

Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860

By Jane Tompkins


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In this provocative book, Jane Tompkins seeks to move the study of literature away from the small group of critically approved texts that have dominated literary discussion over the decades, to allow inclusion of texts ignored or denigrated by the literary academy. *Sensational Designs* challenges comfortable assumptions about what makes a literary work a "classic."

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"One of the important works of the year....Contains some of the best arguments I know on the conventionality of canon formation."--Michael J. Hoffman, *American Literary Scholarship*

"Wide-ranging, clearly written, cogently argued.... One of those stimulating and significant seminal studies sure to be frequently cited."--*Choice*.

"A major reassessment of nineteenth-century 'sentimental' novels...Force[s] us to reconsider on every page our usual notions of literary valuation, interpretive bias, and canon formation."--*Western Humanities Review*

"*Sensational Designs*...is an eye-opener for those too much obsessed by their own academic and cultural investments to understand the true stylistic and ideological complexity of nineteenth-century American fiction."--Philip F. Gura, *Esquire*

"A cogently argued redefinition of the entire process of literary study."--*Women's Review of Books*

From the Back Cover

What makes a literary classic? In "Sensational Designs" Jane Tompkins argues that it is not the intrinsic merit of a text, but rather the circumstances of its writing. Against the modernist belief that art, in order to be art, must be free from propaganda, Tompkins contends that writers like Brockden Brown, Cooper, Stowe, and Warner wrote in order to alter the face of the social world, not to elicit aesthetic appreciation. Thus, the value and significance of the novels, for readers of their time, depended on precisely those characteristics that formalist criticism has taught us to deplore: stereotyped characters, sensational plots, and clichéd language.

About the Author

Jane Tompkins is at Duke University.

Users Review

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What do you with regards to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do this. It said that about guide. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860 to read.

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Marni Johnson:

The book untitled Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860 contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the woman idea with easy means. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will bring you in the new time of literary works. You can read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice learn.

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