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# Cover



## Synopsis

Peter Mendelsund has enjoyed years as a much-sought-after book cover designer and art director. Among the many recognizable jackets he has created are those for *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*; collections of the works of Joyce, Kafka, Dostoevsky, de Beauvoir, and Foucault; the contemporary works of Martin Amis, Tom McCarthy, Ben Marcus, Jo Nesb , and James Gleick; and many more. All have greatly benefitted from the care and touch Mendelsund gave them. *Cover* abounds with Mendelsund's completed book jackets along with ephemera from his previously unseen creative method, including jacket sketches, interior art and editorial illustrations, and scores of rejected drafts. These images are punctuated by Mendelsund's reflections on his work and his process, as well as by texts from writers with whom he has worked and designed for. *Cover* is a compendium of beautiful design and a beautiful design object itself; a profile and celebration of one of the publishing world's most talented and prolific contemporary creators, and a brilliant showcase of his deft touch for balanced and innovative design.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 1.5 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

If you're a graphic designer or visual artist I highly recommend checking out this book. While Peter works in such a specific industry, it is beyond helpful to have somebody this influential explain his process and trajectory. Additionally, if you enjoy literature + design as well, you'll probably enjoy it even more.

Beautifully done, this book covers more than pictorially displaying the creative book covers. This

book, however, is so large it cannot be held in a lap for reading and viewing. It truly is a coffee table sized book. The content does display the creative genius of the author. An excellent read.

Along with bringing an inside look at the design process of a gifted practitioner, this book is a reminder of how outstanding publishing can be in terms of output. Holding the book (strong wrists are recommended), one knows at once that serious process and resources went into its production. All parts are in balance: cleverly authoritative cover; useful organization; page layout with decent gutters; quality of printing; mixture of personal and professional information; prose clarity; and photography style. Good as the individual elements are, however, they combine into something greater and make a totality that is at once beautiful and reassuring to those who care about the physical book. Particularly interesting to young designers on a career track will be the Q&A beginning at page 257 in which the author explores how designers age and advance and the implications for their work.

Beautiful book, great presentation and concepts. Perfect for anyone interested in design and the creative process. Highly recommended.

COVER is an intense crash course in modern design, a short biography of the unlikely hero moving his way through life into an unlikely position, a coffee table book of beautiful cover art, a reflection of the nature and purpose of books and cover design, and a gorgeous love letter to art. This book is absolutely beautiful, both in content and construction. Through its pages, one receives a hefty education on both the creation of content based on other artwork as well as an overall appreciation for the thought and thoroughness that goes into the design of some of the most famous book covers of our generation. Mendelsund's ingenuity and creativity, as well as resourcefulness and respect for his work is astonishing - and what is perhaps most impressive is learning that he has absolutely no formal training in the work whatsoever and fell into it through a series of impressive connections at the perfect time of his life. It is as if the man has lived two American Dreams. Cover is a gorgeous book that would easily serve as a centerpiece to a room as well as be home in the reading curriculum of any design student; a pleasure to read and browse. Besides the contents, it is well constructed and printed.

Peter has done some very clever covers, and I'm a little jealous of the opportunities he's had to rebrand classic works of literature... boiling their essence down into pictographs and symbolic

reference. It has been a cover designing career that deserves a book like this. That said, indie authors looking for inspiration for their own books should look elsewhere - these aren't the kinds of risks you can take when you are starting out, popular genres demand more obvious treatment (as Peter realized with *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, etc). Famous books can be more playful with the cover design.

The cover designs alone would have made this book worth purchasing. The backstory for certain designs and Peter's insights into the cover design process make for an interesting read. It's also funny.

Great images in this book! As a visual arts educator purchased this book as reference for 2-D Design class. Seeing examples of the design process is beneficial. Four stars instead of five stars because the text layout and font size style are odd and somewhat distracting.

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