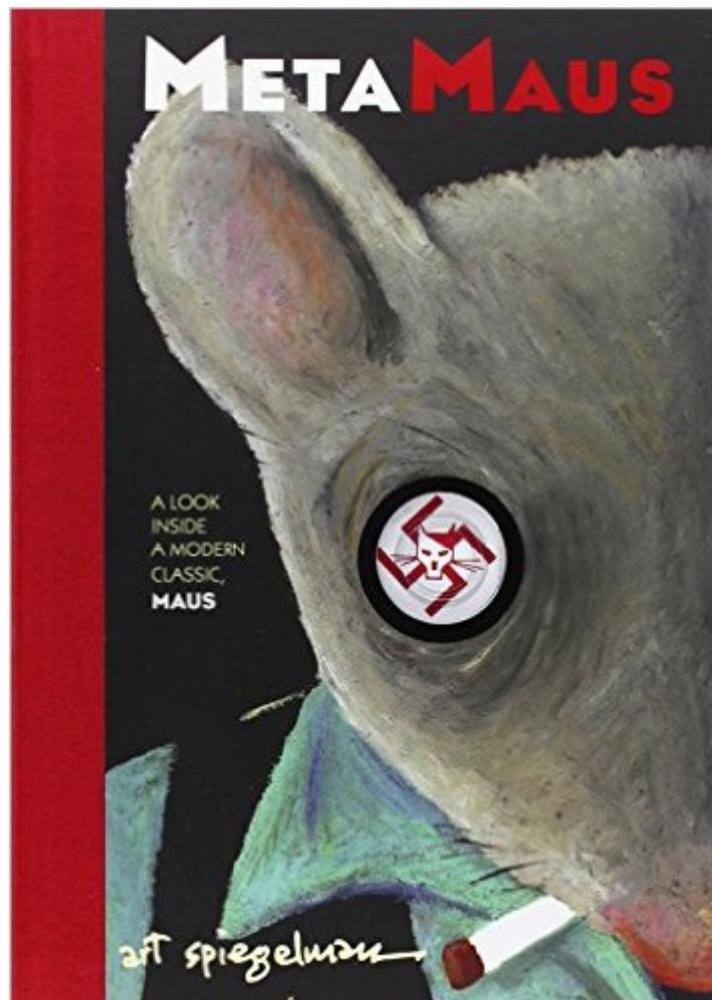


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# MetaMaus: A Look Inside A Modern Classic, Maus (Book + DVD-R)



## **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a digitized reference copy of The Complete Maus linked to a deep archive of audio interviews with his survivor father, historical documents, and a wealth of Spiegelman's private notebooks and sketches.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**

The two volumes that comprise Maus stand as two of the most important books of the past 25 years. To say they changed the face of comics is an understatement (Maus won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992, the first book of its kind to do so). Maus is a cultural phenomenon, studied in schools around the world for its brilliant look at the Holocaust from a unique perspective. Few books have managed to capture the story of surviving the concentration camps and the effects it had not only on survivors but also their descendants as well as Maus manages to. Its creator, Art Spiegelman, managed in the books' pages to capture the cold brutality of the world without blinking or flinching. It

is impossible to read *Maus* and not come away changed somehow. Reading this powerful story puts something deep inside you. A quarter of a century after the first volume's publication, Pantheon is publishing *MetaMaus*, a comprehensive look into the book, its author, World War II and the Holocaust, Spiegelman's family, and so much more. This is an incredibly complex companion to the work, and it opens the book up in fascinating ways. A bonus DVD included with the book also features compelling and informative material to build understanding of *Maus*. Multiple interviews with Spiegelman permeate *MetaMaus*, capturing the creator at various stages of his life and in various states of reflection about his creation. We learn why he chose rodents to portray his people, how he felt about the book and what he wanted it to accomplish, and more. Spiegelman has always been a challenging figure in comics--he wants a profound reaction from the reader, and he won't settle for a timid response.

I first developed a course on Antisemitism and Holocaust/Shoah studies as a University Professor in the 1990s. Learners have questioned why we read *MAUS* - "a comic book" - for university work! By the end of the course, nearly every learner knows why. *MAUS*, with Spiegelman's compelling artistic skill in this graphic novel, discerns the before-during-and-after of holocaust experience in important ways. *MAUS* explores textures of the story in images that no traditional "type-set-page" can capture. I recently ordered and received *Meta-Maus* - and I could not be more delighted with what it does! The book (and DVD/CD) give answers to many varied questions learners in my course (and I) have had! *Meta-Maus* gives supplemental biography, details about family matters, explanatory historical issues, explanation of images on multiple pages, personal insight, other images of Spiegelman's other art that frame his maturation as an artist, book reception reviews, copies of draft versions of individual strips of comics, and so much more. Several reviews on note the failure of the DVD/CD. My DVD/CD arrived March 2012 and I had no problems on my PC. Regardless, if the DVD/CD had not worked, the book itself is great. Having read it, I would have paid twice the purchase price for the book alone. (Don't tell Pantheon Books, the publisher!) At this time I do not believe I will use *Meta-Maus* as a required course-textbook. I will encourage every learner to get *Meta-Maus* \*after\* they have read and discerned the nuance of *MAUS*. *Meta-Maus*, in my opinion, should be read only after carefully discerning the complexity and genius and artistic importance of *MAUS*.

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