THE GROOM-TO-BE

(300 Movie Titles in 25 Minutes)

BY

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"THE GROOM-TO-BE"

FADE IN:

EXT. - BUSY LA SUBURBAN SIDEWALK, CLOUDY - ALMOST MIDDAY

GROOM (to be), a handsome man in his mid-twenties dressed in disheveled semi-formal wear, is leaving apartment building.

TROY (best man to be), a less-handsome man dressed in tidy grunge and loafers, follows.

Groom looks up and down street.

GROOM

Dude, where's my car.

TROY

Encino, man.

Groom squints, remembers, and nods in acknowledgement. He hails a taxi.

GROOM

Taxi!

Taxi approaches. An ad on the cab's roof advertises a law office called "The Firm".

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So I'm getting married the day after tomorrow, and you know what that means.

Groom draws attention to his attire.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

Rehearsal.

A yellow cab pulls up at curb. Nearby on sidewalk, a child is posting a "lost pet" poster on a pole. It reads "Lost Fish / Nemo" with a picture of a fish (Finding Nemo).

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So me and the best man, Troy, are heading on down to the

Hotel Rwanda, down on the waterfront.

INT. - INSIDE TAXI

Groom and Troy enter cab. An ornament in the form of the word "MATRIX" dangles from the cab's mirror, twirling freely (The Matrix Revolutions).

They drive off, passing a billboard advertising "Con Air". Troy extends his forefinger.

TROY

What's our ETA, man?

GROOM

High Noon.

TROY

The return?

GROOM

Before sunset.

TROY

I don't wanna be late for dinner.

GROOM

What am I, the babysitter?

They pass a "Good Will" store. Two old men in safari outfits with blunderbusses are hiding behind a nearby planter. (Good Will Hunting). Next door is a hostel.

TROY

And I hate rush hour.

GROOM

I hate rush hour too. Don't worry, you'll be home alone before Batman begins.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we turn down Mulholland Drive...

They pass a street sign saying "Wuthering Heights" one way and "Notting Hill" the other.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

...and the traffic comes to a perfect stop...

Taxi eases to a stop on an up-market suburban main-road.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

...so I ask the taxi driver,
"What's cooking?"

TAXI DRIVER

(flatly)

Crash.

TROY

(peering ahead)

Who?

TAXI DRIVER

The usual suspects.

Troy mimics a drunk.

TROY

Drunks?

Taxi Driver mimics driving while adjusting the radio.

TAXI DRIVER

Radio.

Troy mimics driving while angry.

TROY

Road rage?

Taxi Driver mimics talking on cell phone while driving erratically.

TAXI DRIVER

Hello, Dolly.

Troy mimics driving too fast.

TROY

Speed, too...

Taxi driver mimics playing with the cruise control while driving.

TAXI DRIVER

Cruise control.

GROOM

Where'd you kids meet? Kindergarten?

TROY

(blurts)

Cop!

A COP, walking through the traffic jam, approaches the taxi on foot.

GROOM

Beverley Hills cop.

Groom winds down window. Troy motions to Groom to wind window back up.

TROY

(pointing to self)

Time served.

(pointing to Cop)

Bad company.

GROOM

Good cop, bad cop, as long as he knows the short cuts.

Groom beckons to Cop.

GROOM

Detour?

The Cop leans into the taxi and motions for secrecy. He points to the next street on the left. The sign reads "Elm Street".

In the background, on Elm Street, a crazy woman has two lambs in a shopping cart, and she is trying to silence them (The Silence of the Lambs).

COP

It can be a nightmare on Elm street, my brother. Bear with it, and you'll end up, by some miracle, on 34th street. Take Main Street to Broadway,

follow the signs down to Sunset Blvd, and your back in business.

GROOM

(politely)

Distance?

COP

(shrugs)

Eight mile.

TROY

(to taxi driver)

Why top secret?

TAXI DRIVER

(whispering to Troy)

They like to keep the shortcuts through LA confidential.

They maneuver out of traffic jam and turn down Elm Street.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we're back on our merry way...

They pass a sign pointing left that says "Oceans - 11".

GROOM AS NARRATOR

...when Troy suddenly yells...

TROY

The ring!

GROOM

(wincing)

The apartment?

Troy frantically pats his pockets.

TROY

You should never have put me in charge...

Troy pauses mid-sentence to explore his back pockets.

(groaning, to himself)

Lord.

TROY

...of the rings.

Two towers are visible in the background.

They drive past a strip-mall which includes a toy store called "Toy Story", a bookstore called "Pulp Fiction", a sign pointing upstairs to "Fight Club", a doctor's office called "Dr. Zhivago".

The taxi driver looks in the mirror and points behind them.

TAXI DRIVER

Rear window.

Troy cranes neck to look back at storm clouds.

TROY

Rain, man.

GROOM

The perfect storm.

TROY

Hope this gig's inside, man.

They pass a sign pointing left that says "Oceans - 12".

EXT. - PROMENADE OUTSIDE LARGE HOTEL - MIDDAY

Cab drives off leaving Troy and Groom at the curb, and they head across promenade. The pass an emaciated Indian (i.e., from India) wearing a dhoti (Gandhi). They pass a restored Streetcar on the promenade. Its name-plate reads "Desire" (A Streetcar Named Desire).

GROOM

I really don't want to meet the parents. The mother. Father of the bride.

TROY

Just meet the fockers and be done with it.

As they approach the building, they see the word "American" spray-painted on the wall (American graffiti). Elsewhere is written "Kill Bill". Troy takes of one shoe, whacks something on the wall, and shows bottom of shoe to Groom.

TROY

Spider, man.

Troy hits wall a second time with shoe. Shows Groom again.

TROY

Two.

Groom and Troy enter hotel

INT. - EXOTIC AFRICAN-THEME HOTEL LOBBY

Groom and Troy walk past reception where an HOTELIER hands a pile of envelopes to a quest.

HOTELIER

You've got mail.

They pass a gift shop called "The Gift", a candy store called the "Chocolate Factory" with a full-size cardboard cut-out of Charlie Chaplin out front (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), a barbershop, and an African-theme bar called Casablanca.

A BUSINESSMAN passes them on his way out of the hotel.

BUSINESSMAN

(to cell phone)

Fantastic! Four?

They pass a restaurant with a big fish above the door. The specials are duck soup, Fried Green Tomatoes and Shark Tail.

Groom and Troy enter main hallway.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we're inside, and it's like some scene out of Africa.

A raving queen in African garb crosses their path (The African Queen).

GROOM AS NARRATOR

The whole inner sanctum looks like the garden state.

Hallway walls are lined with vegetation. Groom glances around as he walks.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

The secret garden. Steel magnolias. Flowers in the attic.

A signpost says "Madagascar" one way, and "The Village" the other. They emerge into a huge courtyard with mock jungle and a water feature. Tarzan can barely be seen swinging through the trees in the background.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

And the place is so huge, a river runs through it.
Sideways. A mystic river. A river of death.

They pass a stuffed lion wearing a Burger King crown (The Lion King).

Near the wall, a HOTEL EMPLOYEE is crouched cleaning a stuffed tiger which partly obscures a painting of a dragon.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

We're lost and delirious, so I ask this dude...

GROOM

The wedding party?

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

Hauru no ugoku shiro.

GROOM

(looking around)

The Interpreter?

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

Wo hu cang long.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

(bewildered)

Lost in translation.

(to Hotel Employee)

Thanks Yun-Fat. Ciao.

Groom and Troy approach a notice-board listing that day's events at the hotel. A Zorro-mask hangs on the corner of the board (The Mask of Zorro).

Troy runs his finger down the list.

TROY

Four weddings...and a funeral.

Troy points direction to their venue and they take off. They pass the restrooms, where an "X" has been scrawled in front of the word MEN (X-men) and "little" has been scrawled in front of the word WOMEN (Little Women).

GROOM

(as they walk)

Hear what happened at my best friend's wedding?

TROY

Muriel's wedding?

GROOM

Wedding crashers.

They walk to end of hall and approach last door on right. Sign above door reads "The Green Room".

Troy takes of one shoe, and whacks something on the door.

TROY

(sighs)

A bug's life.

Troy shows the bottom of his shoe to Groom.

TROY

Beetle juice.

Groom ignores Troy, and pushes door open.

GROOM

Showtime.

INT. - CLICHÉD HOTEL BANQUET HALL, ALL DECORATED IN VIVID GREEN

Groom and Troy enter the hall and stop just inside door. Nearby is a bust of Mozart (Amadeus).

Wedding party is congregated on the far side of the hall. There are two dozen people, well dressed. His FIANCÉE is there, dressed in an old cream ball gown suggestive of a wedding gown. The Wedding Singer, a skinny drab woman, wears a short red dress.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we check it out. There's a woman in red. Some men in black. And there she is. My fiancée, Mary, dressed to kill.

GROOM

(misty eyed)

There's something about Mary.

TROY

(nodding affirmation)

Pretty woman.

GROOM

American beauty.

TROY

National treasure.

GROOM

Almost famous.

TROY

(also misty eyed)
She looks like Cinderella,
man. The princess bride.

Groom hits Troy to snap him out of it.

GROOM

Keep your eyes wide shut. She's mine.

TROY

Just looking.

Looking for trouble.

Groom has an idea, and hits Troy again.

GROOM

You should hook up with one of the bridesmaids, dude.

Troy just shakes his head.

GROOM

What's The Worst That Could Happen?

TROY

I just don't know what women want, man.

GROOM

Just follow your basic instinct. Cast away your fear.

Groom taps Troy on chest.

GROOM

What lies beneath.

TROY

But I have a little problem. A dirty shame.

GROOM

(looking down)

It?

TROY

(nodding)

The thing.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

The pianist walks by.

A Pianist (in tails) walks by. The Wedding Singer joins him by piano in corner.

So what's your problem? Too fast? Too furious?

TROY

Gone in sixty seconds.

Troy slips a laugh that hints he is kidding.

GROOM

(hitting Troy)

Liar.

TROY

(quickly)

Liar? I'm giving you the straight story, man.

GROOM

Psycho.

TROY

Look who's talking.

GROOM

Look who's talking too.

TROY

(serious now)

All's I'm saying is that you're in lucky town.

GROOM

You're right, dude.

Groom paces for a moment, deep in reflection.

Pianist and Wedding Singer start performing "Reflection" from Mulan.

GROOM

She's as good as it gets. Too good--for me.

TROY

Then dump her, man, and keep hangin' with the homeboys.

I mean, what's she got that we haven't got?

GROOM AS NARRATOR

I said, "A beautiful mind", but I was thinking "holes".
"Chinatown". "Snatch".

TROY

Seriously, man.

(nostalgically)

It's a wonderful life.

Troy jerks his head back towards the door, suggesting they flee.

TROY

Bad boys...

(pointing to the two of them)

...two.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

I thought back to my days of being wild. I'd been a real party monster. Sixteen years of alcohol.

Groom looks nostalgic for a moment, then shakes his head violently and slaps himself.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

Back to the future.

GROOM

No way, dude. I want to be with Mary from here to eternity.

(misty eyed)

Just being there. She'll stand by me, for the best years of our lives.

TROY

But why, man? Why stay?

Pianist and Wedding Singer start performing "My Heart Will Go On" from Titanic.

GROOM

Love, actually.

TROY

For Real?

Troy looks deep into Groom's eyes, and gets suspicious.

TROY

No really.

GROOM

(whispers)

She's having a baby.

TROY

(excitedly)

Rosemary's baby?

GROOM

(hitting Troy)

No, mine, you idiot.

TROY

Holy smoke. Parenthood.

That's big.

Troy mimics a swelling belly.

TROY

Signs?

GROOM

(nodding)

Nine and a half weeks.

Troy ponders for a moment, and develops accusatory look towards Fiancée (across the room).

TROY

Entrapment?

Groom shakes his head and hits Troy.

The DOOR BEHIND THEM CREAKS open.

WEDDING PLANNER, a fat gay man, enters carrying a clipboard.

TROY

(whispers to Groom)

Wedding planner?

(whispers back)

My big fat Greek wedding planner.

Wedding Planner strides past them to join others. Groom nods cordial acknowledgement as he passes.

GROOM

Constantine.

WEDDING PLANNER

What's up, doc?

Groom and Troy start strutting across the dance floor towards the group. The Pianist and the Wedding Singer start performing "Night Fever" from Saturday Night Fever.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we head over to the group. I can see my cousin, Vinny, Uncle Buck, Aunty Mame, Syriana, Alfie, Bambi, the twins, the others...and finally, there they are, the in-laws--the crazy-as-hell parents and their resident evil son, Bruce.

(with disdain)

(WICH GIR

The bad seed.

Troy and Groom are met halfway across the hall by FIANCÉE and BRIDESMAID 1.

Pianist and Wedding Singer start performing "Lola" by the Kinks.

GROOM

(kissing Fiancée)

Babe.

FIANCÉE

Tootsie.

BRIDESMAID 1

(shakes hands)

Troy.

TROY (cordially)

Lola.

Crowd mills, and in-laws become visible. HERBIE, an overweight man, is overdressed with garish cufflinks, diamond-studded belt buckle, silver-inlaid cowboy boots, etc. ROXANNE, his submissive wife, is lavishly dressed (in poor taste). Bruce, their short wimpy son in his early twenties, has a hairstyle like Napoleon Bonaparte.

Troy notices the blatant wealth of the in-laws and nods knowingly. Groom pulls the other three into a huddle, and gestures a confirmatory nod towards the in-laws.

GROOM

Loaded.

Bridesmaid 1 looks quizzically at fiancée's father.

BRIDESMAID 1

Herbie?

GROOM

Fully loaded.

FTANCÉE

Millions.

GROOM

But here's the problem, girls.

FIANCÉE

My sexist, good-old-boy dad...

Fiancée glares at her father, then shifts her gaze to her brother.

FIANCÉE

...might give it all to Bruce.

TROY

A11?

BRIDESMAID 1

Might he?

Bridesmaid 1 eyes Bruce with scheming intent.

Groom gazes at Bruce, pondering.

GROOM

(to himself)

If only we could get Bruce.

Fiancée glares at Bruce, with derision. Bruce slips his hand between his vest buttons.

FIANCÉE

(to herself)

Napoleon.

Bridesmaid 1 eyes Bruce with avarice.

BRIDESMAID 1

(to herself)

Dynamite.

FIANCÉE

Unless...

(patting her stomach)

...we have a baby boy.

TROY

(nodding knowingly)

Million dollar baby.

They walk over to the main group, and are greeted by Fiancée's parents, Herbie and Roxanne. Bruce slinks off into background.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we join the group, and before I know it, I'm meeting daddy, big daddy from South Of Heaven West Of Hell.

Grease in his hair, and the eyes of a crocodile. Jaws too.

FIANCÉE

(introducing father)

This is my father.

Herbie grabs Groom's hand and shakes it violently.

HERBIE

Buddy boy.

FIANCÉE

(introducing mother)

Mommie dearest.

Roxanne offers a limp hand.

ROXANNE

(sheepishly)

Roxanne.

Pianist and Wedding Singer start performing "Roxanne" by Sting.

PREACHER, with extremely long nose, taps a wine glass with a spoon.

PREACHER

(impatiently)

Waiting!

INT. - SAME BANQUET ROOM - HOURS LATER

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we do the whole rehearsal without a hitch, and the preacher's wife finishes it up with, "yada yada yada, Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

And then, just when everyone's leaving, out of

HERBIE

Any of you kids come from Texas?

the blue, Herbie says...

Bridesmaid 1 points to BRIDESMAID 2, a ditsy blonde.

BRIDESMAID 1

Debbie does.

BRIDESMAID 2

(nodding affirmation)

Dallas.

HERBIE

Wanna follow me up to the...

(does finger quotes)

...panic room to try a little
'El Paso Loco'?

Herbie pulls a large joint from his coat pocket. Pianist and Wedding Singer start performing "The Wizard of Oz".

GROOM AS NARRATOR

And he whipped out a reefer the size of Chicago. It's risky business, but me and Troy just look at each other and smile.

INT. - LAVISH HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Most of wedding party spills into Herbie's hotel room, laughing.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we follow him up to their suite...four rooms on the 4th floor...and we light it up. Blaze. And pretty soon the whole thing's going up in smoke, we're all getting our face off, and I'm waiting to exhale.

Then Herbie asks Troy...

HERBIE

What do you think of this reefer?

Herbie hands the joint to Troy.

TROY

Madness.

Troy takes a hit on the joint.

TROY

Super, man.

Groom and Fiancée are looking intimate, glancing around for somewhere private to go. Groom catches a hint of MUSIC coming from the next room.

GROOM

They're playing our song.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we followed the sound of music, and sure enough...

Groom and Fiancée open door to adjacent room and peek in. WEDDING SINGER (still in red) and Pianist (still in tails) are playing twister to the sound of the song Singin' in the Rain. Their motions are mechanical (like clockwork to the song rhythm). A Twister-game color-selector "ticks" through the colors, all of which are orange (Clockwork Orange).

GROOM AS NARRATOR

...there's the wedding singer playing twister with the pianist.

Wedding Singer moves her left foot to orange, bringing her rear end into a sexually inviting position.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

Now there's an indecent proposal.

Groom nonchalantly joins in the game of twister. He assumes-the-position over the Wedding Singer.

WEDDING SINGER

Easy, rider.

Fiancée joins in and the door closes.

INT. - HERBIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

All of the wedding party (except the in-laws) are leaving the room, laughing.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So we say good night and good luck and all that jazz...

EXT. - OUTSIDE HOTEL - NIGHT

Everyone spills out onto the sidewalk, disheveled.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

...And of course, by the time we get outside, it's pitch black.

Troy swats at the night air with one of his shoes.

TROY

Bat, man.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

Then one of the white chicks lets out a scream like she's seen a ghost.

Bridesmaid 1 screams, pointing at the sky.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

I scream too.

Groom screams like a little girl.

Several bright lights are approaching in the sky, with increasing MECHANICAL NOISE.

FIANCÉE

(pointing up)

Aliens?

BRIDESMAID 1

(crossing herself)

Armageddon.

Bridesmaid 2, a classic "dumb blonde", is mesmerized by the lights.

BRIDESMAID 2

The shining.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

(craning neck to look up)

I'm getting vertigo.

BRIDESMAID 1

(still crossing herself)

Apocalypse.

BRIDESMAID 2 (looking at watch)

Now?

Troy studies object in sky, developing a look of recognition, then panic.

TROY

Chopper!

GROOM AS NARRATOR

Before we know it there's a S.W.A.T. guy like a gladiator in a full metal jacket, dangling like some cliffhanger. And soon there's a whole platoon, a clear and present danger. Doom.

Groom breathes into cupped hands to smell his own breath.

GROOM

Dude, we're up the creek

FIANCÉE

Without a paddle.

TROY

We need a flight plan, man.

GROOM

That's the sixth sensible thing you've said today.

TROY

Seven.

SIRENS are approaching. Groom starts pushing Troy into action.

GROOM

We're OK. You're the one who needs the great escape.

Troy raises his hand as if to say "that's me".

TROY

The Fugitive. Enemy of the State. A history of violence.

Don't let 'em take you alive. Go! Die another day.

Troy fails to act.

Groom looks up and down the promenade for inspiration.

GROOM

Run for the mission.

TROY

Impossible. That's like a Marathon, man.

GROOM

It's not that far. Go!

Troy runs this way and that, and ends up not going anywhere. Pandemonium builds, with S.W.A.T members chasing hotel patrons in every direction. Police cars arrive.

Bridesmaid 1 is standing petrified.

GROOM

(to Bridesmaid 1)

Run, Lola, Run.

Bridesmaid 1 just shakes her head, frozen in fear.

GROOM

(still to Bridesmaid 1)

Don't be a chicken. Run!

Bridesmaid 2 seems oblivious to everything going on around her.

GROOM

(to Bridesmaid 2)

Run for cover.

Groom points to approaching S.W.A.T men.

GROOM

(still to Bridesmaid 2)

See.

Bridesmaid 2 suddenly notices a dark spot on her dress.

BRIDESMAID 2

(annoyed)

Spot.

GROOM

Run!

Fiancée, Bridesmaid 1 and Bridesmaid 2 get swept into the scattering crowd, pursued by police.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

So pretty soon everyone's on the run like they're in some scary movie on speed.

Groom points to Fiancée running in the distance.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

From the runaway bride...

FIANCÉE

(in distance, to pursuers)
Catch me if you can.

GROOM AS NARRATOR

...to dumb and dumber...

Bridesmaid 1, screaming, is dragging Bridesmaid 2 (who is trying to scratch the spot off her dress).

GROOM AS NARRATOR

...they were all soon gone with the wind.

FTANCÉE

(yells to Groom from the distance) See you on Sunday.

Groom waves as Fiancée disappears in the distance. Troy and Groom are the only ones left from their group. The pandemonium is slowly subsiding.

Groom and Troy walk across the promenade as if nothing has happened. Around them, police escort mafia members to a police van. The S.W.A.T team tries to apprehend "Gandhi" but he holds them at bay with high-tech martial arts moves. Police are unsuccessfully trying to pull Bruce and the African Queen apart from a passionate embrace. Herbie is bribing police with cash and drugs. An officer is making

the Pianist do a sobriety test while the Wedding Singer sits, teary-eyed, singing "Walk the Line".

Groom and Troy arrive at curb.

Groom looks up and down street.

GROOM

Dude, where's my car.

TROY

Encino, man.

Groom squints, remembers, and nods in acknowledgement. He hails a taxi.

GROOM

Taxi!

FADE OUT.