

# JERRY ALEXANDER

## Book Review

### THE GREAT AMERICAN SHORT STORY: FROM EMERSON TO POST-POSTMODERNISM

By JAMES M. COHEN. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. Pp. 312. \$35.00.

It is a pleasure to review a book that is both scholarly and readable. James M. Cohen's *The Great American Short Story: From Emerson to Post-Postmodernism* is a fine example of the latter.

The book is a comprehensive survey of the American short story from its beginnings in the 1840s to the present. It is divided into four parts: the first part covers the period from 1840 to 1860, the second from 1860 to 1880, the third from 1880 to 1914, and the fourth from 1914 to the present.

The book is written in a clear and concise style, and it is easy to read. Cohen's analysis of the short story is both thorough and insightful. He discusses the major authors of the genre, including Emerson, Twain, Melville, and Faulkner, and he examines the various styles and techniques used in the short story.

The book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the American short story. It is a well-written and informative survey of the genre, and it is a pleasure to read.

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