

# *Crash*

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The movie *Crash* depicts the lives of various individuals from divergent socio-economic classes who have life changing experiences between their conflicting prejudices and stereotypes.

To begin with, I can personally relate with the role of the immigrants in this movie. When I came to the U.S. my first job was a nanny position. I worked for some wealthy white people. My boss didn't know my background, but her assumption was that I came from a poor, uneducated country. She once asked me, "Shelly, did you ever go to school in Trinidad?" I said to her, "Of course I did." Little did she know that my parents made sure that my siblings and I went to school. My father firmly believed in educating all of his children, whether you were a boy or a girl. He believed that every child should be educated equally. I worked for those people for three years because I had no choice. As a single parent I had to provide a stable environment for my son. My boss constantly made me feel that I was never going to make it in this country. At times, I felt as if I wasted time coming to the U.S. As time went by, I quit my job. I couldn't handle someone constantly trying to put me down. It was the best decision that I have ever made. I went through many struggles in this country, but with faith and perseverance I am still standing strong. My son is all grown up now. We both attend the same college and we are pursuing the same major. This shows that "With God in your life, everything is possible."

In one of the scenes in *Crash*, a Black male and female couple is driving a car similar to the one that is stolen in the earlier scenes. It is obvious by the license plates that the car isn't stolen. Even so, Ryan, the racist cop, pulls the vehicle over regardless of the situation. He pats the couple down; however, while patting the woman down, he molests her right in front of her husband. The husband stands there helplessly. The husband feels terrible, even though he knows that he can't stop the cop because he would be accused of assaulting an officer. This scene demonstrates how the couple was treated unjustly by the racist cop due to their race. Another scene that depicts racism and stereotypes is when Jean, a privileged white woman, is having an argument with her husband right after their car was stolen at gunpoint. Jean is upset because prior to the attack she and her husband were walking to their car when she spotted two Black males. She tightens her grip on her husband's arms, insinuating fear of the Black males. Due to the hijacking, Jean and her husband have the locks changed in their house by a Hispanic male. While the locks are being changed, Jean continues her argument by stating that since the locks are changed by a gang member with a shaved head and his pants

around his ankles, he will probably go sell the keys to his “gangbanger” friends. These scenes in the movie are very important because they depict racism.

*Crash* has personally changed my perception of how I view people from different races and other cultures because “we’re always behind a metal glass.” I think that we miss that touch so much that we crash into one another just to feel something. *Crash* is a mirror and reflection of who we are as individuals. The way to learn from and relate respectfully to people of different cultures is by being culturally responsive. Being culturally responsive requires openness to the viewpoints, thoughts and experiences of others. This is not about changing others to be more like you. Instead, it is about exploring and honoring the differences of others. Lastly, I try to remember we all share the same world, regardless of our differences; this world belongs to us all. To be tolerant is to welcome those differences and even delight in them. *Crash* is an amazing film. I will definitely recommend this movie to my friends and family because it is one of the most thought-provoking film I have ever seen about prejudice. It is an ideal film to use in educational programs. *Crash* is able to make you face the stereotypes that are amongst the environment and community.

In conclusion, *Crash* is not only a movie which follows the “in your face tradition,” but is also a movie which emphasizes the significance of the recognition of the “human being” instead of the recognition of the “other.”

## References

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