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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 Nesbø, 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

Publisher: powerHouse Books (August 3, 2014)

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ISBN-10: 1576876675

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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: 4.9 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #551,620 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Paper Ephemera & Cards > Paper Ephemera #107 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Book Industry #153 in Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Commercial > Book Design

Customer Reviews

"He suffers from a surfeit of ideas. In the past decade, Mr. Mendelsund has designed about 600 book jackets, ranging from a sober, sophisticated cover for Tolstoy's 'War and Peace' to his whimsical Pop Art-like treatment of Kafka's novella 'Metamorphosis,' to the hypnotic fluorescent swirls on Stieg Larsson's thriller 'The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo.'" -The New York Times"Cover" is foremost a visually enticing tour of some of the most important books of recent

times, made even more memorable by Mendelsund's daring covers. The beautifully designed volume is nicely paced with a mix of testimonials from authors whose book covers Mendelsund has designed, along with his own comments on various aspects of the design process." -The Washington Post"Among book designers, Peter Mendelsund is the best reader of all. You always recognize one of his covers when you see it, and it's not because he tends toward certain colors or typefaces" quite the opposite. Rather, it's something about the way the cover illuminates the text. You can tell he didn't just read the manuscript; he internalized it. The result somehow feels both inevitable and surprising: the only possible solution but one you could never dream up yourself." -Bomb"Cover provides insight into the designer's process and pushes us to reconsider what we think we know about the graphic representation of words and ideas." -New Republic"Once in a while I'm presented with covers that cross the barriers of cultural reference and visual language. That feel universal. That feel like perfect starts to stories. Covers that I don't want the reader to forget, but to carry with them throughout my books. Those covers are Peters Mendelsund's covers." -Jo Nesbø, author of *The Snowman* "Upbeat and thrilling to look at, his designs are works of art, and at the same time they encapsulate the writer's truest goal." -Nicholas Fox Weber, author of *Le Corbusier*, and *The Bauhaus Group* "Peter Mendelsund is a true artist." -Ben Marcus, author of *The Flame Alphabet* "Peter Mendelsund has the ability to visually and conceptually distill a narrative in such a way that it seems effortlessly inventive, striking, smart, fresh and yet classic. And he does it again and again and again. How I hate him." -Chip Kidd "He's the exact visual correlative of what I think contemporary literature should be, but usually isn't doing." -Tom McCarthy, author of *Remainder*

Peter Mendelsund is the associate art director of Alfred A. Knopf Books, and a recovering classical pianist. He lives in Manhattan with his wife and two daughters.

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.

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.

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

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.

Have I got a Cover for you. Text and cover combine in this hefty volume that is nothing short of food for the soul for the graphic artist or anyone who appreciates this art form.

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.

This was a gift and I am unable to evaluate the book. The person I gave it to who is an author and artist who does his own illustrations seemed to appreciate it.

Beautiful. A wonderful resource for teaching publication design.

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