

Classic Penguin: Cover To Cover



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Synopsis

From Drop Caps to Deluxes, Penguin Creative Director Paul Buckley presents a visual overview of the innovative covers that have put Penguin Classics at the forefront of the book design world. Winner of the 2016 AIGA + Design Observer 50 Books | 50 Covers competition, since the launch of Penguin Classics in 1946, innovative cover design has been one of its defining aspects. Today, Penguin Classics remains at the leading edge of the book-design world. In this curated tour featuring illuminating commentary by artists and writers, including Malika Favre, Mike Mignola, James Franco, Jessica Hische, Jillian Tamaki and many more, Penguin creative director Paul Buckley showcases more than a decade of stunning cover designs and the stories behind them. For lovers of classic literature, book design, and all things Penguin, Penguin Classics has you covered. Paul Buckley is creative director for Penguin Classics and oversees a large staff of exceptionally talented designers and art directors working on the jackets and covers of sixteen imprints within the Penguin Random House publishing group. Over the past two decades, his iconic design and singular art direction have been showcased on thousands of covers and jackets, winning him many awards and frequent invitations to speak in the United States and abroad. In 2010, he edited and introduced Penguin 75. Matt Vee is a designer and illustrator who attended School of Visual Arts and Pratt Institute. He has received two Gold Scholastic Art Awards and created logos for worldwide brands. His work has appeared in The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, Slate, Print magazine, Paste magazine, and Under Consideration. Audrey Niffenegger is a visual artist and writer. In addition to the bestselling novels The Time Traveler's Wife and Her Fearful Symmetry, she is the author of three illustrated novels and the editor of Ghostly. Elda Rotor is vice president and publisher for Penguin Classics. She has created and edited several series, including Penguin Civic Classics, Penguin Threads, Couture Classics, Penguin Horror, and Penguin Drop Caps.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Over the last dozen years or so, this pioneering publisher has exploded every notion of what a paperback should look like. You can read, study or just ooh and aah at these kaleidoscopic pages.”

•Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post*

“This gorgeous collection of the most recent wave of near-instant-classic Penguin covers is the second-best thing to actually owning the books themselves.”

•RedEye “Cover to Cover,” a new book from Penguin Classics, is the closest I can get to looking at pornography in the office.”

•Dana Schwartz, *The Observer*

“Beautiful, strange, dark, simple, and abstract—the covers you’ll find in the book run the gamut of styles and creativity.”

[On *Sherlock Holmes: The Novels*] Steering away from the usual deerstalker hat and pipe, illustrator Adam Simpson not only created a scene straight out of 1890s London, but he includes little gems tucked in on this wraparound cover that depict an iconic scene from each of the four stories contained within.

[On *The Penguin Drop Caps*] If there is ever a series to make a book lover itch to have them all, it’s this one.

[On *The Pelican Shakespeare series*]: These are the freshest and most appealing Shakespeare covers I’ve personally ever seen. I might’ve kept my copy of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet* from college if they’d looked like these.

•Seira Wilson, *Omnivoracious: The Book Review* “A publishing company that certainly takes pride in its design history, this collection in particular is a delight because it’s a recent history that makes it feel both current and timeless; a revamped series that has met with a great deal of well-deserved success. The book does an excellent job of laying out and explaining just how it’s managed to do so in such a short amount of time.”

•J.M. Suarez, *PopMatters* “Edited by Penguin Creative Director Paul Buckley, *Classic Penguin: Cover to Cover* delivers 288 pages of literary eye candy. Both bibliophiles and design buffs will be enthralled by the book, which features hundreds of stunning covers paired with commentary by the artists. Topped off with gorgeous, inventive layouts by Matt Vee, this tome is a must-have for book lovers.”

•Paste Magazine

Paul Buckley is one of the premiere creative directors working today, overseeing a diverse group of designers and art directors creating exceptional book covers and branding for fifteen imprints and countless authors within the Penguin Random House publishing group. For the past two decades, his iconic design and singular art direction has been showcased on thousands of covers and jackets, winning him many awards and frequent invitations to speak in the United States and abroad. Paul lives in Brooklyn with his wife Ingsu Liu. Audrey Niffenegger is a visual artist and a guide at Highgate Cemetery. In addition to the bestselling novels *The Time Traveler's Wife* and *Her Fearful Symmetry*, she is the author of three illustrated novels and the editor of *Ghostly*. She lives in Chicago. Elda Rotor (Preface) is the associate publisher and editorial director for Penguin Classics. She has created and edited several series including Penguin Civic Classics, Penguin Threads, Couture Classics, Penguin Horror, and Penguin Drop Caps.

Classic Penguin: Cover to Cover celebrates Penguin's 70th anniversary with an expansive collection of brilliant cover designs, replete with behind the scenes tales of how the covers came to be and a peek at some covers that never made the cut. Booklovers will easily identify with the fundamentals of this book: "A book cover demands our initial engagement with a work. You may not think a cover reflects your own thoughts of a book, but it evokes a response and inspires a reader's imagination to begin building the world within the pages created by the author." What makes the covers showcased in Cover to Cover unique is that the books are classics, so well-known that illustrators were given the freedom to break the conventional rules of cover art design. The result is an array of covers that are bold and unrestrained, simple yet dramatic, or coy but colorful. Overall, Cover to Cover is brimming with personality, not just because of the multi-varied illustrations, but because of the written commentary from editors, creative directors, writers, and illustrators. Not everyone worked well together but, at the end of the day, all parties involved collaborated to create some gorgeous works of art. As far as written commentary goes, a particular favorite comes from illustrator Riccardo Vecchio and his description of creating a moody watercolor painting for a collection of plays: "Rohrer Calligraphy ink, green, lemon yellow ink, lavender, magenta, and pink. It smells musky. Wet brush strokes dissolve non-waterproof ink, bleeding outwards. Liquefied pigment spreads like thunderous clouds in water drops held together by surface tension." Penguin Classics: Cover to Cover is a stunning collection that will appeal to artists, designers, bookworms, and bibliophiles who favor classic literary works.

The build and print quality of this high-gloss (well, satin/eggshell to be precise) collection of covers

is essential coffee table material. The commentaries accompanying the cover art allow the reader to peak into the minds of the creators and gain a greater appreciation for the creative effort behind each of these works of art. The originality and depth of most of the covers breath new life into familiar classics. I'm a sucker for a good cover, so I had no choice but to buy a book full of them. The only down side to this book is now that I've been exposed to so many of these incredible covers I need to buy all these Penguin classics. I'm sure that's just a coincidental effect that Penguin didn't contemplate when making this book.

Perhaps one can judge a book by its cover. That is the theme of this fascinating collection of classic Penguin book covers. The categories, including holiday and children's books, seem to be all-encompassing. This is a great book to browse time and again. Great to take along when long waits are expected such as doctor appointments. The reader can start on any page and never be out of sync. Perhaps a somewhat unusual book purchase, but I have found hours of entertainment thumbing through the glorious pages of this gem.

Excellent item, securely packed, and promptly delivered. Excellent vendor. AAA+++. Purchaseers of this book should be aware, however, that the "classic" Penguin covers are actually quite contemporary designs and rather avant-garde art--NOT the "classic covers" from the cmpany's earlier years.,

A fascinating read on the inspiration behind many of the fantastic covers currently being produced by Penguin. As you might imagine, this book is filled with beautiful illustrations of Penguin's finest covers currently in production. You'll want to loiter over each spread in this book.

Penguin has jumped the shark. Snap up a used copy of the supreme Penguin by Design before they all disappear

Interesting book for a book cover designs lover.

A must for all bibliophiles.

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