

# THE AWAKENING

KATE CHOPIN

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HOLDING IMAGE

ISBN (Paperback): 9781915054968  
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 Extent: 208 pages  
 Format: 198x129mm  
 Genre: Realism, naturalism, feminism  
 Markets: World English

## Key Selling Points:

- Concise with short chapters.
- Accessible language.
- Touches upon female empowerment.

## Comparison Authors:

Anne Brontë, Zora Neale Hurston, Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, Guy de Maupassant, Katherine Mansfield, Anton Chekhov.

**"The bird that would soar above the level plain of tradition and prejudice must have strong wings. It is a sad spectacle to see the weaklings bruised, exhausted, fluttering back to earth."**

*The Awakening* follows Edna Pontellier, a resident of coastal Grand Isle of Louisiana in her late twenties, who has a quintessential set-up for a content housewife. Indeed, her husband makes good money on Wall Street speculations and her daily routine should gleefully hinge on the two children. But Edna is neither a self-sacrificing mother, nor a devoted wife. Instead, she is gradually awoken to rebel against the imposed societal expectations outside her family and the lack of understanding within.

This short novel is widely acknowledged as such that encapsulates the features of fin de siècle realism in its linear narrative but also anticipates literary modernism of the early twentieth century. Edna's defiance of the American alternative of Victorian 'Angel in the House' is reminiscent of such classics as Anna Brontë's *Tenants of the Wildfell Hall*.

## The Author:

Kate Chopin (1850–1904) was born in St Louis, Missouri in a devout Catholic family.

She began to write as a widowed mother of six producing over a hundred short stories that have since been anthologised for their psychological charge and tropes of female liberation. Among her most acclaimed short works of fiction are 'The Story of an Hour', 'The Storm' and 'A Pair of Silk Stockings'. Chopin's writing was influenced by some key realists of the era, in particular, Guy de Maupassant.

Her novel *The Awakening* was rediscovered before the second wave of feminism after spending half a century in literary oblivion. The reason for such a belated recognition were harsh reviews from the male-dominated criticism of the age for the novel's content matter. Her distilled prose helps to reveal the core of the female psyche that underpins the literary vitality of this work and Chopin's entire oeuvre.