Crash movie Character analysis

Character : Graham Waters and Ria

**How they change**

* Graham keeps everyone at a certain distance
* He does not respect his mother, the way he spoke to her on the phone seemed rude and disrespectful, and refuses to go find his brother, The reason for this is that he thinks he is too good for him or that they are better off without him
* When he is on the job he discovers that his brother is dead and then his mother accuses him for his brothers death ( Peter )
* When Pete dies Graham realises that he wasn't there for his family, because he was busy with the white cop shootout case he was very distracted, he is disconnected from his family
* Comes of as the tough emotionless guy but at the end scene he shows sadness towards his brother Peter
* Graham is some what caring because he brings groceries for his mother and cleans the house but his mum thinks that Peter brought her groceries when Graham actually did. (shows that he still cares for her even if she doesn’t show it )
* The music becomes really intense and loud when Graham realises that his brother is dead at the crime scene.
* Mother blames Graham for Peter lost thinking that Graham thinks that they aren't good enough for him and that he has moved on/ distanced himself from her.
* Graham comes from a good cop to a bad cop ( when He is blackmailed)

**Costume/ Hair**

* Brown suit with a brown tie unable to afford a better suit (a black suit shows more wealth)
* Really simple casual clothes (Ria)
* Ria wears a gray singlet for most of the movie
* They don't really change their clothes
* Graham wears the same suit pretty much throughout the whole movie
* His mother doesn't wear very appealing clothes
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**Symbolism attached to them**

* Find brothers car thing at last crime scene of peters death.
* Ria symbolises support
* Graham sees shoes which is peter representing peters death
* Graham represents this distant Loner who has been fighting to survive his whole life

**Relationship between 2 characters**

* Officials Ria is Graham's work partner (detectives for the LAPD.)
* Shown in bed together, considered friends with benefits
* There relationship is kinda misty, They could be in an actual relationship but Graham always keeps everyone at a certain distance and she knows it ‘’ why do you keep everyone at a certain distance huh, do you feel something and panic’’
* Whenever we see Graham in the movie Ria is always with him even at the hospital when his brother is dead
* They are quite sarcastic and rude to each other
* Flanagan and Graham, Arguing whether to arrest an innocent man but end up with Flanagan blackmailing Graham
* Ria observed everything that happens in Graham's life and pushes him along to try to do the right thing. If she wasn't there he might have not done the things he did
* Ria and Graham were paired because neither of these characters were white (black and hispanic) showing that it was hard for them and that they can relate
* Ria is a minor character and we don't know much about her background and we don't know anything about her family all we know is the ethnicity of her parents.(Ria says ‘’My father's from puerto rico and my mother's from el salvador, neither one of these is mexico’’)
* Ria has a sassy tone and is racist at the start when they get into a car crash with the asian women
* On the phone Graham says ‘’I'm having sex with a white women’’ to his mother then after to Ria he says ‘’I would say u were mexican but it wouldn't pissed her off as much’’ (This shows assumptions that people make of each other )
* ‘’What kind of man speaks to his mother that way’’
* Ria says - ‘’Did you apologies to your mother?’’

Graham replys ‘’She wasn't there ‘’

This shows how he wants to keep people out of his life and that he doesn't want to show emotion to people so he hides it with a shell lies and pretends he doesn't care

* The fact that neither of them are white and the contrast between them lifts the intention racism
* Graham is (aggressive) racist towards Ria but he generally receives more racial intention

**Settings**

* Graham in a car crash near his brothers crime scene
* Graham's at a crime scene
* When he is at his mum's house the lighting is dimp and the setting shows how poor his family is ( mum sleeping on the couch)
* District attorney's office
* At the start of the movie Graham and Ria are in a car crash with an asian women and Ria thinks Graham has lost his mind ‘’ I think we got rear ended and we spun around three time and one of us lost their frame of mind some i'm going to go and find it’’
* The final scene is of graham at his brother Crime scene and him finding his brother trinket buried in the dirt

**Irony**

* It is ironic that Graham is a police officer and peter is a low key criminal - They were both brought up and nurtured in the same environment yet their lives lead to totally different directions. This shows that it is nature before nurture
* Its ironic that Graham's mum said go look for your brother yet Graham said he would be fine but then when Graham finally find Peter he was dead.
* Its ironic that he was racist to people but people are racist to him
* Its ironic what he says to his mum cause she isn’t white (then they have an argument about her race)
* The irony of the St Christopher trinket was meant to keep him safe but ended up killing peter which Graham was also meant to keep him safe but didn’t. (graham is a useless trinket )

**Cimematography**

* There was a buildup of tension just before Graham find his brothers body. The camera shot pans along the ground pass a shoe and finally to Peter's Body.
* We see a establishing shot of the crime scene to set the scene of peter's death by putting the end and the start
* At the start of the movie when graham is at the crime scene the music is slow and empathise the scene while the camera shot slowly pans along the ground building the tension up
* Panning of the crime scene to show the setting while the officer tells the story and a couple of wide shots
* Close up on the gun to see what the object is
* Low angle on Ria to show her power over Graham in the argument
* There is a close up scene of Graham and his mother to show detail and emotion will there is a sad piano song tract behind as the mother is upset abou. This shows how life has been for Graham and his family. Graham always seems to
* Over the shoulder scene if graham and Flanagan
far away shot of Graham and Flanagan to set the scene of the talk of the crime scene
High to low shor on oeters dead body and close up on Graham's face to show emotion and sad music to show Grahams realisation of Petes death close up on rias face to show her empathy and concern for Graham and his mum
* A really close up shot of graham's face to show his sadness of how his mother thinks of him and that their family has fallen apart

**Positioning of the viewer/audience response**

* They dislike Flanagan as he is racist and trying to blackmail Graham to prove a innocent man guilty.
* What they thought was reality has changed - he thought that Peter was going to be fine then when he finds him, he is found dead

**Director's purpose**

* The director wants to show that how dysfunctional Peoples family can be, For example Graham's family -His mother is a drug addict his brother a criminal and they have no idea where his dad is (he could be dead) This shows how troubled a black family can be
* Graham is walks off showing his distance at the start of the movie showing distance him and everyone
* For a Graham to get a promotion he had to do something wrong/ illegal, this shows how coloured people need a helping hand to try and get somewhere.
* He lies to Ria about seeing his mother showing how he keeps everyone out of his life (at a certain distance)
* It gives us realizations of the struggles of coloured people in America and that Graham struggles throughout the movie and has not much justice
* The director wanted to show how the character have to live in this life without certainty and not knowing what each other wants
* Graham is prosecuted as he is a black man working for the LAPD he experience prejudice in his job alot

**Dialogue/Quotes**

* “In any real city, you walk, you brush past people, and people bump into you. In L.A, nobody touches you. We're always behind this metal and glass. I think we miss that touch so much, that we crash into each other just so we can feel something.”
* Ria talking to Asian lady after the crash she says “Maybe if you see over steering wheels you’d blake too”
* Graman and Ria are trying to figure out the crime of a white police officer shooting three black men throughout the movie
* Flanagan - “Fucking black people”
* ‘’No he's not here mum i'm not going looking for him so leave it alone ‘’
* Graham - The right message is “Look at the black boy I bought
* Graham - “Mama i promise i’m gonna find out who did this”

 Graham’s mum - “I already know who, you did”

* Flanagan - ‘’We aren't going to prosecute a dead man’’
* Flanagram is shown as this racist prick that doesn't care about justice ’Fucking black people’’ ‘’They just can't keep their hands out the cookie jar’’
* ‘’Don't act like you know something about me ‘’
* ‘’Fuck you very much but thanks for thinking for me - this is his response to Flanagan's racist response
* “I asked you to find your brother but you were busy we weren't much good for you anymore”
* “I just wanna wait with my baby” - shows that he doesn't have the same importance as Peter

Ria lifts the attention of how She treated Graham

He is prosecuted