

Rich Man Poor Man

"Hava Nagila"

Written By

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Inspired by the life of Adam Carolla

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FADE IN

INT. WELFARE AGENCY. DAY

It's the early 1970s and 12-year-old Adam is standing in a long line with his mother, Christine, early 30s. Signs on the wall make it clear that they are at a welfare center. Christine is engaged in a conversation with her friend Beverly (late 30s, crunchy).

CHRISTINE

It's not right that they make us wait so long. Can't these people work any faster?

YOUNG ADAM

(Innocently)

Maybe you could get a job here. The sign over there says they are looking for bi-lingual employees.

The camera pans to a sign advertising employment opportunities.

BEVERLY

Your mother has an advanced degree in Chicano studies, she's overqualified to work here.

CHRISTINE

Plus, I don't even speak Spanish.

YOUNG ADAM

Then, where can you work with a degree in Chicano studies Mommy?

CHRISTINE

(Shaking her head)

If your damn father could just get a job, he could make his child support payments and take care of us.

YOUNG ADAM

(Innocently)

If daddy could support us, why did you divorce him?

CHRISTINE

(Adamantly)

He used the term socialist as if it

(MORE)

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

were a bad thing.

Adam, his mother, and Beverly progress in line.

YOUNG ADAM

But why cant you get a job mommy?

BEVERLY

Then who would watch over you and your sister?

YOUNG ADAM

I don't even think she knows my birthday.

CHRISTINE

Of course I do, its May--

ADAM

March.

CHRISTINE

Twenty-second.

YOUNG ADAM

Seventh.

Adam and his mother are now in front of a welfare officer, Mary, 56.

MARY

(Indifferent)

Name and ID please.

Christine reaches into her pocketbook and hands her driver's license over to Mary. While this is going on, Adam is looking around at all the people waiting in line. His mother's conversation with Mary is muffled like an adult in a Charlie Brown cartoon.

CHRISTINE

Come on Adam, it's time to go.

YOUNG ADAM

What were you and that lady talking about?

CHRISTINE

Our continuing need for public assistance.

Christine puts a check in her bag along with food stamps and some government cheese. She and Adam walk out of the

building and into the parking lot. They get into her beat up VW Bug. The seat belts don't work and she lights up a cigarette with the windows rolled up.

YOUNG ADAM

So they just give you money for not doing anything?

CHRISTINE

Wealth should be redistributed to all those in need. It's the basis of a fair society.

YOUNG ADAM

(Confused)

But who's money was it that we got?

CHRISTINE

Someone who didn't need it as much as mommy.

Adam looks up and sees palm trees.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE. DAY

We see palm trees and the camera pans down to a large house. There are two high-end cars in the driveway and two low-end cars parked on the street in front of the house.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. DAY

It's 40 years later. Adam's twelve-year-old twins Taylor (girl) and Charlie (boy) are on the couch glued to tablets and his sister, Jeanette, mid-50s, is sitting between them swiping left and right on her phone. Christine is sitting in a chair reading *The Atlantic*. Adam's wife, Lynn, late 30s, is struggling to a bottle of wine.

ADAM

It's a twist off, dear.

Lynn puts the corkscrew down, twists opens the bottle, and fills her glass to the top.

LYNN

Happy Mother's day to me.

Adam shakes his head and looks into the camera.

ADAM

If wine is the barometer, every day

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

is Mother's Day for her.

Adam turns his attention to his mother.

ADAM

Hey ma, did you hear that Jimmy's hosting the Oscar's again this year? I'm going to write for it.

CHRISTINE

(Indifferent)

I didn't realize people still watched award shows like that.

ADAM

We live in Southern California ma, and you don't think that movies are a big deal anymore?

CHRISTINE

Beverly says if those big wigs in Hollywood took all the hundreds of millions they spent on movies and gave it to the poor, we could eliminate poverty once and for all.

ADAM

Yeah, the problem with that is, if they don't make any more movies, they won't make any more money and then there wouldn't be any to dole out. What will the poor do when the well runs dry?

BEVERLY

They would probably just deduct their so called generosity from their taxes anyway. The rich never pay their fair share.

ADAM

My tax bill last year was seven figures ma, you're right, it isn't my fair share.

BEVERLY

(Rolling her eyes)

What's for dinner?

The camera pans to Lynn, who's glass is already empty.

LYNN

Quiche.

CHRISTINE

(Excitedly)

Where is the quiche from?

ADAM

You realize you just expressed more interest in a quiche than you did when I told you I was writing for The Oscar's.

CHRISTINE

Note everything is about you Adam.

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM

Like I needed Mrs. Che Guevara to tell me that.

Lynn heads to the kitchen to refill her glass and looks through the garbage. She pulls out the box the Quiche came in.

LYNN

Quiche Republic. Says here it is a dairy free vegetable quiche.

ADAM

Does that mean it doesn't have cheese in it? That's literally the only reason to eat quiche for a dude. What the hell is this world coming to?

CHRISTINE

Cheese is a luxury not everyone can afford to have Adam.

ADAM

(Emphatically)

Afford? The government used to give it to us!

Adam turns his attention towards Jeanette, who is busy tapping the screen of her phone.

ADAM

What are you doing over there anyway? Playing foreskin like the kids.

THE TWINS  
Fortnite, dad.

JEANETTE  
I'm looking for a date for tomorrow  
night.

ADAM  
Is Monday a big night to go out in  
your world?

Jeanette sticks her tongue out at Adam and sneers. She then  
puts her phone down on the coffee table.

JEANETTE  
There's something I need to ask you  
about.

ADAM  
I think its swipe right if you are  
interested and swipe down if you  
are open to oral on the first date.

JEANETTE  
(Shaking her head)  
I need you to give Ryan an  
internship.

ADAM  
Is this the same Ryan who, upon  
graduating from high-school,  
decided that college wasn't for him  
so he decided to make a documentary  
film on the superstars of  
electronic dance music?

CHRISTINE  
You should be more charitable to  
your sister's son Adam, not  
everyone is as privileged as you.

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM  
My mother says this as if my  
success isn't the result of my own  
hard work but was bestowed upon me  
by some cosmic deity that whispered  
the winning PowerBall numbers into  
my ear after a long day of carpet  
cleaning. That was just one of the  
glorious jobs I held after

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

graduating high school, where my high school education only dragged me down.

Adam turns his attention back to his sister.

ADAM

I suppose we could use a gofer around the shop.

JEANETTE

No, he needs to learn how to edit film. Just have him work on one of your documentary thingies.

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM

In addition to being the number one podcaster in America, I make documentary films and one is close to getting into a major film festival this year. If she thinks I'm letting DJ Khaled near that one, she's on crack.

Adam turns back to his sister.

ADAM

I make my living with those documentary thingies.

CHRISTINE

And you should pay him the same you pay everyone else, even though he doesn't have a college education. Beverly says that income disparity in the workplace is what is ruining society.

ADAM

Beverly has literally never held a job in her life.

CHRISTINE

How can you expect people to work under such feudal circumstances?

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM

I'm literally going to say yes to them to end this conversation so we

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

can just eat our god damn  
cheeseless quiche in peace, but  
make no mistake, my nephew will be  
the gofer of gofers. The kid  
shutter every time he watches  
Caddyshack.

Adam turns to his sister.

ADAM

Fine.

LYNN

(O.S.)

There's something wrong with the  
wine opener again.

Adam walks over to where his wife is standing.

ADAM

(sighing)

It's a twist-off dear.

Adam puts his hands on his hips and shakes his head.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD. DAY

Young Adam has his hands on his hips and is sighing on a  
football field. It's clear he's just finished a play and an  
overbearing coach, Phil, mid-50s, loud and overweight, is  
yelling at the kids who are clearly becoming over-heated  
while playing hard on a hot day. Adam runs over to the  
sidelines to get some water.

COACH PHIL

(Screaming)

Where do you think you are going  
Nancy?

YOUNG ADAM

I'm thirsty coach.

Coach Phil throws his clipboard down.

COACH PHIL

No water during practice! You'll  
cramp up. If you didn't come  
prepared to work hard, you should  
have played flag football with the  
girls. Get your ass back onto that  
field!

Young Adam runs back onto the field.

COACH PHIL

Now line up on the five yard line.  
Here's the situation, it's 4th and  
goal and the offense is down by 6.  
A touchdown ties the game and  
there's only 5 seconds left on the  
clock so a field goal gets you  
nothing. Nancy, call the play.

Young Adam calls his offense into a huddle. It is clear that  
he is a little dizzy.

YOUNG ADAM

Moose, I'm going to fake the  
handoff to you.

The camera pans on a heavy kid who nods, then it goes back  
to Young Adam.

YOUNG ADAM

Poochie, go wide and be ready for  
my pass.

The camera pans on a skinny kid who nods, then it goes back  
to Young Adam.

POOCHIE

You don't look so good Ace.

Adam shakes his head and we see that his vision is blurred.

YOUNG ADAM

I'm fine. One-two-three Bulldogs!

THE OFFENSIVE LINE

(In unison)

Bulldogs!

The team lines up on the 5th yard line. Nervous looks are  
exchanged.

YOUNG ADAM

Hike!

The play is in motion. Adam fakes the handoff to Moose and  
Poochie gets open in the end zone. Adam's vision is blurry  
and he throws the pass. A defenseman intercepts the pass and  
runs it back for a touchdown. Coach Phil throws his  
clipboard like a frisbee.

COACH PHIL

That right there is a god damn travesty ladies. Poochie was wide open and you throw a pick 6 right into the arms of a defenseman. I haven't seen a pair of open arms like that since the god damn Journey concert.

YOUNG ADAM

But coach, my vision was blurry. I'm so thirsty.

COACH PHIL

(Ignoring young Adam)

The problem is you kids don't listen and you sure as hell don't communicate. How many times have I lectured you girls about the importance of communication on the field? Now drop and give me twenty.

Adam's line hits the dirt and starts doing pushups. After 1, Young Adam faceplants and doesn't get up.

COACH PHIL

(O.S.)

That's it Nancy, I'm driving you tot the drug store for tampons. Practice is over. Hit the showers, ladies.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. LYNN'S SHOWER. MORNING

Lynn is in the shower washing her hair.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. CONTINUOUS

Adam is cleaning up his family room and we see a chewed up sock on the floor. Adam hears a buzzing sound coming from the couch and sticks his hands between the cushions and finds his sister's phone. He scrolls through it and then coughs as if he's thrown up a little in his mouth.

ADAM

I could have gone the rest of my life without seeing that.

A dog walks into the room and off screen we hear it retching. Adam turns to the dog.

ADAM

What, did you see these pictures  
too?

The dog leaves the room and Adam walks to the bottom of the staircase and calls upstairs to Lynn.

ADAM

Jeanette left her phone here.

INT. LYNN'S SHOWER. CONTINUOUS

Lynn is rinsing her hair and clearly hasn't heard what Adam has said.

LYNN

Jeanette's on the phone?

INT. BOTTOM OF THE STAIRCASE. CONTINUOUS

Adam shakes his head and walks upstairs and we see that the stairway has many pictures hanging on the wall. We see pictures of Adam with A-List celebrities but only a few family pictures. Adam walks into the bathroom where Lynn is showering. He pulls the shower curtain aside and looks his wife up and down.

INT. LYNN'S SHOWER. CONTINUOUS

LYNN

Don't even think about it.

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM

If anyone ever tells you that  
marriage is bliss, call them a liar  
immediately.

Adam turns his attention back to Lynn.

ADAM

Can you just call Jeanette and tell  
her I'll take it with me and give  
it to Ryan at the shop and he can  
bring it home to her.

LYNN

Why can't you call her?

ADAM

I don't have her home number.

LYNN  
Just call her cell.

ADAM  
(Impatiently)  
I can't call her cell because it is  
in my hand.

LYNN  
She left it here?

ADAM  
What do you think we've been  
talking about this entire time?

LYNN  
Don't get short with me. Fine, I'll  
call her.

INT. ADAM'S CAR. MORNING

Adam's windows are rolled down and ToTo's Africa comes on. He's singing along when another car rolls up next to him and the driver offers him a judgemental look. Adam immediately rolls up his windows. His phone rings and Adam sees that its his assistant, Matt, 27, hipster, calling.

ADAM  
(Radio voice)  
You are on with the Bossman.

INT. ADAM'S SHOP. CONTINUOUS

Matt is adjusting his fedora.

MATT  
Bossman, it's Matt.

INT. ADAM'S CAR. CONTINUOUS

ADAM  
Yeah. I know. Why else would I say  
you are on with the Bossman? You  
are literally the only person who  
calls me Bossman.

INT. ADAM'S SHOP. CONTINUOUS

MATT  
Sorry. There's a guy here who says  
he's your nephew and that he's  
supposed to be a new producer on  
the documentary we are working on.

INT. ADAM'S CAR. CONTINUOUS

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM

I'm an atheist so what I'm about to say will make no sense, but what in God's name did my sister tell that kid?

Adam turns his attention back to the phone.

ADAM

Just have him sit tight and offer him a coffee. I'll be there in twenty minutes.

INT. ADAM'S SHOP. CONTINUOUS

MATT

Also, I heard back from Sundance, we didn't make the cut.

INT. ADAM'S CAR. CONTINUOUS

ADAM

(Shaking his head)  
What did they say?

MATT

(O.S.)

The guy told me some bullshit line about how they liked the film but they didn't think a documentary on pit crews would have mass appeal.

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM

I've just finished a documentary called *Unsung Heroes* about the racing world's best pit crews. It's a damn fine film and I encourage you to pre-order it today.

Adam turns his attention back to the call.

ADAM

Hear anything through back channels?

INT. ADAM'S SHOP. CONTINUOUS

MATT

Apparently something you said on Kimmel's show rubbed someone the wrong way.

INT. JIMMY KIMMEL'S STUDIO. FLASHBACK

ADAM

We can't have safe spaces every fifty feet for every little snowflake who's still upset that Hillary didn't win. In 50 years, we'll all be chicks!

INT. ADAM'S CAR. CONTINUOUS

ADAM

I need a goddamn filter.

Adam terminates the call and continues driving towards his shop.

INT. LYNN'S BATHROOM. MORNING

Lynn is now out of the shower and is towel drying her hair. Her cell phone rings and the caller ID reads 'Jeanette Home.'

LYNN

Hey Jeanette.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS

Jeanette looks frantic as she turns over bedroom in search of her phone.

JEANETTE

Did I leave my phone at your house?  
I can't find it anywhere.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE. CONTINUOUS

LYNN

Adam found it this morning and he told me that he was going to take it to the shop and have Ryan bring it home with him tonight.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM. CONTINUOUS

JEANETTE

I need my phone before tonight. Can you call Adam and just tell him

(MORE)

JEANETTE (CONT'D)

I'll pick it up at his shop this morning?

INT ADAM'S HOUSE. CONTINUOUS

Lynn is now brushing her hair and not really paying attention to Jeanette.

LYNN

Of course.

Lynn hangs up the phone and starts whistling Hava Nagila while admiring herself in the mirror

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S MOTHER'S CAR.

Adam is staring at himself in the mirror above the passenger door visor. The sound of Hava Nagila can be heard faintly in the background.

CHRISTINE

(O.S.)

Let's get this over with.

Adam opens the car door.

EXT. SHARON'S HOUSE. LATE AFTERNOON

Young Adam and his mother are walking in front of a large home. There are blue and white balloons tied to the mailbox that read Bat Mitzvah. Adam and his mother follow a sign directing guests to walk around back.

CHRISTINE

Seriously, who needs a house this big? And this yard, do you know how much low-income housing could be built on this property?

YOUNG ADAM

Sharon says her dad is a money manager. Why do people need other people to manager their money, mom?

CHRISTINE

Its more like stealing if you ask me.

Young Adam and his mother are greeted by Sharon and her parents, Morty and Shana, who are all dressed in high-fashioned disco gear.

SHARON

Mom, dad, this is Adam, the boy I  
was telling you about.

Adam blushes. Morty extends his hand.

MORTY

It's very nice to meet you Adam.  
And you must be Adam's mother.

Christine extends Morty's outstretched hand but looks at him  
suspiciously.

CHRISTINE

I'm Christine.

Shana goes in for a hug but Christine backs off, nervously.

SHANA

Will you be staying for the party?  
The theme is Saturday Night Fever  
and we hired the hottest disco DJ  
in LA.

Morty, Shana, and Sharon strike a pose and point to the sky  
simultaneously.

CHRISTINE

I have too much to do. I'll be back  
to pick up Adam around 11.

DJ

(O.S)

Okay boys and girls, who out there  
is Stayin Alive?

Stayin Alive by the Bee Gees starts to play and Sharon jumps  
up and down, grabs Adam's wrist and pulls him to the dance  
floor.

INT. BACK YARD TENT. EVENING

There is a bunch of kids sitting at a table eating dessert.  
Everyone looks happy. The camera pans over to all of the  
adult guests who all look like they are having a good time.  
Adam feels out of place as he's never experienced this kind  
of togetherness in his own home life.

DJ

Mr. Roth will now like to say a few  
words about his daughter Sharon.  
Please turn your attention to the  
center of the dance floor.

Morty walks across the dance floor to the sound of silverware clashing against glasses. We hear a bunch of Mazel Tov's as he takes the microphone from the DJ.

MORTY

Who would have thought that the child of a German tailor could have been so fortunate to have all of this? To all of you young people here today, let my good fortune teach you that with hard work comes great reward.

Guests are clapping. We see Adam turn to his friend Ray, 12, who looks unkempt and mischievous, and whisper into his ear.

YOUNG ADAM

Maybe if I work hard, I won't be poor when I grow up.

Ray kicks adam under the table.

YOUNG ADAM

Hey, what was that for?

RAY

Being an turd.

YOUNG ADAM

Screw you, buttwad.

Ray then moves his hand under the table and slaps Adam in the balls. Adam's eyes bulge. The camera focuses on Morty.

MORTY

If there's one thing I'm most proud of though, its sharing this beautiful day, when my daughter becomes a woman, with all of you. There's nothing more important than family. Always remember that. Now let me tell you a story about Sharon...

As Morty continues, the camera focuses in on Young Adam and Morty's voice is muffled out. Young Adam is seen mouthing the phrases, 'hard work' and 'family is everything.'

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S SHOP. MORNING

On the door leading into Adam's shop is a sign reading

"Words to live by; Work Hard and Love Your Family." Adam opens the door to his shop and is about to walk in when he notices that the planters to the left and right of the door are full of weeds. He shakes his head and walks through the door.

INT. ADAM'S SHOP. CONTINUOUS

Adam walks past a number of race cars that are being worked on. We see a sign saying, "studio" with an arrow pointing upwards and another that reads, "edit bays" with an arrow pointing to the right. Adam walks right and overhears a heated conversation between Theresa, early 30s, goth, and Ryan, who is wearing obnoxiously large headphones around his neck.

THERESA

You single-handedly deleted the audio from a sequence that we've been working on all week.

RYAN

How many times can I tell you, it was a mistake.

Adam steps in between them.

ADAM

Can someone tell me why my Sr. Editor is arguing with my nephew, who's barely qualified to reboot a computer, let alone edit film?

RYAN

Uncle Adam --

Ryan begins to speak but Adam cuts him off. We hear EDM music coming out of Ryan's headphones.

ADAM

Turn that crap off.

The sound goes off. Adam looks at Theresa.

THERESA

I gave Captain techno an instruction to watch a sequence I've been putting together but not to touch anything, but he decides the background music isn't quite right so he imports some Euro-trash techno crap and puts in into the

(MORE)

THERESA (CONT'D)

sequence.

RYAN

To be fair, I was just trying to help.

Adam holds up his hand to Ryan's face signaling him to stop talking.

ADAM

Can't you just go back and hit the undo button?

THERESA

Skrillix over here panicked, saved the file, then closed it.

ADAM

Just go to the latest backup. You have been backing up versions, right?

Theresa takes a step backward.

ADAM

How many times do I have to tell you people, save and backup? Two simple things. I barely have a high school education and I know to save and backup.

THERESA

I'm doing my best.

Adam pauses and looks at her in the eyes.

ADAM

Don't do your best, do my best!

THERESA

I'll fix it, but keep that kid away from me.

RYAN

But I'm supposed to be learning editing.

Adam looks Ryan up and down and sees that he's wearing overalls. He then has an epiphany.

ADAM

Not today you aren't Mr. Green Jeans, you are coming with me.

EXT. ADAM'S SHOP. CONTINUOUS

Adam is out in front of the planters full of weeds, intent on teaching his nephew a lesson.

ADAM

When I was twelve years old, my mother had me convinced that we were destined to be poor and that nothing we could do could ever change that because the man had us by the short and curlies.

RYAN

What does that have to do with me?

ADAM

(ignoring the question)  
But then I started noticing something, all of my rich friends had something in common, their parents worked incredibly hard and they placed a strong emphasis on education and family. So along those lines, I want you to to weed these planters.

RYAN

But mom said --

ADAM

Your mother is under the impression that you can start at the top, well I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news Scorsese, but the hammer of reality is about to come crashing down. You've got to start in the weeds and work your way up.

Adam sniffs and looks self-assured. His smile is erased when he hears a car's horn honking. He looks over and sees Jeanette, who bolts out of her car.

JEANETTE

What the hell is going on here?  
Ryan, why are you weeding the planter? We talked about this Adam, I said no grunt work.

RYAN

He wouldn't even give me a chance to edit anything. This is nothing

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

like you promised!

Adam looks to the camera.

ADAM

They say that children are our future, that's a load of BS.

Adam turns his attention back to Jeanette.

ADAM

Why are you here anyway?

JEANETTE

I came for my phone.

ADAM

I told Lynn to tell you that I'd send it home with Ryan.

JEANETTE

Yeah, well, I told Lynn to tell you that I couldn't wait till the end of the day and was coming to pick it up.

Adam turns to the camera.

ADAM

I wonder if my wife knows that the phone that is attached to her hand can actually be used to make phone calls.

Adam turns to Jeanette, reaches into his pocket, and hands her the phone. She immediately thumbs through it.

ADAM

Hot date?

JEANETTE

Screw you. Come on Ryan, we are going home.

Adam shakes his head and throws up his hands.

ADAM

Home? I was just teaching him about hard work, why in the name of the god I refuse to believe in are you taking him home?

JEANETTE

If you aren't going to teach him how to edit, it's just a waste of his time.

Ryan gets into his mother's car and the two drive off. Adam is about to walk back inside when he stares at the planters and begins to weed each one while singing Hava Nagila under his breath.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S PODCASTING STUDIO. EVENING

Adam is in his chair and talking into a microphone. The camera pans over to see his news girl, Gina, early 30s, and his sound FX guy Ryan, early 40s.

ADAM

I once had a football coach who I thought was crazy because all he would scream at us about was the importance of communication.

GINA

(Dryly)

Oh, did you play football? I had no idea.

BRYAN

He may have mentioned it once or twice.

ADAM

Can I continue?

BRYAN

Be our guest.

ADAM

Now I know why he was so angry all the time. When I was younger, it's because I thought he was always hung over, which was true, but now I know how god damn maddening it is to be around people who never listen to a thing you say.

GINA

(Dryly)

I smell a rant coming on.

BRYAN  
(Excitedly)  
Buckle in kids, this could get rough.

ADAM  
Yesterday was Mother's Day and my sister left her phone at my house. I told my wife to tell my sister that I'd bring it to the shop with me and send it home with her son, which is another rant I will spare you from today. Meanwhile, my darling sister calls my wife to tell her that she'd prefer to pick up the phone earlier and, hence, will be dropping by the studio. You know who isn't made aware of this plan?

GINA  
I have no idea who it could be.

ADAM  
(shouting)  
Me!

BRYAN  
I don't doubt that it's frustrating, but what was the harm done to you?

ADAM  
(Shaking his head)  
Oh my dear bald Bryan, you have no idea.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S NEIGHBORHOOD. EVENING

Adam is shaking his heads while looking at his kids glued to their phones while they are walking their large dog around the block. His daughter looks up and sees a large home.

TAYLOR  
Why is our house smaller than the others?

ADAM

If you think our house is small, you should have seen the house I grew up in. I've owned vans with more square footage.

CHARLIE

Why is grandma so cranky all the time?

ADAM

Your grandmother feels as if she's a victim of life's injustices. I want you two to promise me that you will never resign yourselves to being the victims of anything.

THE TWINS

(Not looking up from their phones)

We promise.

TAYLOR

Why are we so rich and why is grandma so poor?

ADAM

Well, daddy realized when he was your age that if you worked hard you could get ahead in life and I was very persistent and went after all the things I wanted.

CHARLIE

What does persistent mean?

ADAM

You know how daddy always said no to getting a dog but you and your sister kept begging me?

CHARLIE

Yes.

ADAM

That's called being persistent. And what did I tell you about the conditions for getting a dog?

TAYLOR

That we would have to clean up after it every time he went poopie.

We see the dog getting in squatting position. Adam turns around and his kids are nowhere in sight.

ADAM  
Children are definitely not our  
future.

Adam pulls a plastic bag off the leash and walks over to where the dog is. The camera moves in for a close-up on the dog.

ADAM  
(O.S.)  
It's so disgustingly warm.

We see Adam from behind, walking the dog down the street, and hear him whistle Hava Nagila.

FADE TO BLACK.