

What You Need to Know About *Inception*

Summary:

- Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio) steals peoples' innermost secrets by sharing their dreams (for corporate espionage).
- All he wants is to return home to his children.
 - But he can't because he is wanted for murdering his wife, Mal (Marion Cotillard).
 - Before her death, Cobb incepted Mal with the idea that her world was all a dream.
 - So she committed suicide in order to wake up.
 - Cobb's guilt manifests in a projection of Mal that attempts to screw up every job he has.
- Saito (Ken Watanabe), a business executive, wants Cobb to perform inception on his competition, Robert Fischer (Cillian Murphy).
 - Inception: planting an idea deep in the human subconscious**
 - This means that the dreamers must be heavily sedated, and the idea planted below layers of dreams.
 - Breakdown of Dream Layers:**
 - Layer 1*: Rainy City, Kick=Falling Van
 - Layer 2*: Swanky Hotel, Kick=Zero Gravity Explosion
 - Layer 3*: Snow Fortress, Kick=Exploding Said Snow Fortress
 - Limbo*: Beach, City, Japanese Dining Room, Cobb Home, Kick=Storm/Gun
 - If Fischer is incepted, he will dissolve his dead father's company, losing everything. But he will have fonder memories of his father.
- The reverse heist moves forward.
 - Fischer has been trained to resist dream-sharing, so if his mind kills the team, they end up in Limbo (essentially in a coma).
 - Saito is shot by Fischer's subconscious, and Mal shoots Fischer.
- Cobb, Saito, Fischer, and Ariadne (Ellen Page) end up in Limbo, where Cobb realizes that he needs to let Mal go.
- They all make it out of Limbo, and Cobb goes home to his kids.
 - Or so we think.
 - When the movie cuts to black, we do not know whether or not it was a dream or reality (the top keeps spinning).

What You Need to Know About Heist Movies

Three Acts:

- I. Preparing the Heist
 - A. Gathering the Participants (Ensemble Cast)
 - B. Learning About the Subject of the Heist
 - C. Setting up Plot Twists to Occur in Later Acts

*Usually there is a montage shortly before Act II
- II. The Heist
 - A. Plot Twists →
 - B. Suspense Usually Leading to Success
- III. After the Heist
 - A. Participants are Imprisoned or Dead
 - B. Unless the Subject of the Heist is also Immoral (casinos, other criminals, etc.)