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good
I just didn't

Ariadne in Christopher Nolan's *Inception*

Christopher Nolan names the heroine of his *Inception* Ariadne in order to call to our minds the intensity and heroism of the Theseus myth while simultaneously deepening and enriching the relationship she has with ^{Cobb ?} the main character. By naming her Ariadne, Nolan [causes the audience to readily] increase her level of importance in the successful navigation of the labyrinth-like world of the subconscious—a place where the line between reality and insanity starts to blur.

While assembling a team for the most difficult subconscious job he will ever do, Cobb recruits Ariadne, an extremely talented young student who will come to develop a more deep and intricate relationship with him than he has with anyone else in the film. From her very introduction, every member of the audience who [makes the connection with ancient mythology understands that the task Cobb is trying to accomplish is going to be seemingly ^{and nearly impossible} insurmountable if not impossible. Nolan is ^[I don't know about this] exploding a light bulb in our minds that makes us remember the only other obstacle in history in which the assistance of an Ariadne was required, and that this one will be just as epic. While she is initially presented as merely the architect of the subconscious mission, Ariadne's character also slowly develops into that of a voice of reason for Cobb that keeps him grounded to reality, a mental and even moral guide as he wades through his labyrinth.

dequar the
with his
own wife?

recognizing the mythological allusion

(labyrinthine)

[I don't know about this]

you still need one more
secondary source. The wine
reference is good.

Early on in the film, Ariadne quits the team because Cobb's subconscious is too much for her, which becomes a pivotal point in the development of her character. After storming out, Cobb looks to Arthur and says, "She'll be back. I've never seen anyone pick it

¹Inception. Dir. by Christopher Nolan (2010; dvd, 34:36)
²Ibid. 39:33
³Oxford Guide to Classical Mythology in the Arts 1300s-1990s, 1st ed., sv. "Ariadne"

This is covered here

When are the
footnote references
in the body?
Need help w/ footnotes?

up that quickly before. Reality is not going to be enough for her now"¹ hinting at the fact that her talent will be an absolute necessity if they are to succeed. In fact she does return, being pulled back by the "pure creation"² of the dream world. Knowing that Ariadne assisted Theseus in exchange for passage with him away from Crete when he left³ deepens their relationship even more in the sense that in the film as well as antiquity Ariadne was in search of leaving behind past realities and starting a new chapter in her hopefully brighter future, the one for love and the other for creation. Both however knew that their Theseus was going to change their lives forever.

As the story progresses we see Ariadne's character take on the role of a guide for Cobb in a couple of ways. Because she is familiar with the dream world she created, she is able to assist and direct Cobb and the team while they attempt to navigate their mission. Without Ariadne's aid, Cobb and Theseus both would have perished within the walls of their respective mazes. However, Cobb isn't just working in a subconscious labyrinth, he is living in one. Because of her familiarity with his subconscious, Ariadne becomes the voice of reason and clarity Cobb needs as he deals with his own personal monsters while trying to keep himself from getting lost in the maze that has become his personal reality. When asked about Ariadne's name in an interview, Nolan said, "I wanted to have that to help explain the importance of the labyrinth to the audience...I like the idea of her being Cobb's guide."⁴

With one name Christopher Nolan not only prepares the audience for an epic tale of heroism and labyrinth-like themes throughout, but also immediately creates a deep relationship between Cobb and Ariadne in our minds, even though they just met. For those of us who can make the subtle connection, we automatically know that without her it will be absolutely impossible for Cobb to defeat his Minotaur.

⁴"Q&A: Christopher Nolan on Dreams, Architecture, and Ambiguity." Interview by Wired. http://www.wired.com/2010/11/pl_inception_nolan/.

Whom does this participate mostly?

Does "was in search of" = "desired to"?

classical myth

Can you cut classical usage for this instead of Ariadne's concept?

Good!

Smoking gun.

Can you find one film written piece that helps w/this report?

Maybe so once in the preface

Step further:

If Ariadne = Ariadne then Cobb = Theseus. But what is "his" Minotaur?