Hey there, this is Jenn from AminusMama.com! Thanks for downloading this all-in-one blog cover template. This file is designed for Adobe Photoshop and should work with most versions of Photoshop and Elements (I think). For those who aren't as familiar with using Photoshop, here's a quick rundown for how to customize this template.

1. Open the template file by clicking File > Open. (Or click on the file icon in whatever folder you saved in.)
2. Open the Layers palette by clicking Window > Layers. Or look for the little icon that looks like two rhombuses stacked on each other. Keep this open as you work. The further up the list a layer is, the further in front it will be in the image.
3. Change the image to whatever photo you want to use. Make sure you have permission if it's not a photo you took yourself! Creative Commons is a great source for royalty free imagery. There's two ways to do this.
   a. In the Layers palette, find the layer named Your Photo. (It will be at the very bottom.) Right-click this layer (Control-Click with a Mac or whatever weird magic way you do it) and click on Replace Contents in the menu that pops up. Look for your file in the browser and click Place.
   b. Open the folder containing your file and drag it into Photoshop. This will place it as a new Smart Object.
4. Resize the image as needed. Click Edit > Free Transform or press Ctrl+T (Windows). Hold down Shift and drag a corner of the image to resize while maintaining the same proportions. Click the Commit button when finished.
5. Change the color wash to whatever color you want it to be. There's two ways of doing this.
   a. In the Layers palette, find the layer named Color Wash. (It should be the next layer above Your Photo.) Use the Color palette to pick a new color. Use the Paint Bucket Tool in the toolbar to fill the Color Wash layer with the new color.
   b. In the Layers palette, find the adjustment layer named Hue/Saturation. (It should be right above the Color Wash layer.) Make sure it is visible by clicking on the small square to the left of the layer until you see an eye icon appear. Click on the circle that is half filled and half empty. Right-click the Hue/Saturation layer and click Edit Adjustment. Adjust the sliders until you get the color you want.
6. Change the text and font as desired. Click the Horizontal Type Tool in the toolbar (it looks like a capital T). Mouse over the larger handwritten text, look for the dotted box around the T icon to disappear and then click. Edit your text and font as needed. Click the Commit button when finished. Repeat with the smaller all-caps text to customize your web site name or URL.
7. Choose a shape to outline your text with. Go to the Layers palette and choose a shape. Make sure that shape layer is visible by clicking on the small square to the left of the layer until see an eye icon appear. Make the 2 other shape layers invisible by clicking that square until the eye icon disappears.

Advanced Customizations

Change canvas size/proportions.
Click Image > Canvas Size. Adjust to the desired size/proportions. Or use the Crop Tool from the toolbar.

Change the shape.
Click Edit > Free Transform. Drag the shape to whatever dimensions you'd like.

Change the shape stroke.
Select the Shape Tool from the toolbar. (You can choose any of the shapes: Circle, Rectangle, Rounded Rectangle, or Custom Shape.)
On the options bar at the top of the screen, you can adjust the Stroke color, Stroke width, and Stroke style. You can make a similar template using InDesign and get even more Stroke options to customize your template. Let me know if you'd like to see this!