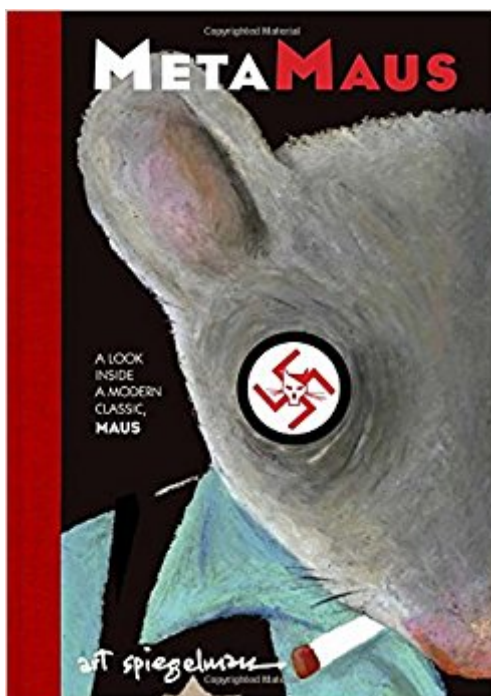


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# MetaMaus: A Look Inside A Modern Classic, Maus (Book + DVD-R)



## Synopsis

\*\*\*NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD WINNER\*\*\* Visually and emotionally rich, *MetaMaus* is as groundbreaking as the masterpiece whose creation it reveals. In the pages of *MetaMaus*, Art Spiegelman re-enters the Pulitzer prize-winning *Maus*, the modern classic that has altered how we see literature, comics, and the Holocaust ever since it was first published twenty-five years ago. He probes the questions that *Maus* most often evokes—Why the Holocaust? Why mice? Why comics?—and gives us a new and essential work about the creative process. *MetaMaus* includes a bonus DVD-R that provides a digitized reference copy of *The Complete Maus* linked to a deep archive of audio interviews with his survivor father, historical documents, and a wealth of Spiegelman's private notebooks and sketches. Compelling and intimate, *MetaMaus* is poised to become a classic in its own right.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Richly rewarding”  
The book also serves as a master class on the making and reading of comics.  
The last frame encapsulates in one single moment the artfulness behind the tale we’ve just read, and the uneasy combination of filial pride and anger that flowed through *Maus* and flows through *MetaMaus* as well.  
“Why the Holocaust? Why mice? Why comics?” Spiegelman answers intelligently, articulately, and with a high degree of psychological and aesthetic penetration.  
Booklist, starred review  
“As a floor plan for endless exploration, it is the Haus

That [“Maus”](#) Built [Pick any page and gaze. The windows into these stories about the story are to be found at every turn, filling the space with insightful light.](#)

[Washington Post](#), [“Comic Riffs”](#) [“Art Spiegelman has done more than any other writer of the last few decades to change our understanding of the way stories about the Holocaust can be written”](#) [MetaMaus is a profound meditation on the meaning of sources and the uses we make of them.](#)

[The New Republic](#) [“A fascinating meditation on art, writing, and one of the darkest periods in human history.”](#)

[The Atlantic](#) [“Striking”](#) [a treasure trove of material.](#)

[Shelf Awareness](#) [“Fascinating and often provocative”](#) [the accompanying DVD will satisfy the insatiable appetite.](#)

[Kirkus](#) [“Sure to breed excitement.”](#)

[Library Journal](#) [“Mr. Spiegelman’s new book, MetaMaus, functions as a kind of artist’s scrapbook, chapbook, photo album and storage trunk. Packed with more extras than a new Transformers DVD, it’s a look back at Maus and its complicated composition and reception”](#) [Mr. Spiegelman is a witty and testy raconteur, and Ms. Chute knows a good deal about comics and she pulls good things from him”](#) [Spiegelman is charismatic, and the photographs of him sprinkled throughout are pretty delightful.](#)

[New York Times](#) [“Few books have made as much impact as Maus”](#) [has. MetaMaus explores this impact, as well as providing some of the original notebook material on the graphic novels](#) [\[contains\] the single most powerful graphic representation of the effects of the Holocaust](#) [If you are serious about comics or the Holocaust, this book should be on your shelf.](#)

[San Francisco Book Review](#) [“Spiegelman is well-spoken and insightful, and is one of those rare creators who can talk coherently about his own work and process”](#) [MetaMaus is thoroughly illustrated with excerpts from Spiegelman’s sketchbook, from the original source materials he used when creating his book, and news clippings and other ephemera from the books’ storied history”](#) [Gripping and smart.](#)

[Cory Doctorow, BoingBoing](#) [“Each page is more beautiful than the next”](#) [you’ll find yourself as engrossed in it as you were in Maus.](#)

[Jewish Book Council Blog](#) [“MetaMaus is an intriguing look into the guts of a massive artistic-historical project. With its visual, textual and historical components, the book untangles the tight narrative and visual knots into which the medium, the message and the process of Maus are tied. With grist to millers of either Maus, Spiegelman or both, it is a must-have item.”](#)

[Forward](#) [“Like a director’s commentary track, the new MetaMaus provides a kind of behind-the-scenes](#)

Inside Maus that rewards us with insights this reviewer, for one, was too blown away to perceive the first time around. It is nothing less than a treatise on the rhythm and grammar of comics storytelling. The visual vocabulary he utilizes turns out to be more ingenious than you (or I, at least) ever suspected. Barnes and Noble review: "MetaMaus will leave even the most ardent admirers of Maus newly in awe of its author's creative courage, ingenuity and stamina. San Francisco Chronicle: "When I heard that Pantheon was putting out a commemorative book, I kept forgetting what it was called: was it MegaMaus or MetaMaus? The book, MetaMaus, published this month, is actually both: mega meta. If Maus has been a touchstone for you over the last decades, you have a new way to understand this moving and revolutionary book. Studio 360 Staff Pick: "If you love Maus, this is the book for you; it's practically a must-have. Comic Book Bin: "What do you get for the classic graphic novel that has everything? MetaMaus is the answer. It's an amazing package, one certainly worthy of awards consideration. Comics Waiting Room: "MetaMaus is so much more than a companion; it is a true work of genius art and design. This is a companion in the truest terms, a work of art that leaves no stone unturned, or allows for any doubt or question, and for casual readers of the Pulitzer winning book to the most intense of academics or comic book aficionados, it's a real boon. ComicBuzz.com: "The three longest chapters provide nuanced and richly illustrated answers to the questions every reader has probably asked: "Why the Holocaust?" "Why mice?" and "Why comics?" Chute is a skilled and knowledgeable interviewer, Spiegelman a witty, introspective subject, so the process yields insightful observations on the nature of comics, the relationship between reality and narrative, the dynamics of families, and the Holocaust itself. Minneapolis Star-Tribune: "a beautiful book, both in visuals and themes, as the writer and artist is interviewed by Hillary Chute about the book that will not die, that he cannot escape, that he wishes would've been discovered only after 25 years after his death instead of being talked about for 25 years straight. mind-blowing. Bookgasm.com: "A rich, provocative and visually intriguing work of art, memoir and literary history. eye-catching and highly kinetic. a rare opportunity to witness for ourselves how a masterpiece is conceived and comes into existence. Jewish Journal gift guide: "A treasure trove, a wonderful way to dive as deeply into this seminal work as you wish. Maus is one of the very few [books] that can live up to this scrutiny, where the creation is strong enough and so thematically rich as to stand up to the



considering the entirety of a family, and the thinking of influences of an artist now and at the time the work was created. Art in America Magazine “Opens previously unseen doors in Spiegelman’s iconic text—a pleasure to dip into. Throw in that DVD copy of The Complete Maus, and this truly is the only version of Spiegelman’s graphic memoir that you should ever need. If only we treated all our modern classics so well.”

Culture Mob

Art Spiegelman has been a staff artist and contributing editor at The New Yorker, as well as the cofounder/coeditor of RAW, the acclaimed magazine of avant-garde comics and graphics. In addition to Maus—which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and twice nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award—he is the author of Breakdowns and In the Shadow of No Towers. He lives in New York City with his wife, Françoise Mouly . . . and a cat.

I bought this book only because it had the transcript of Vladek’s account of the Holocaust. The only comic/cartoons I am “interested” in come with my Sunday paper. I fell in love with this book right from the start as it begins with an interview with Art Spiegelman. His intelligence, talent, passion and honesty jump right off the page. I ended up learning about him and his family, his relationship with his father, his craft, the personal history of both him and Maus, and even more. It brings so much more to Maus that when you re-read it after this book (which I am sure you will), it will be like reading it for the first time!

The bulk of the book is comprised of interviews with Art Spiegelman. In these interviews, he discusses how the book was made, what inspired his art, and why he made major creative decisions. Getting an in depth breakdown of Maus is fascinating enough, but like the work itself, it is colored by what Maus depicts, both as a historical work and a personal story. Moreover, the book also let me know what Spiegelman is like, and he is quite the conversationalist. There are little detours into other aspects. I found the interview with Spiegelman’s wife to be particularly affecting, because she provides a whole new perspective on Vladek that leads to an extremely poignant anecdote. The book is chock full of panels, sketches, studies and other pictures relevant to the story of telling the story. The only part that could have been improved is the transcript of the first interview with Vladek -- the print is simply too small. This transcript, and others, are on the DVD, which I’ve just delved into. So far, I haven’t experienced some of the problems others have had, but I would agree that having the DVD insert in the front cover is better in concept than in execution. But the

flaws are minor, and should not detract from this welcome addition to the Maus canon.

This is as close to an annotated Maus as we'll probably get. Mr. Spiegelman walks the reader through his creative processes as he pens (and inks) a modern literary masterpiece. While some may argue that the author is merely "milking the franchise," one must remember that Mr. Spiegelman has shown incredible restraint and reverence for his family's and all Holocaust victims' stories by not cashing in as he had ample opportunity to do. Read and enjoy this volume. Consider it not only a companion book to the two-volume set of Maus, but consider it a map through the creative maze.

A fabulous book and even better CD-ROM. This book contains interviews and other supplementary material about Art Spiegelman's ground-breaking graphic novels about the Holocaust, Maus and Maus II. The CD-ROM, which runs on Windows and Mac, contains the full imagery from the two original books, along with audio from Spiegelman's interviews with his father when writing the book, drawings made while the book was in progress, and more. Absolutely a tremendous work!

classic

Perhaps Mr. Spiegelman is vital to the understanding of his work here. The book is quite splendidly illustrated and does describe the evolution of his works including Maus, but is more about his own development and often about his self-critical and often fractious nature. Mr. Spiegelman is remarkably frank and quite lucid, though -on occasion-rather wordy. Still, the history and the background is not likely to be found anywhere else.

Have you read Maus? If the answer is yes or no buy this book. For those of you who haven't read it, Meta Maus contains a CD-ROM that has the entirety of the Maus 1 and Maus 2. From their read Meta Maus. Never have I see an artist investigate a work of their own in such a way not only to make the reader understand better, but the author as well. Not only that Speigelman offers insite into his technique and own personal struggles.

If you love the Maus books, you'll love MetaMaus even more! This book includes interviews with Spiegelman and his family members, shows Spiegelman's research and creative processes, and even has a DVD with both Maus books that includes his commentary, audio clips from his interviews

with Vladek, and pictures of his drafts in progress. It's a great purchase!

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