

The Awakening and Selected Stories

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## Summary:

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“Perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one’s life.”

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Kate Chopin was enjoying wide popularity as a writer, mainly of short stories, when her second novel, *The Awakening*, was published to widespread criticism of its immorality. A wake-up call to women all over the country, this landmark novel of early American feminism tells of a Louisiana wife who discovers the strength of her own sexuality and tries to wrench it from the hands of a patriarchal society. And just as Edna Pontellier is ostracized for trying to master her own sexual fate, so did Chopin’s reputation suffer after she wrote this book. Today *The Awakening* is considered a masterpiece and, along with Chopin’s short stories, has set a standard for younger generations of women who have learned to value their independence and authenticity.

Edited and with an Introduction by Barbara H. Solomon and with a New Afterword by Roxane Gay.

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