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.)