

Why do Farhad and Tom Hanson use their guns?

	Farhad	Tom Hanson
scenes (DVD)	(1:09:03 – 1:09:34) 1:17:14 – 1:20:27 1:33:56 – 1:35:39	1:23:52 – 1:28:19
What are the circumstances? What is the situation he uses his gun in?	<i>Farhad blames Daniel for the burgled shop and seeks him out. He waits for him, stops him and demands compensation for the damage.</i>	<i>Tom picks up a black hitchhiker (Peter). He begins to think that Peter is making fun of him, becomes angry and tells him to get out of his car.</i>
Why did he acquire a gun in the first place?	<i>Farhad wants to have a gun in order to protect his family, his shop and himself. There seems to have been an incident at the shop in which Farhad's wife Shereen was threatened by someone (Farhad: "You think I should let crazy people do what they want to us?").</i>	<i>Tom Hanson is a police officer, so he is licensed to carry a gun. We don't know whether the gun used in this scene is his service gun or another one that he keeps in the car for personal defence.</i>
Why does he decide to fire at his opponent?	<i>When Daniel doesn't comply with his demands Farhad becomes even more enraged and fires.</i>	<i>He becomes angry because he believes Peter is laughing at him. When Peter puts his hand into his pocket, Tom feels threatened and fires.</i>
What is the result?	<i>If Dorri hadn't bought blanks for the gun, Farhad would have killed Lara and possibly Daniel, too.</i>	<i>Peter is fatally wounded. Tom has killed an unarmed man.</i>
What does he do after firing his gun?	<i>He stands there, dazed, and realizes that in his rage he would have killed a little girl. He goes back to his shop, feeling deep gratefulness to the "angel" that saved him from committing murder. He asks Dorri to take the gun away. (He hasn't realized yet that he ought to be grateful to <u>two</u> angels – Lara, who made him realize what he would have been capable of doing, and his daughter Dorri, who knows her father's volatile temper and wisely chose blanks instead of real cartridges.)</i>	<i>He realizes that he has just killed an unarmed man. Unwilling or unable to take responsibility for what he has done, he dumps Peter's body and sets fire to his car in order to destroy all evidence.</i>
differences and similarities	<p>differences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In Tom's case we could accept some mitigating circumstances: that he feels threatened and reacts the way he was trained to in his job (→ "Put your hands where I can see them!"). Farhad, however, consciously and intentionally brings the gun to Daniel's house.</i> • <i>Tom uses his gun because he is afraid. Farhad brings the gun in order to assert himself and he fires it because of his</i> 	

	<p><i>choleric disposition.</i></p> <p>similarities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Both times, the victims are unarmed and the situation isn't <u>really</u> threatening. Daniel doesn't become violent and if Peter had wanted to mug or car-jack Tom, he would have done so when he got into the car. Furthermore, Peter only becomes angry in response to Tom's aggression.[In a scene deleted in the final version of the film the script tells us that Peter's revolver wasn't loaded, and that he threw the gun away after the failed attempt to steal Cameron's car]</i> • <i>Both Farhad and Tom overreact. In both cases, using a gun only makes the situation worse.</i>
<p>Does 'Crash' have a message about gun ownership?</p>	<p><i>'Crash' doesn't seem to have an explicit statement about gun control. However, 'Crash' makes it very clear that guns are dangerous, that they kill or hurt innocent people and that easy access to guns facilitates incidents such as those shown in the film. It raises the question of what guns can do in the wrong hands (Farhad) or in a climate of fear (Tom). If there is a message it could be, 'If you HAVE a gun you will USE it.'</i></p>