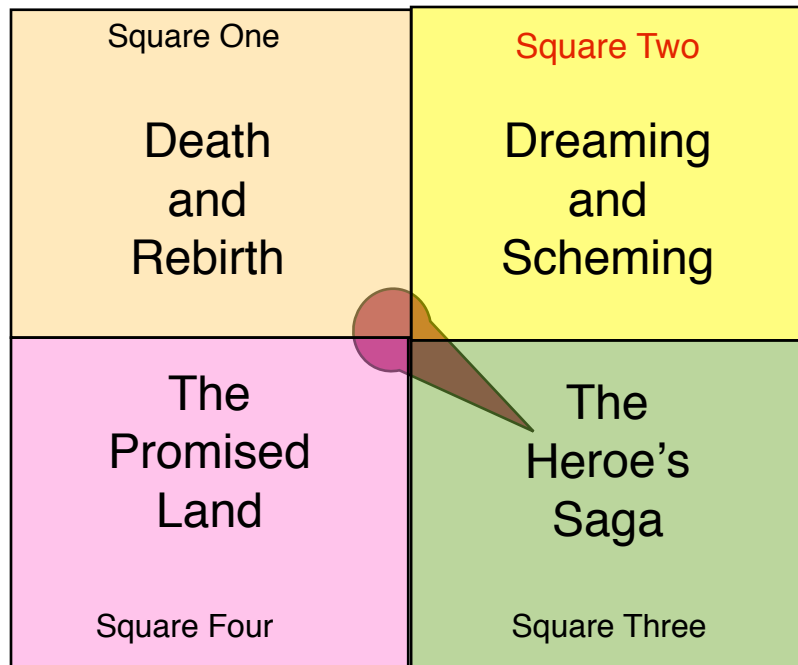




Square Three





As your dreams become schemes, you'll begin itching to make them come true. This signals Square Three, the implementation stage of the change process. Square Three is when you stop fantasizing about selling your art and start submitting work to galleries, or go beyond ogling a friend's brother to having her set you up on a date. You'll feel motivated to do real, physical things to build a new life. And then... (drum roll, please)...you'll fail. Repeatedly.

I've gone through Square Three many times, and watched hundreds of clients do the same. I've never seen a significant scheme succeed on the first try. Re-forming your life, like anything new, complex, and important, inevitably brings up problems you didn't expect. That's why, in contrast to the starry eyes that are so useful in Square Two, Square Three demands the ingenuity of Thomas Edison and the tenacity of a pit bull.

 Expect things to go wrong. Many of my clients envision a dream, formulate a scheme, have an early failure, and consider this a sign that it just wasn't meant to be. This is a useful philosophy if you want to spend your life as Person Soup. To become all that you can be, you must be willing to keep working toward your dreams even when your initial efforts are unsuccessful.

 Be willing to start over. Every time your plans fail, you'll briefly return to Square One, feeling lost and confused. This is an opportunity to release some of the illusions that created hitches in your plan.

 Revisit Square Two, adjusting your dreams and schemes to include the truths you've learned from your experimentation.

 Persist. Keep debugging and re-implementing your new and improved plans until they work. If you've followed all the steps above, they eventually will.