

Cover Design Brief:

Title: Extreme Vetting

Author: Roxana Arama

Trim Size: 5.5" x 8.5"

Genre: Mystery/Suspense

Synopsis:

A timely multicultural thriller set in Seattle, Washington in 2019. Laura Holban is a Romanian-American single mom and lawyer, who battles a Kafkaesque immigration system on behalf of a client who fled his family's killers—and Guatemala—many years ago. But getting him asylum may not be enough when a corrupt ICE prosecutor sells detainee information to the highest bidder. Now the killers have come looking for the man who got away and the lawyer who's helping him, and Laura finds herself in the middle of a dangerous conspiracy involving ICE, Mayan artifacts, and Latin American cartels.

Main Themes:

- Immigration
- Deportation
- Family
- Corruption
- Language
- Barriers

Key Visual Elements:

- ~~Mayan jade mask (example picture below)/obsidian daggers~~
- The house Emilio built for his family (on a hill with an orchard and overlooked a bay)
- A door left ajar in the dark (many scenes revolve around break-ins)
- "Official" legal documents with some blood splatter (not heavy though)
- Briefcase
- Black sedan
- Seattle, WA
- Box of photos buried

Minor Visual Elements:

- Film rolls/photos
- Legal files
- House fires: the villain of the story is notorious for burning down the homes of his victims.
- Guatemala

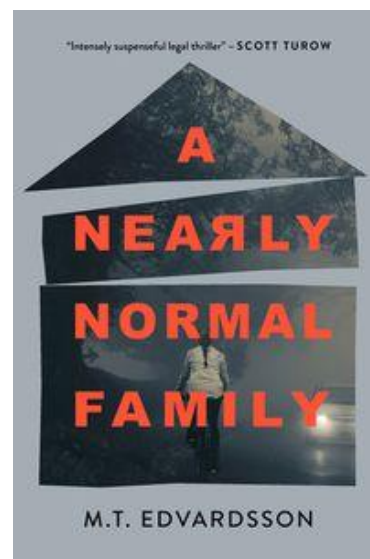
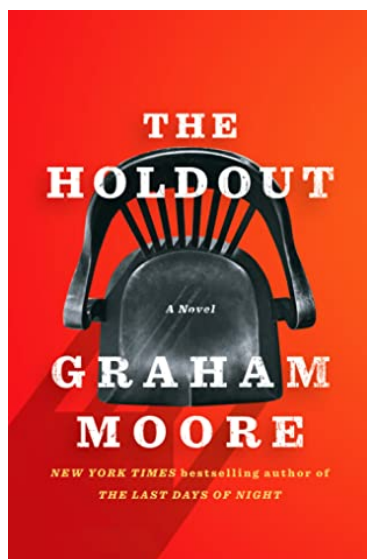
Potential Color Palette: (idea: three colors maximum/ simple palette)

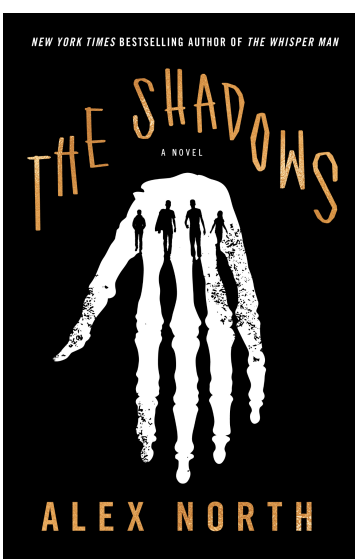
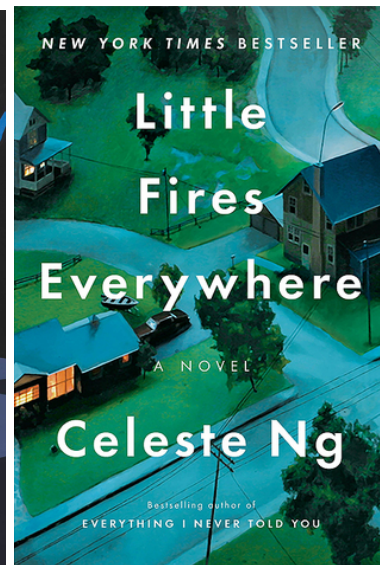
- Darker, solid colors, with one focal color
 - *Example colors:* Jade, forest green, eggplant, royal blue, sangria, burnt orange/red hues, black, blood-red.

What kind of design considerations fit the *genre* of this book?

- Fonts: San-serif, handwritten
- Illustrated/artistic
- Typography-heavy or Image-heavy: a balance / **not too many visual elements!** (Any images incorporated should be simplistic, and really try to keep it to just one image unit, balanced* with some engaging/artistic/interesting typography.)
 - *Balanced, in this case, means that if your cover has a busier image, the typography should be simpler; if the image is more flat or minimalistic, the typography should be louder to create interest. The two elements should not compete for attention or space. See the positive examples below for the application of this principle.
- Tone: serious, ominous

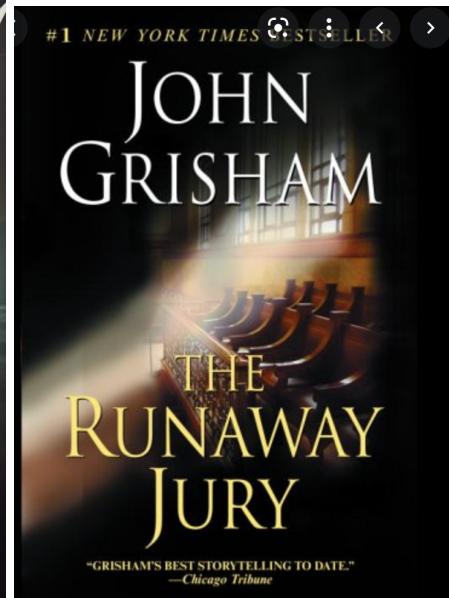
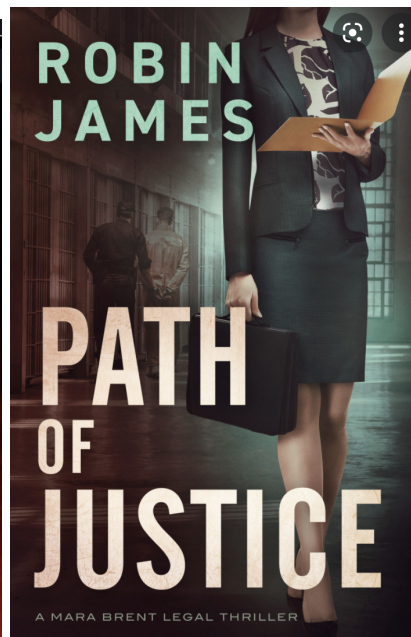
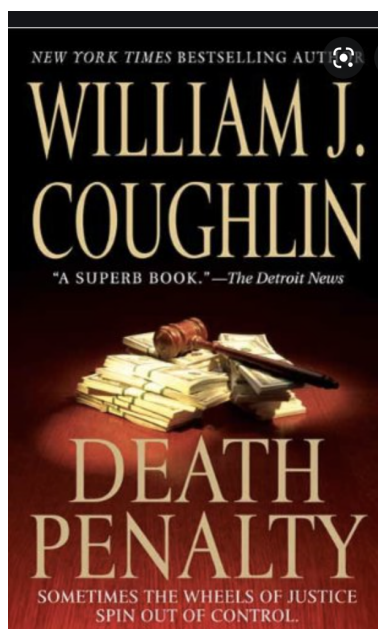
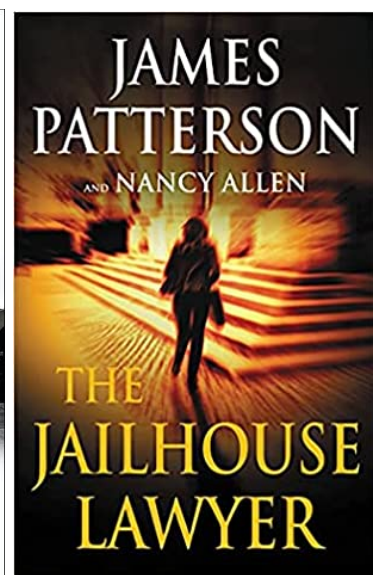
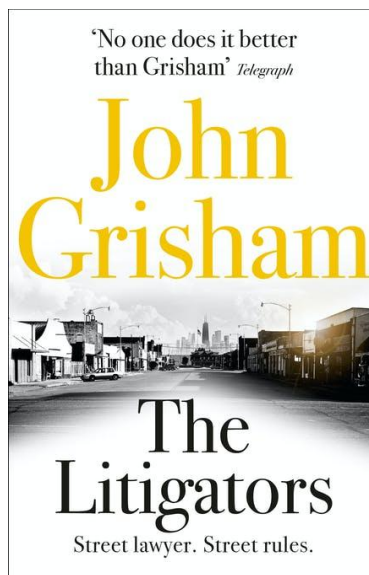
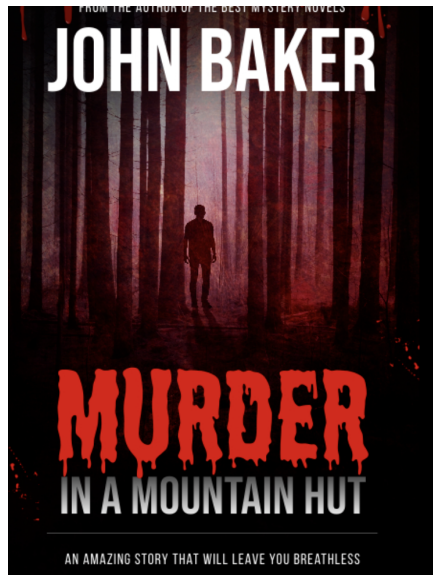
Types of covers to consider:





Things to avoid:

- Any type of explicit gore (blood drops are fine) or weapons piercing bodies
- Blocky silhouettes or features of a singular person
- John Grisham or James Patterson-esque cover styles (particularly the typography)
- fonts like "Murder" ("Murder in the Mountain Hut")
- blurry figures and images (if any) as a focal point ("The Jailhouse Lawyer")
- title spanning the whole length and width. Also, avoid spotlights and the font of the cover. ("Death Penalty")
- fading colors, especially in the background; we're looking for solid, bold colors instead. Also, avoid a figure of a person as a focal image. ("Path of Justice")
- skinny, old-fashioned fonts. Also, avoid the focal setting of a courtroom. ("The Runaway Jury")



- Avoid these styles because E.V revolves more around the family + immigration and the symbols of the book rather than a courtroom/justice center building.

Timeline:

- Call Out: January 31, 2022
- Round 1 due: 2/7/2022
- Round 2 due: 2/14/2022
- Round 3 due: 2/21/2022
- Round 4 (semi-finals) due: 2/28/2022
- Exec Vote: 3/7/2022
- Cover Finalization: 3/7–4/1/2022