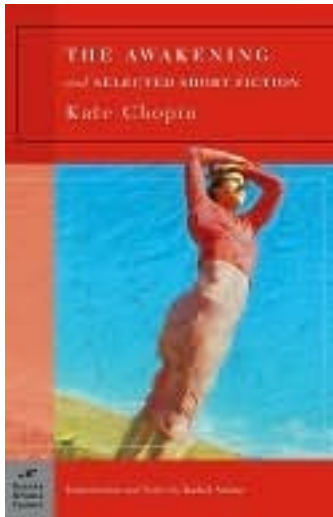

Kate Chopin

The Awakening and Selected Stories



Title: The Awakening and Selected Stories

Author: Kate Chopin

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Download: allowed

Description

A concise introduction that gives readers important background information.

A chronology of the author's life and work

- A timeline of significant events that provides the book's historical context
- An outline of key themes and plot points to help readers form their own interpretations
- Detailed explanatory notes
- Critical analysis, including contemporary and modern perspectives on the work
- Discussion questions to promote lively classroom and book group interaction
- A list of recommended related books and films to broaden the reader's experience

Enriched Classics offer readers affordable editions of great works of literature enhanced by helpful notes and insightful commentary. The scholarship provided in Enriched Classics enables readers to appreciate, understand, and enjoy the world's finest books to their full potential.

Insightful reviews

Elizabeth (Alaska): I think this is a book now read in college courses, as it well should be. That women were once considered not to own their own lives, especially not their own minds, might be a revelation for those younger than about 30. This small book is beautifully written and not encumbered with the wordiness of the Victorians. I have not studied this time period - perhaps by 1899 literature was coming out from under those paragraph long sentences. This is just a delight, in spite of the ending which I could have wished different.

Joy Cagil: This is a book of stories by Kate Chopin beginning with *Awakening*, a novella. Inside the book there are 9 stories as:

1. The Awakening
2. Beyond the Bayou
3. Ma'ame Pélagie
4. Desiree's Baby
5. A Respectable Woman
6. The Kiss
7. A Pair of Silk Stockings
8. The Locket
9. A Reflection

The awakening approaches the realization of the female sexuality. The story takes place during the late 1800s in Grand Isle, a summer resort for the wealthy in New Orleans. Edna Pontellier,

who is a painter, is vacationing with her husband, Léonce, and their two sons at the cottages of Madame Lebrun. After her husband leaves, Edna falls in love with Robert Lebrun, the older, single son of Madame Lebrun. When Edna returns to the city, she is a changed woman who rents her own place and has a sexual relationship with another man.

Later when she meets Robert again and Robert rejects her since she is a married woman, although he is in love with her, Edna returns to her husband and children.

In *Beyond the Bayou*, La Folle suffers from her deeply ingrained fear of the unknown, but an incident with someone named Cheri who shot himself in the leg by accident, pulls her out of her familiar surroundings and liberates her from her fears.

In *Ma'ame Pélagie*, the main character is able to continue appearing youthful while her dreams of the old life still survive because she associates the most hopeful period of her life with antebellum Louisiana. At the end, she realizes she is old inside herself, although outwardly she appeared young.

Desiree's Baby evaluates the class-based and racially prejudiced attitudes of the Antebellum South. Desiree gives birth to a black baby, while her husband Armand believes in acts according to the social and class prejudices of the era. A letter written by Armand's mother, however, discloses Armand's African heritage.

In *A Respectable Woman*, the wealthy Mrs. Baroda faces temptation of an illicit affair by a guest named Governail, as she struggles with her own self-imposed rules. Finally she wins over her emotions and approaches her husband and tells him she has overcome everything.

In *The Kiss*, Nathalie is plotting to marry the good-natured but unattractive and rather foolish Brantain while maintaining an affair with Mr. Harvy. At the end, Harvy ends their relationship and Natalie stays with Brantain as he has much better material assets and social status.

In *A Pair of Silk Stockings*, Mrs. Sommers comes across some money. Even though her original spending plan is more conventional, her emotions get the better of her and she spends the whole thing on herself, showing her craving to return to a past, or rather her youth, when she was independent and didn't have to scrimp and save.

The Locket deals with love and war, during the Civil War era, between two lovers Edmond and Octavie. When a soldier's body is found with the locket Octavie had given to Edmond, Octavie goes into mourning. Edmond, however, returns home in one piece, revealing that the locket was stolen by another soldier. Edmond's return restores Octavie's happiness. This story shows the ravages of war on not only the land but on the people who are in love.

A Reflection is a very short piece, resembling a prose-poem on the author's brief thoughts on life.

In these stories, important themes are: independence and autonomy, especially those of a woman's, gender and identity, the author's opposition to societal norms, class and race, love and desire and the difference between the two concepts, life and death, and Civil War.

Kate Chopin was a child of Irish and French Creole descent in the upper class of St. Louis in the decades surrounding the Civil War. She is known best as reflecting the colors of Louisiana as setting and as a farsighted writer exploring race, sexuality, freedom, and psychology of the individual as a person.

Sarah: This wasn't a book that caught my interest right away- I picked it up only to read a few

pages and then put it down again several times.

However, as the protagonist came more to life so too did the book. I found Edna both more interesting and more sympathetic as the book progressed.

Chopin's style was interesting, too- sometimes lushly descriptive, sometimes spare- and generally quite Modernist in tone.

I can see why some people loathe this book: there isn't much in the way of external action, and if one is not interested in Edna's inner journey, there is little that would hold one's attention. But if one has the patience and the interest, the book is well worth it.

Sergio Flores: Okay, technically, i have never accomplished examining the ebook simply because I nonetheless have to learn the quick tales that stick with *The Awakening*. However, i need to write what i believe approximately Chopin's prized tale ahead of it escapes me. I completely disliked Edna Pontellier. I got here into this novel with many expectations, basically that this could be an awesome feminist novel. Nope! It was once not, which i'm ok with. i'm really not ok with how unsatisfied Edna is together with her life. Yeah, her husband is not large romantic, yet her existence seems pleasant. whilst he sees that she is appearing peculiar, he supplies her area and trust. She is wealthy, has impressive social dinners, and lovable sons. Her lifestyles turns out beautiful darn great. Yeah, I remember that she sought her own freedom, yet in comparison to the mulatto girls she has hired as nannies and maids, she turns out lovely darn loose to me. i've got nicknamed this publication "Rich white woman problems". i could have cherished her extra if she was once no longer so immature. She refuses to wait her sister's marriage ceremony for no obvious cause although it may suggest much to her sister and father, and she or he smashes vases and stomps on her marriage ceremony ring like a juvenile. Um, girl, will not be you're keen on 28? Her love for Robert doesn't appear like love yet extra like an obsession. It grants her event and change, which she is justified for wanting, yet she may have long gone approximately it extra maturely. First, she used to be by no means evidently that Robert reciprocated it, so it looked like she lived totally on fantasy. Once, Robert got here again and she or he pulled out the reality in him, she was once able to do something for him--not very independent. additionally sooner than Robert returns, she has that affair with Alcee simply because she felt like it. Alright,cool, she can be unfastened to do so, however it simply indicates how capricious she is. i assume she is groundbreaking through breaking social norms of the time, like relocating out of her domestic and leaving her children, yet on the finish her suicide simply proves she is weak. She isn't really an instance for anyone. She lacks adulthood and strength. i do not see her for instance for both ladies or men, or someone really. I see that she felt oppressed and suffocated,but she was once too severe in her method of escaping. i'll say that I benefit from the description of the Creole lifestyles in New Orleans. i admire that historical past that Chopin relates. i am hoping her brief tales do not disappoint.

Richp: I learn the a part of the intro first, the fast tales second, the unconventional third, and complete the intro and different stuff last. rattling the notes for spoilers for different portions, yet thankfully i didn't learn the spoilers within the intro. I price the tales 5, *The Awakening* 4, and the Rachel Adams stuff 1. The tales have been a true locate for me, and that i fee a few of them one of the best i have ever read. there are various 500 web page novels that comprise much less to

consider than a few of these shorts, that's okay in the event that they comprise an outstanding story, yet many lengthy novels don't. This was once a true shock to me, i didn't anticipate approximately so much. The Awakening suffers just a little in comparison, basically through its loss of brevity, however it continues to be an engaging novel. The intro must have been cut up into an intro with a quick bio and outline of the time and position of writing and publishing, and a follow-up piece on the finish with the serious and public reaction, besides any research and plot discussion. the best way this used to be placed together, I classify this as a part of the "literature education" company that's so desirous about its hoity-toity prestige as a profession, that it takes a lot of the enjoyment out of reading.

Scott: This was once my moment time to learn Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, the final time being within the overdue 1990's whilst i used to be in my twenties. i feel I liked it much more now after many years of maturity and years of marriage. I additionally understood it differently. It appeared much less just like the typical narrative of a lady rebelling opposed to her social state of affairs and marriage (though there's evidently that), in different words, much less like *Madame Bovary* and *A Doll's House*, and extra like a Virginia Woolf novel during which a distinct female realization is awakened. i used to be additionally much more appreciative of Chopin's attractive writing, notwithstanding this was once now not new to me. I take into account my first come upon with her. i used to be in highschool and was once using domestic past due one evening hearing NPR. The station we picked up in the neighborhood occasionally had readings of brief stories. That evening I stuck a part of "Desiree's Baby" (which was once additionally integrated in a small variety of brief tales during this quantity supplementing the novel). i discovered the tale startling to hear and lyrically beautiful. It was once the 1st time i might even heard of Chopin, leaving me pondering why we hadn't discovered approximately her at school (which i'm hoping has been corrected at school curricula of contemporary decades?).

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