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### ***Tenet* as an Achronological Movie**

Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* captured audiences upon its release in 2020 with its concept of "time inversion", where objects traveling with inverted entropy effectively allows them (and people) to travel backwards through time. This sets the scene for a movie that is effectively one part action spy thriller and one part complex time puzzle.



Our hero, played by the charismatic John David Washington is referred to only as The Protagonist. His mission is to prevent the villain Sator from sharing an Algorithm with forces in the future that will allow them to invert the world's entropy, thereby destroying the past. The Protagonist spends much of the movie just as confused as the viewer, and effectively learns each piece of the puzzle over the course of the movie as we do, which makes for a fun and interesting watch. However, the Algorithm and its associated artifacts largely serve as an abstract plot device. Similarly, the threat of annihilation, despite thinly veiled references to climate change, is never deeper than the most basic spy movie plot. A rich man wants to destroy the world, and the hero must stop him.

The movie's true strength lies in the level of spectacle and mystery that the entropy inversion allows for. From a heist dependent on crashing a Boeing 747, to hand-to-hand combat choreography that takes full advantage of the characters moving in reverse, to a climactic final battle where forces move in forward and reverse simultaneously. The narrative foundation and premise of the movie allows for creative set pieces, striking cinematography, and compelling action that far outweighs the potential boredom of its cookie-cutter plot. It also refers continuously to a larger time-based conspiracy in the background that has allowed the events of the movie to occur as they do. *Tenet* serves as a satisfying watch for viewers who hope to unravel the intricacies of events occurring simultaneously, often with multiple versions of main characters acting simultaneously as well.

Despite the technical mastery on display from choreography, cinematography, and editing, the emotional plot beats often fall a bit flat. Elizabeth Debicki's Kat is never given enough screen time for the portrayal of her abusive relationship with the villain or her slight romance with the protagonist to move beyond stereotypes. However, the actors (particularly John David Washington and Robert Pattinson's Neil) nail the "cool factor" and chemistry with charming and enigmatic performances, which works well for the action set pieces and pays off in a legitimately emotional ending realization regarding the nature of Neil and the protagonist's relationship.

Overall, although *Tenet* doesn't reinvent the spy or thriller genres, it never feels the need to explain or limit its creativity, creating a movie that showcases its achronological structure as its most interesting asset. Each scene is mesmerizing to watch and to analyze. For this it receives 3.5/5 stars.