

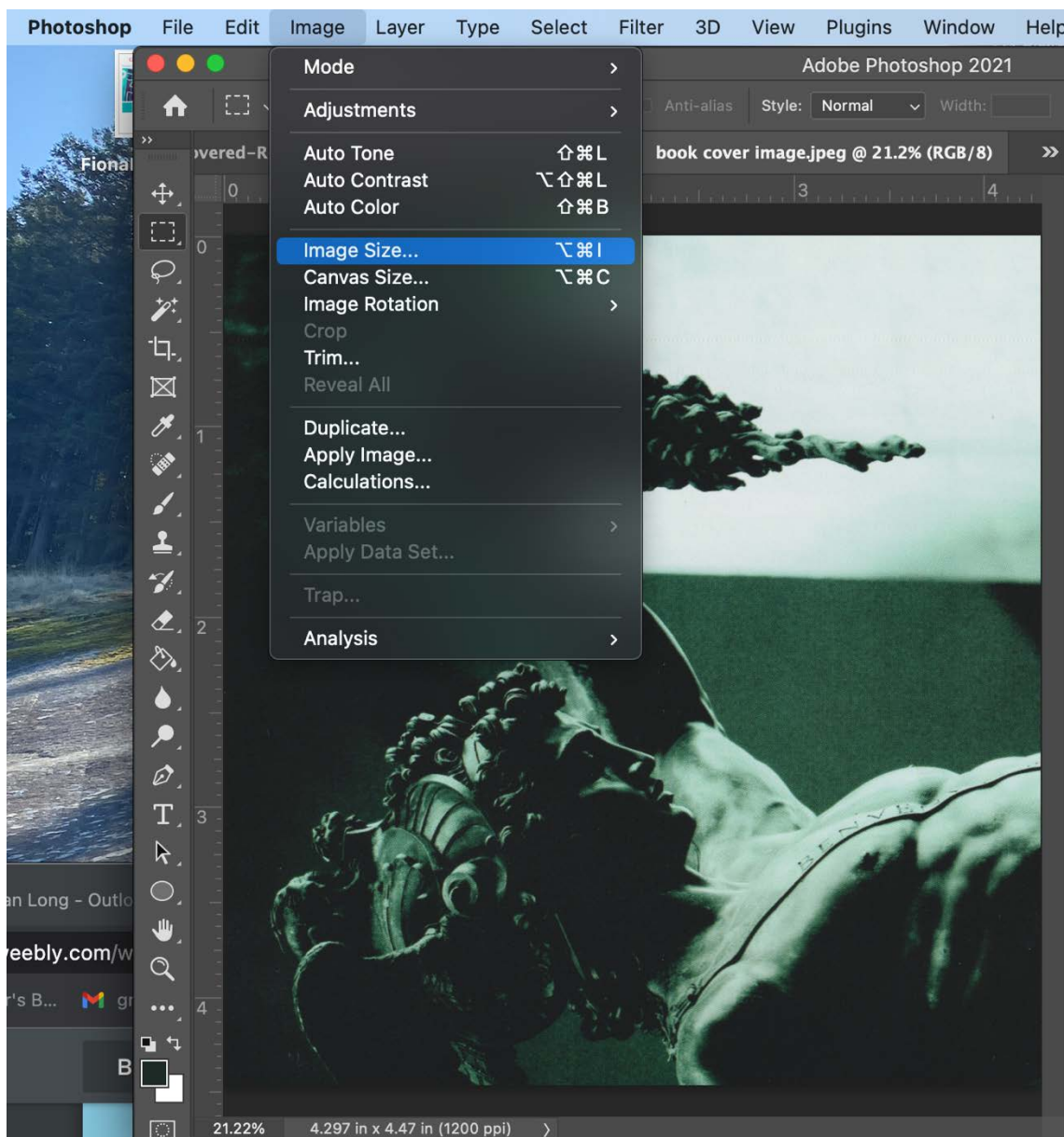
Working with images in Photoshop

A Primer, a Crash Course, It's a Start Kids.

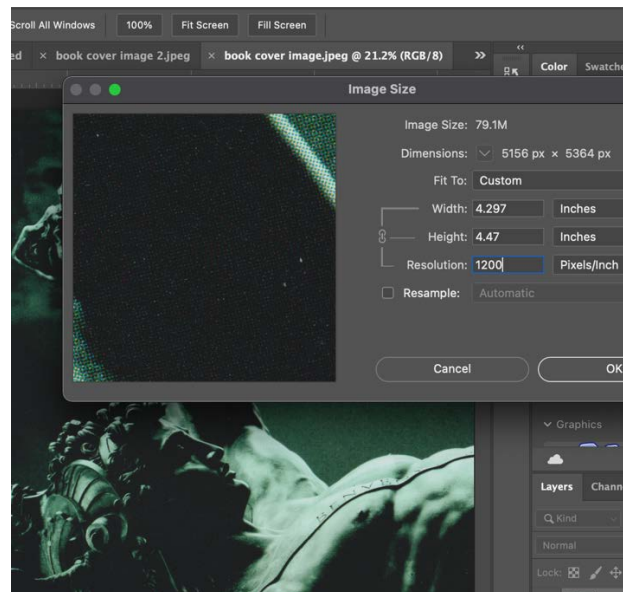
1. Image Size and Resolution

Start by loading your image into Photoshop. The first thing you should do is check your resolution and dimensions. Go to *Image* in your menu bar and select *Image Size* from the drop-down.

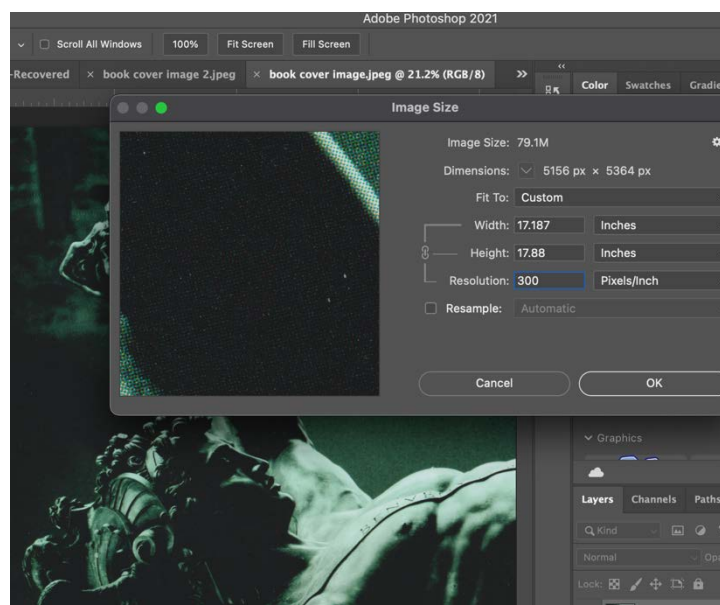
As a rule you want all images to be at least **300 dpi** to avoid pixilation. 300 dpi is PRINT QUALITY.



In the image below you can see that my image is 1200 dpi and about 4" x 4". This is because the image that I scanned was actually that exact size and, because I knew that I would need it to be bigger, I scanned it at a better resolution than 300 (much better in this case)



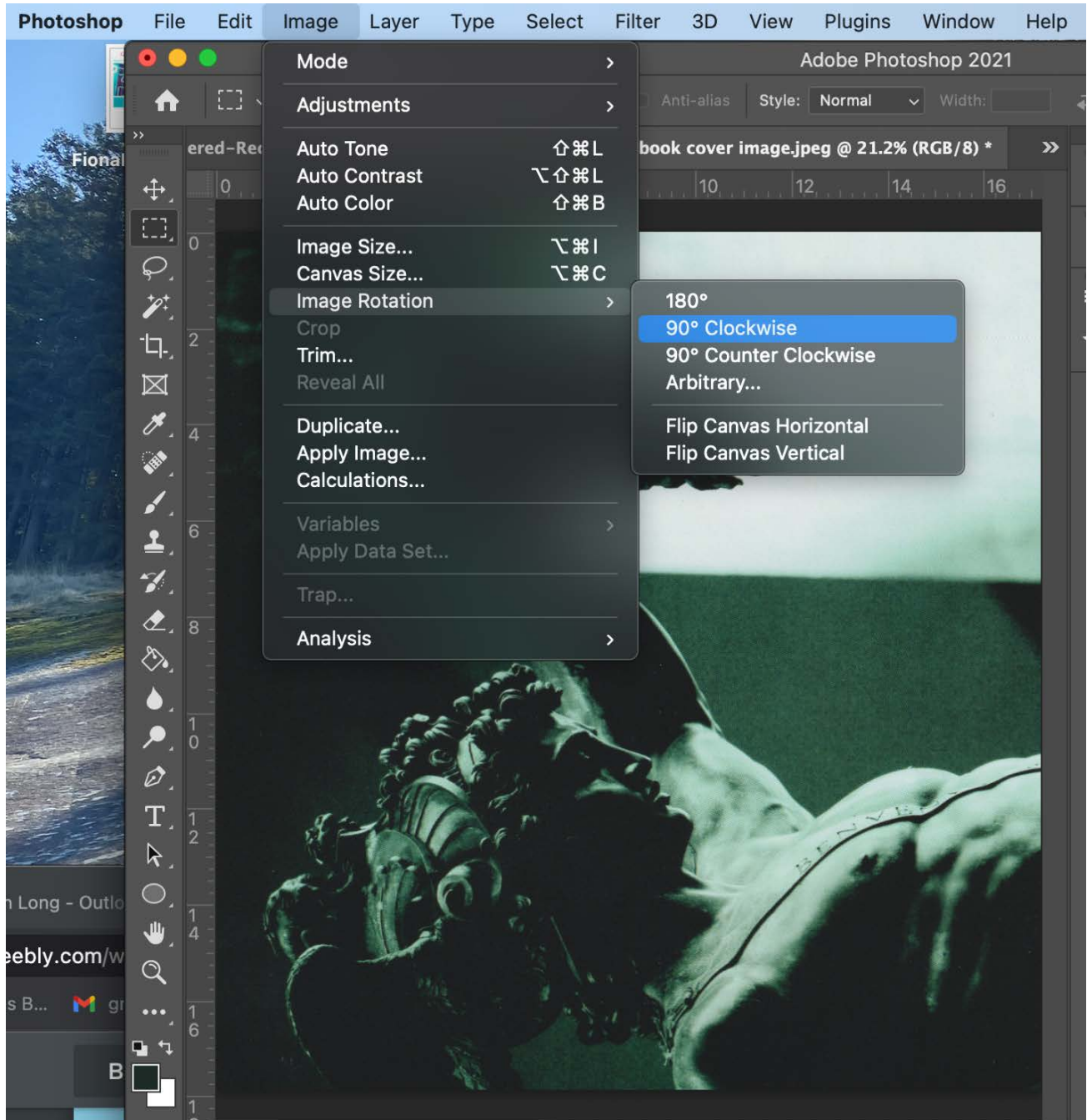
With the Resample button *unclicked* you will see that the dimensions and resolution are linked. This means that if I change one of those numbers, the other two will automatically change in accordance. So I changed my resolution to 300 dpi (Again: print quality) you will see that my image dimensions increased to more than large enough for my needs (I'm using this image as a book cover that will be about 8" x 10")



2. Rotating your Image

I now recognize that my image is the wrong orientation. I need to rotate it.

Select *Image* from the menu bar then scroll to *Image Rotation* in the drop-down. Rotate according to your needs. Also notice that You can flip or invert the image with this function – maybe useful later?)



3. Cropping

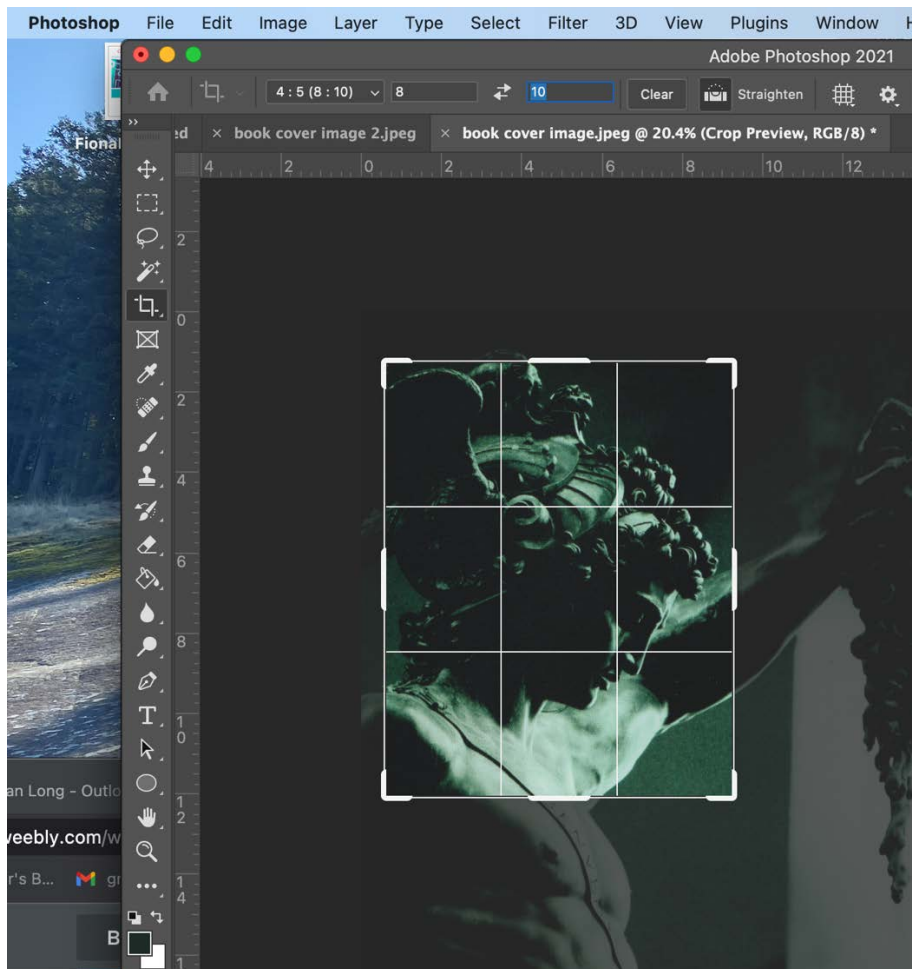
The image is also the wrong dimensions for my purpose. It is square and I need to it to be a vertically oriented rectangle.

Use the crop tool on the tool bar (see below). Enter the dimensions you want (the ratio) into the ratio window in the menu bar. In my example I have used an 8" x 10" ratio. The crop tool will now have a locked ratio.

experiment with this function and decide how much of the image you want to crop out. You can also move the full size image within the crop window before you execute. This will effectively give you a preview of the result of your cropping.

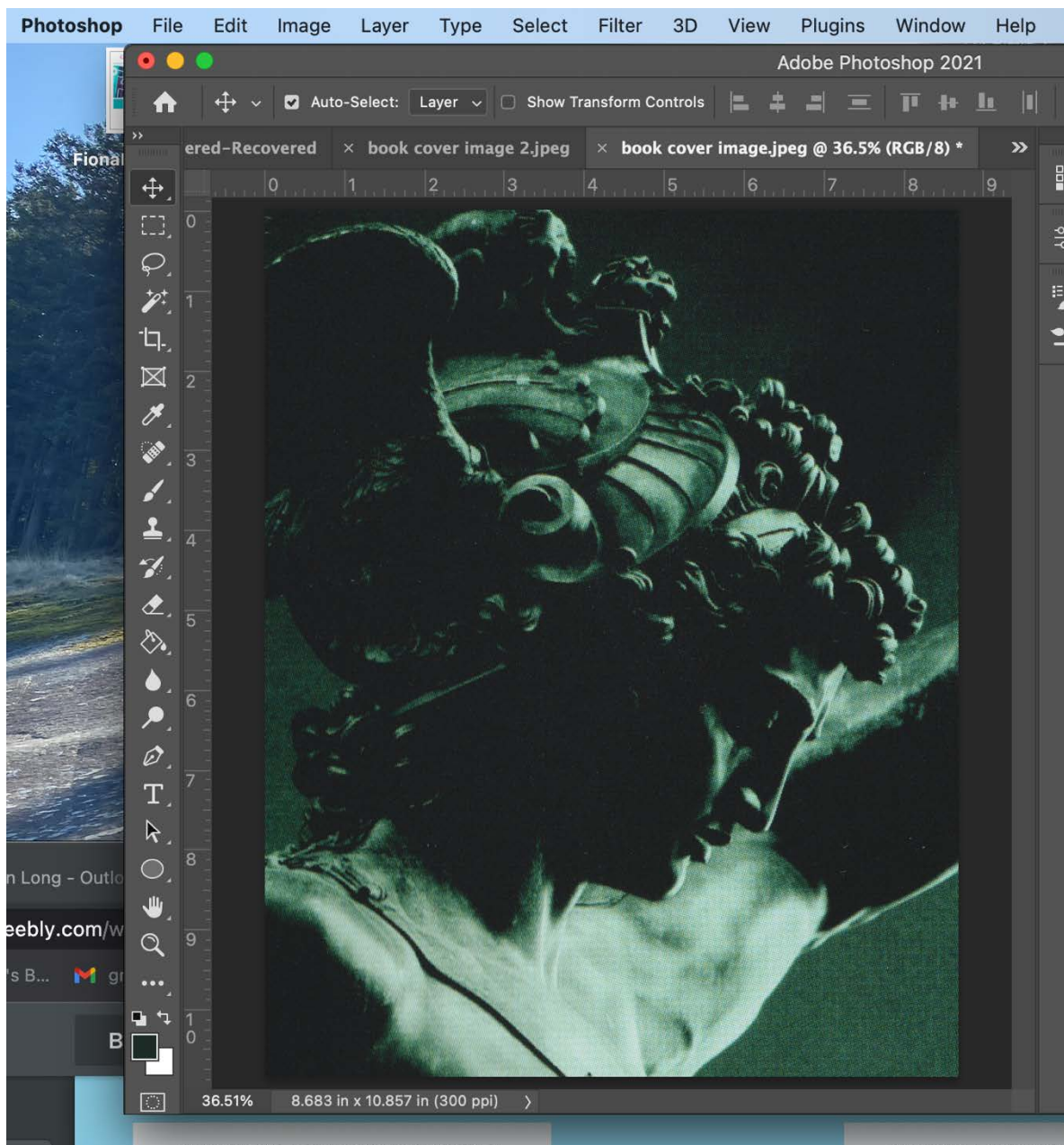
Press Return to execute the function.

If you make a mistake you can always press Command>Z to undo.



For my image I decided I wanted to isolate the head of the Greek hero Perseus. I didn't want any negative space. Or any particular reference to the Head of Medusa. I am also thinking ahead to the end product and thinking about where I might place text etc...

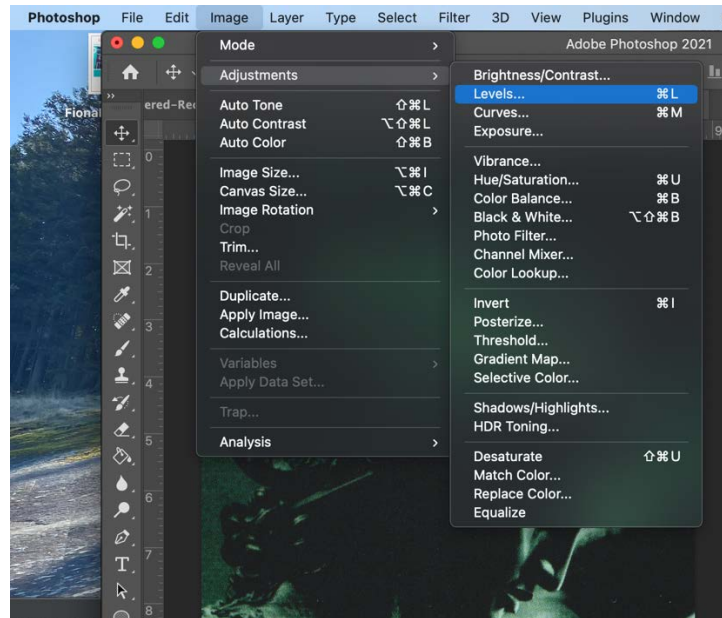
You can Save As at this point, go back to the original image and try a different crop. You can do this as many times as you like and will have multiple versions of your image to play with. Give yourself options!



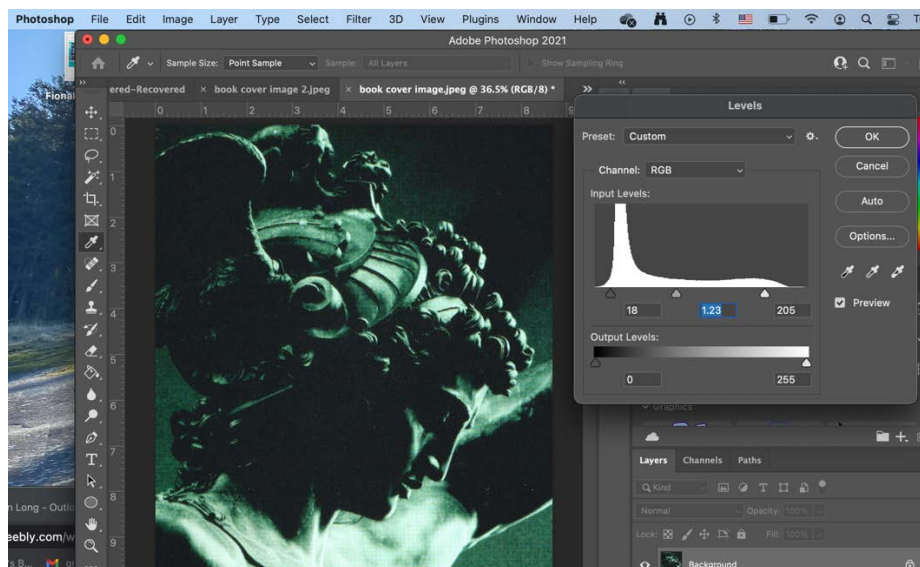
4. Image Adjustments

There are a number of very cool effects that you can apply to your image through the *Image>Image Adjustment* options.

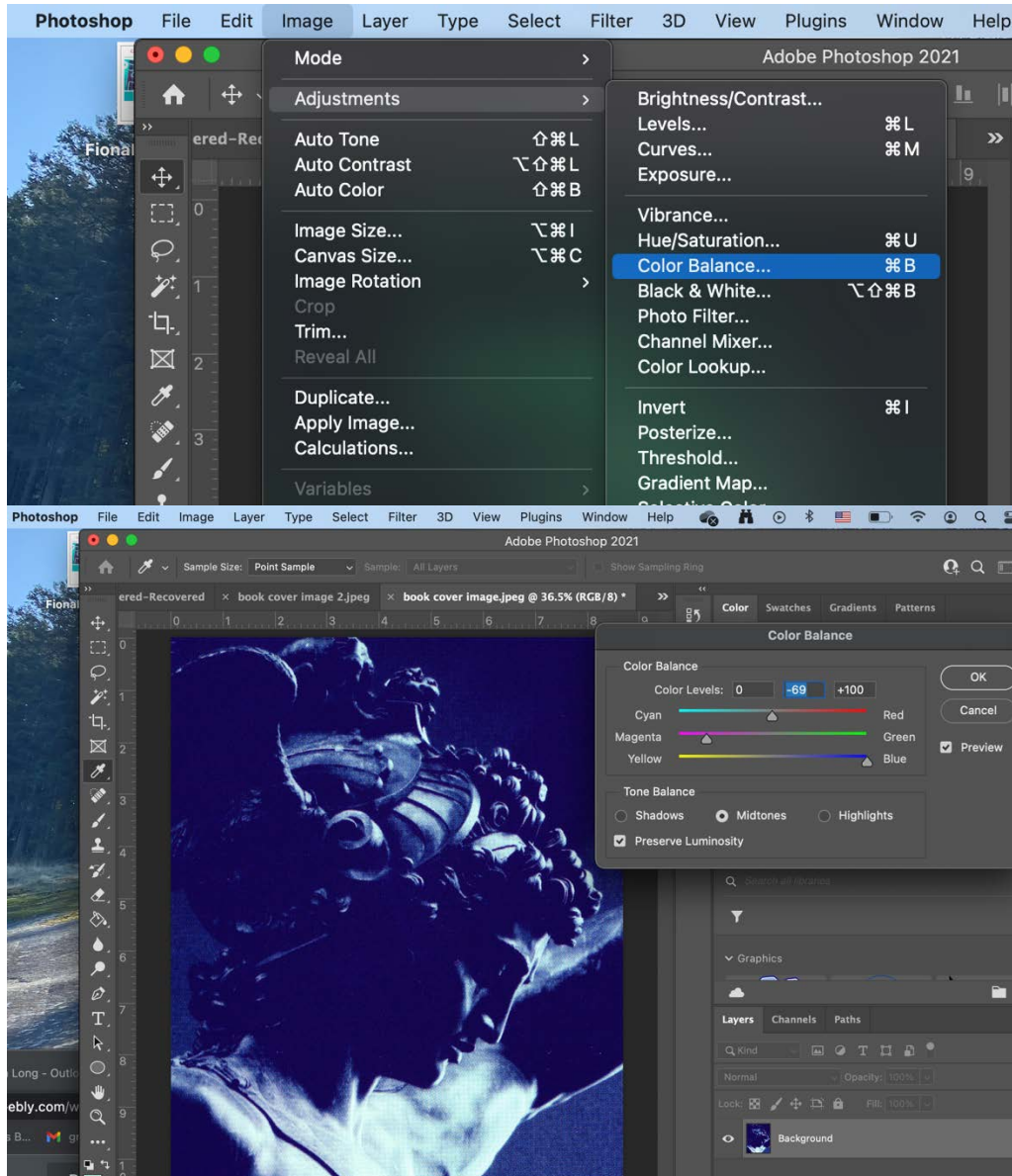
The first one that I ALWAYS use and recommend is the *Levels* option. This option allows you to make sure there is proper contrast in your image.



In the pop-up that appears drag the white and black sliders into the middle Juuuuust a little bit. Make sure that the preview button is clicked so you can see the result of your adjustments in real time. Press OK to execute.



Another great one to play with is Colour Balance. Lets say that you want to manufacture a coloured sheen to your image in order to take advantage of the symbolic power of colour. In my example I change the hue from green to blue. Cool right?



Play with other Image adjustments like: Invert, brightness contrast, hue/saturation and others. You can do some really cool stuff. Make sure though, that the adjustments are in service to your image and your intentions. Do you have a reason for the changes that you are making? In service of composition, or communication?