

Thoughts on Tenet

1.11.26 - From my Bed



I started this movie on like three separate occasions since it came out, and always got like 20 to 30 minutes in and just hit an absolute wall with it and I'm not sure why. Maybe because I was lowkey influenced by the reviews/reception of the movie not being Nolan's best but more likely due to my Instagram reels level attention span. But, for some reason a couple days ago I got like a burning passion (that is a little strong tbh and romanticized) to go and finally watch this movie all the way through I forgot if I like saw something about it or whatever but all of a sudden I was like let me lock the fuck in and watch this movie. Now with that background being said I will get into my thoughts about the movie itself. From here on out there will be spoilers btw the way.

First thought and this is not the biggest thought but Robert Pattinson has serious aura. Now, I want to start by saying I thought this movie was fucking sick and loved it and am still nerding out and watching youtube videos about it days later, so what I write next doesn't mean I don't like the movie, its actually quite the contrary. But, after watching the movie, immediately upon its finished I felt wow this was super cool and I feel like I am getting the core core premise of what happened in terms I understand the events but I was also feeling a bit empty. I feel like Nolan's films usually have so much depth, character arc, and like audience attachment to the characters he puts on the screen. Cooper in *Interstellar*, Alfred (and his brother) in *The Prestige*, Oppenheimer in *Oppenheimer*, these are all characters you feel extremely attached and pulled into when watching these movies. *Tenet* is the complete opposite, as John David Washington's (never knew he was Denzel's son shoutout all my hollywood nepo (parentheses inception here but always thought this was pronounced *NEEPo* not *NEPo*) babies) his character is never even given a name and only called the protagonist. Which is, in fact, the perfect encapsulation of how this movie goes so against the grain of what Nolan usually does in that the audience is not given the relief or emotional investment in any of the characters.

At first when watching I thought the characters were falling flat, but after finishing the movie, reflecting, and reading about it and realizing this was more of a conscious choice on

Nolan's part to make the characters more so have a function in the system of Tenet then let them take the spotlight. This in itself fits right in with the movie's theme, as everyone in this movie is essentially cogs in the machine and playing their role in the temporal pincer movement as if they have roles in a play. Because of how time works in the movie, people sometimes know what is going to happen to themselves or others before they do it, but they still do it as if it is their duty to combat evil, which makes the characters very expendable. Once I understood this concept of the film, I was able to appreciate the directorial decision to make the characters in this movie very thin.

Anyways I could go on and on, but genuinely this movie is so confusing that talking about it is quite confusing in itself. I will say I am extremely excited to rewatch this movie, as I'm sure with each viewing of it I'll understand it more and in turn catch things I didn't in my initial confusion. Christopher Nolan is the fucking man and this is an underrated gem. The scene where they hijack the plutonium on the firetruck is dope asf and the score from Ludwig is an absolute masterclass. If you like sci-fi nerdy shit you will fuck with this movie if you give it a chance.