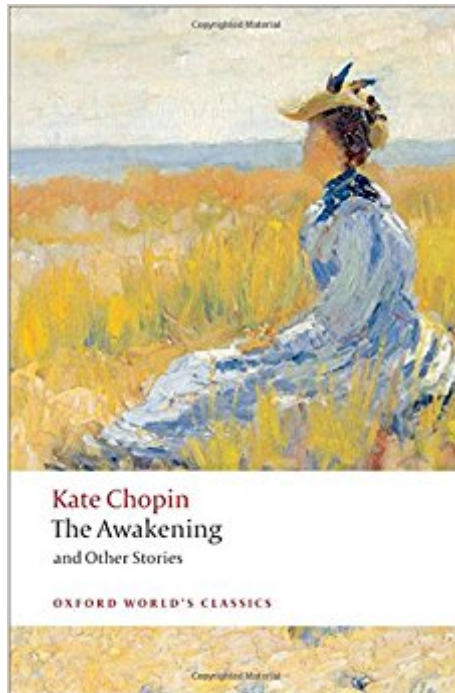


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The Awakening: And Other Stories (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

Kate Chopin was one of the most individual and adventurous of nineteenth-century American writers, whose fiction explored new and often startling territory. When her most famous story, *The Awakening*, was first published in 1899, it stunned readers with its frank portrayal of the inner world of Edna Pontellier, and its daring criticisms of the limits of marriage and motherhood. The subtle beauty of her writing was contrasted with her unwomanly and sordid subject-matter: Edna's rejection of her domestic role, and her passionate quest for spiritual, sexual, and artistic freedom. From her first stories, Chopin was interested in independent characters who challenged convention. This selection, freshly edited from the first printing of each text, enables readers to follow her unfolding career as she experimented with a broad range of writing, from tales for children to decadent fin-de siècle sketches. *The Awakening* is set alongside thirty-two short stories, illustrating the spectrum of the fiction from her first published stories to her 1898 secret masterpiece, "The Storm."

About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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Customer Reviews

"A Creole Bovary is this little novel of Miss Chopin's."--Willa Cather --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

First published in 1899, this beautiful, brief novel so disturbed critics and the public that it was banished for decades afterward. Now widely read and admired, *The Awakening* has been hailed as an early vision of woman's emancipation. This sensuous book tells of a woman's abandonment of her family, her seduction, and her awakening to desires and passions that threatened to consume her. Originally entitled "A Solitary Soul," this portrait of twenty-eight-year-old Edna Pontellier is a landmark in American fiction, rooted firmly in the romantic tradition of Herman Melville and Emily Dickinson. Here, a woman in search of self-discovery turns away from convention and society, and toward the primal, from convention and society, and toward the primal, irresistibly attracted to nature and the senses. *The Awakening*, Kate Chopin's last novel, has been praised by Edmund Wilson as "beautifully written." And Willa Cather described its style as "exquisite," "sensitive," and "iridescent." This edition of *The Awakening* also includes a selection of short stories by Kate Chopin. "This seems to me a higher order of feminism than repeating the story of woman as victim... Kate Chopin gives her female protagonist the central role, normally reserved for Man, in a meditation on identity and culture, consciousness and art." -- From the introduction by Marilynne Robinson. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Kate Chopin was ahead of her time. If one is interested in the evolution of American Women's fiction, Kate Chopin is a good place to start. This novel is about a married woman seeking fulfillment outside of her marriage. By today's standards it is a relatively tame story. However, for a student of literature, or American Women's Literature, this story is at the vanguard of the evolution into modern American Literary style. If one is interested in this story, or early American feminist literature, one might also try, "The Storm" by Kate Chopin. This story was NOT published during her lifetime. One might consider reading "The Storm" after "The Awakening". If one chooses to read these stories keep in mind this was not how women wrote fiction at this time. Another more tame early feminist short story is "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Miss Gilman was more of a feminist than an accomplished author, and "The Yellow Wallpaper" is her most sophisticated short story. By and large Kate Chopin is the more sophisticated author. Do not expect these stories to be wild by today's standards. They are good stories that are ahead of their times. Thank You...

While I admire the classic Creole New Orleans theme, the overall plot and eventual conclusion is

largely disappointing. Not to mention no page numbers and unnecessarily small font.

Such wonderful wordplay and the vernacular must have been accurately portrayed as it was not stilted or forced. Amazing insight and did not see the end coming.

I enjoyed reading the different stories Kate Chopin wrote in this book. No complaints about the book, and I would do business again with the seller.

I love Kate Chopin's stories, especially "The Story of an Hour" and "The Awakening".

Great book! Only issue is that print is so tiny. It's hard to stay focused. :)

I think one has to be an older woman to appreciate this novel, as the plot could be fast forwarded to the 1950s and still be realistic. Elegant writing, complex characters, full of foreshadowing and regret.

Great book, but i couldn't stand the main character,Why I can't stand the main character:- Nothing against woman, even though the main idea was oppression on woman cause by the male patriarchal society, which I agree with, however I feel that it really puts a lot of the males on blast, who are not control freaks to their wives or spouses.- Maybe if Kate Chopin would've made the male characters in these books to be more openly misogynistic, then I would give this book a 5 star

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