G7250 GRAN TORINO (USA, 2008)

Credits: director, Clint Eastwood; writer, Nick Schenk; story, Dave Johannson, Nick Schenk.
Cast: Clint Eastwood, Christopher Carley, Bee Vang, Ahney Her.
Summary: Melodrama set in contemporary Detroit. A film about the flowering of a
old man’s better nature and about Americans of different races learning to
respect one another. Walt Kowalski (Eastwood) is a cantankerous, racist,
beer-chugging retired Detroit autoworker, a lapsed Catholic and Korean War
veteran who keeps a shotgun ready to hand to protect his own security. Walt
sits on his porch all day long, when he’s not doing house repairs or working
on his prized 1972 Gran Torino, a car he helped assemble on the Ford
assembly line, and watches the world change around him. His wife has just
died, he considers his sons to be overweight meddlers working at
meaningless jobs, and his granddaughter is a self-centered greed machine. He
is still troubled by memories of the Korean War and he calls the Asians
moving into the neighborhood “gooks” and “chinks.” But he gets to know
Thao (Vang), the fatherless Hmong teenage boy who lives next door. Walt
watches as a carload of Hmong gangstas try to enlist the quiet, studious Thao
into their thuggery. When they threaten Thao to make him try to steal the
Gran Torino, Walt catches him red-handed. Thao’s older sister Sue (Her)
apologizes and offers Thao’s services for odd jobs. Walt accepts reluctantly.
When Sue is threatened by some black bullies, Walt intervenes. Thus Walt’s
life becomes linked with these people, although Sue has to explain that the
Hmong are mountain people from Vietnam who were U.S. allies during that
war and found it advisable to leave their homeland when the war was lost.

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