



Inception Philosophy

David Kyle Johnson (Editor) , William Irwin (Series_editor)

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A philosophical look at the movie *Inception* and its brilliant metaphysical puzzles Is the top still spinning? Was it all a dream? In the world of Christopher Nolan's four-time Academy Award-winning movie, people can share one another's dreams and alter their beliefs and thoughts. *Inception* is a metaphysical heist film that raises more questions than it answers: Can we know what is real? Can you be held morally responsible for what you do in dreams? What is the nature of dreams, and what do they tell us about the boundaries of "self" and "other"? From Plato to Aristotle and from Descartes to Hume, *Inception and Philosophy* draws from important philosophical minds to shed new light on the movie's captivating themes, including the one that everyone talks about: did the top fall down (and does it even matter)?

Explores the movie's key questions and themes, including how we can tell if we're dreaming or awake, how to make sense of a paradox, and whether or not inception is possible Gives new insights into the nature of free will, time, dreams, and the unconscious mind Discusses different interpretations of the film, and whether or not philosophy can help shed light on which is the "right one" Deepens your understanding of the movie's multi-layered plot and dream-infiltrating characters, including Dom Cobb, Arthur, Mal, Ariadne, Eames, Saito, and Yusuf An essential companion for every dedicated Inception fan, this book will enrich your experience of the *Inception* universe and its complex dreamscape.

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Author : David Kyle Johnson (Editor) , William Irwin (Series_editor)

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James Charlton says

Very interesting. I have watched Inception at least a dozen times participating in a Freudian analysis of the characters. The philosophical take was a whole different way to look at it.

Lauren says

The opening few essays in this book were phenomenal - got me thinking very deeply about the philosophical issues contained in the movie. However, as the book progressed it seemed to move into broader and more general philosophical issues, and simply used Inception as a reference point. So a bit of a mixed bag, all in all. Definitely an enjoyable read though.

Cori says

[Yes, it was just a dream, but I too wouldn't jump out of a window to prove it.

After watching the movie I was inclined to believe that Cobb was reunited with his children in reality. After reading some online reviews and the first section of this book I have switched sides, and now think that it was all just a dream. I don't think that detracts anything from the movie.

In this section of the book I

Leandra says

I really really liked seeing how Inception was being compared to branches of philosophy. It went a bit too far away from the point in my opinion. My favorite part of the book was seeing the different theories as to how much was a dream - and getting a new aspect to the movie because of that.

Lucy S says

Quite a few of the essays in here are interesting and raise ways of thinking I hadn't previously considered. Would recommend to those who saw the film and found themselves fascinated by the theories on dreaming that it touched on

Nathan says

There are a few gems of essays in this book. The final section in particular is all fold. I found a majority of the work in here though to unbearable, as if written by a first year philosophy major who just read Aristotle

and feels the need to quote him all the time. Equally annoying is the various authors in here who feel the need to summarize parts of the movie as if one had not watched it and/or reference each other.

My recommendation on reading this book is the first essay, and the last section. Most of the chapters are worth skipping though.

Troy says

I have been wanting to read this book ever since I saw a video of the editor giving a talk on Inception. The movie fascinated me and the depth that these authors go into the movie are, well deep. If you've seen the movie (don't read this is you haven't) you will learn all sorts of things that you most likely missed on your first watch through.

The book is really about the philosophical questions that the movie raises, and in general the authors do a great job discussing this. It probably was a chapter or two too long, but the overall content is great.

Frank says

If you thought Inception blew your mind, then read this book. David Johnson masterfully makes significant philosophical connections to the film's characters and plotline, citing Plato, Aristotle, John Locke, Descartes to back up his claims. I thought I appreciated the film after watching it 10-12 times, but now I have a newfound appreciation after reading this book.

What I found to be extremely eye-opening is Johnson's argument about free will and inception in real life. If we are truly free, then shouldn't inception be something we are worried about? Propaganda, films, TV shows (just about any form of art) are forms of inception, as they plant ideas into our heads. However, if we are not free, we probably don't need to worry about inception, since there's no 'free will' for it to interfere with?

Scott Landry says

I very much liked the book but there are some contributing authors that get a little tedious in their writing and seem to go off track a little.

Having said that though, I would recommend book to anyone who loves the movie, 'Inception'.

Denise Harvey says

Inception & Philosophy reads like a semester's worth of a philosophy class. Although the book is in topical sections, the chapters within each section build upon one another. Sections could be read out of order or just particular sections read. Much of the book deals with philosophers & their ideologies and is just plain boring; however, several of the chapter writers bring new interesting insights to the reader. There is also an appendix which makes for a nice Inception-watching companion.

David Garcia olivares says

Good

Justin says

I ordered this book from Amazon after seeing David Kyle Johnson's Google Talk (in which he made quite a compelling case for Christopher Nolan's masterpiece film, Inception, to win 2010's Academy Award for Best Picture), and I could hardly put it down until I'd finished it. The explanations of some of the film's key plot elements really help to put the film into perspective, and the essays included in the book all add to the depth and complexity of Inception. A must read for those fascinated by the deeper meaning of this great film.

Fernando Rodriguez says

You need time to digest the topics in this book. The whole series of pop culture and philosophy is good but this one is one of the gems!

Annie Munn says

If you have any interest in metaphysical arguments for and against God, in the differences between regret and remorse, or in the implications of time, perception and experience for dreams...you need to read this book. And, if you haven't seen Inception, you need to see the movie and then read this book. While I was not persuaded by all of the included philosophical arguments they made me think (and think hard) about my own choices, regrets and arguments for and against belief in God. Admittedly this is a book for movie and philosophy geeks but there are, I think, interesting questions raised within that merit attention by a wider circle.

Shannon says

This isn't one of those books that you just happen to pick up and read - you're going to be interested in the movie Inception, and you're going to be interested in philosophy or at least philosophical concepts and how they relate to themes in the movie. In which case, this book delivers on what one would expect it to be and raises interesting points from famous philosophers and applies this to Inception - a movie I absolutely adored. I was actually inspired to read this because I loved the movie The Matrix and read a philosophy book in the same sort of context.

Inception and Philosophy is a good read, interesting, thought provoking and had me thinking about various parts of the movie in new ways - exactly what I was hoping for. It even allowed me to pull out a few philosophical concepts out over drinks with friends - a total win!
