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"Here Comes the Groom" — Bing Crosby, Jane Wyman, Alexis Smith, Franchot Tone, James Barton, Robert Keith, Anna Maria Alberghetti. Directed by Frank Capra. (Paramount)

The Frank Capra-Bing Crosby combo comes up with a winner: Capra's best in years, Bing's best since "Going My Way," plus a super cast. As the old Boston lady says in the wedding scene, "This is better than television." Typical Boston understatement.

The groom is unwilling Bing Crosby, foreign correspondent who keeps cabling proposals to Jane Wyman and then forgets to go home and marry her. When he finally arrives in Jane's Boston, with two French orphans in tow, it's too late. Jane is engaged to her employer, Franchot Tone, and \$40,000,000. Bing, however, refuses to admit defeat. First thing he does is to wangle an invitation to Tone's estate (the gatehouse); second, to enlist the aid of Alexis Smith, Tone's "plain" cousin, who is as in love with him as Bing is with Jane. . . .

This is it—the Hollywood trade-mark, the kind of thing Hollywood does so much better than all the rest of the world, the reason Hollywood once was synonymous with glamour, glitter, and excitement. And naturally it took one of the ace old-line directors to bring us back to that state of grace—the Capra of "It Happened One Night." With, of course, the considerable assistance of that Crosby man.

The boys didn't quite make it in "Riding High," but they're riding high now. "Here Comes the Groom" may not read like a world-beater in outline, but it bounces and bubbles along for just under two hours with hardly a false moment, a forced moment, or a moment at which you can honestly say you'd rather be somewhere else.

Under Capra's seemingly effortless guidance everybody in the company looks and sounds as if he or she were improvising—and brilliantly; even, so help us, Mr. Tone. And, wonderful as the adults are, don't overlook the youngsters.

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