilt dress encircle the funeral party.

A graying Oscar is startled and standing next to a casket, ready to be lowered in the ground.

He is surrounded by younger adults and little children. Around them older mourners.

OSCAR
(shock in his eyes)
This is...

He looks up at a tombstone to the side that reads: "Ava Normous-Butts Feb 29th 1992 - Feb 29th 2048."

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Way to soon.
He glances over to the next stone that reads: "Brian Ethan Butts Sept 10th 2020 - Feb 25th 2048."

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(tearing up)
Oh God... much to soon.

Julie steps over and side hugs her Dad tightly.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(wiping his eyes)
We were both leap year babies.

Suddenly all the babies in attendance start crying loudly as there parents start to rock and bounce them.

Tears begin to flow down Oscar's cheeks as he begins to smile.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(louder voice)
Ave would have loved all her
grandchildren. So precious.

Oscars children look at each other confused.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Even it they were crying.

A murder of crows suddenly descends onto the graveyard. They CAW and flap there wings strutting around.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(louder voice)
She just loved to sit and listen to
the peaceful silence, listening to
each other breathe.

An approaching freight train begins to howl its whistle. The tracks next to the graveyard begin to rumble.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Oh, and she just absolutely LOVED
the loud long horn of a freight
train as it barreled through town.

Everyone smiles and laughs, Julie swings her foot on the grass.

(pause)

OSCAR (CONT'D)
We loved her so, so, so much and
now it's forever.

Julie wraps her arms around her Dad hugging him tight.

Oscar collapses in her arms.

EXT. 7 ELEVEN PARKING LOT - DAY

AVA
Where the hell did you go?
Everything just went black.

Oscar grabs the Mickey's and chugs it.

Ava punches him in the arm.

AVA (CONT'D)
Hey! Oh my God I know. I died
didn't I.

OSCAR
No.

Ava takes a quick swig.

AVA
I always know that look in your
eye. How did I go? Right now.

OSCAR
I don't know. And that's the truth.

AVA
My vagina prolly imploded after
what you did to it.

OSCAR
Your parents are still out of town.

Ava shakes her head no, but wraps her arms around Oscar.

AVA
I did love our kids. They were so,
so precious.

OSCAR
A raucous sort of precious though.

AVA
Just thinking about it though, all
the worrying and heartbreak.

OSCAR
I counted thirteen grandchildren.

AVA
Grandchildren?!

I was at the funeral and it was a very nice service.

AVA (CONT'D)
Damn you popped into that?

AVA (CONT'D)
What did I look like? Was I still
cute?

Ava places both hands on one cheek and tilts her head to the side.

OSCAR
I don't know, you were in a box.
But you were old really, really
old. Prolly wrinkly and gross.

AVA
Wrinkly and gross?!

OSCAR
Again in a box.

AVA
I get it I was wrinkly and gross
and they had to slam me in a box.

Oscar punches Ava in the arm.

AVA (CONT'D)
Oh, oh did I have my bagpipers I
always wanted at my funeral?

OSCAR
Oh yeah, had to be at least fifty.

AVA
Did they play "Give My Regards To
Broadway?"

OSCAR
I didn't get that far everything
went black.

AVA
You died at my freaking funeral?
Way to think of yourself.

OSCAR
I don't think so.

AVA
Well when everything went black for
me I died.

Ava yanks the beer back and chugs as her mitten falls off it.

AVA (CONT'D)
Ruined my vagina and my funeral.
Think of the kids man.

OSCAR
I'm just thinking I wasted a lot of
Sunday mornings going to church.
Madame Wow-O is God.

AVA
Or a bottle of malt beer.

OSCAR
Bury the ring and stop drinking?

Ava leans in and gives Oscar a long slow kiss.

AVA
How about we go back to my house.

OSCAR
You're kidding.

Oscar grabs Ava's arm pulling her to leave.

AVA
Oh, how was Brian?

Oscar stops and slowly turns around and holds Ava in his arms.

AVA (CONT'D)
What?

Oscar strokes back her hair from her face.

OSCAR
He...

AVA
(tearing up)
Oh no, no, no.

OSCAR
(tearing up)
I think you died at his funeral.

Ava tilts and sucks down the last of the beer.

AVA
Lets go fuck.

THE END