



## The awakening And Other Stories

*Kate Chopin*

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## The awakening And Other Stories Kate Chopin

Kate Chopin, born Katherine O'Flaherty (February 8, 1850 – August 22, 1904), was a U.S. author of short stories and novels based in Louisiana.

## The awakening And Other Stories Details

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## **From Reader Review The awakening And Other Stories for online ebook**

### **Elizabeth says**

Why only three stars when I do enjoy Kate Chopin? Well, because of "The Awakening." That is a rather large short story-- more like a novella-- and I didn't like it! I had read many of the other short stories contained in this book at different times and had enjoyed them and will probably read them again and again but "The Awakening" take up a large chunk of this book and as I said...ugh.

The "heroine" of "The Awakening" is Edna Pontellier and I don't like her and have no sympathy for her. I judge her badly and have contempt for her and this has to do with my personal background and beliefs. I'm sure there are others out there who adore this book and consider Edna a "feminist" and find the story brilliant and that's fine.

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### **Jen says**

a beautiful book ahead of its time about challenging societal norms and gender roles as a woman and depicting a tragic journey to freedom. i found it fascinating to study in class but still had a hard time reading it (and i have to admit i didn't truly like it at first), so that's why i'm 'only' giving it 3 stars.

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### **Marissa Kessenich says**

This proved a surprisingly modern meditation on a woman's attempt at self-liberation from the influences of patriarchal society. Edna's story is one that was/is by no means singular, and the fact that it was written by a woman (at the turn of the century?!?!?) makes it even more striking. I'm shocked it took me so long to get to this one, but better late than never.

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### **Autumn says**

A classic novel telling the story of a woman trapped in a marriage and with a family, feeling oppressed by them and the social conventions of the times (which seem a little more lenient in ways than today in some respects!). She discovers herself and what she really wants and reaches out for those, damned the consequences.

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### **Georgia Butler says**

The Awakening is a beautiful and provocative story of a woman's dissatisfaction with her life role as wife and mother. At the outset of the novel, she confronts her ennui by purposely leaving home on Tuesday, the day assigned for the reception of callers. Thereafter, one by one she challenges the Victorian conventions that restrict her freedoms by entertaining men admirers and even moving out of her grandiose house (while

her husband is on an extended business trip and her children are staying in the country with their grandparents). She imagines that the love of another man is what she needs to be fulfilled, a man she loves. Eventually, by the novel's end, she discovers that dependence on another to provide freedom and fulfillment is in no way different than her current condition.

While reading the beautiful and compelling story, I could not help but see comparison between Edna and Madam Bovary, though Edna's pursuit of romance is prompted out of a need to live life as an individual, on her own terms, whereas Madam Bovary's incentive appears more selfish and vain.

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### **Stacy says**

The Awakening was definitely a story before it's time. As soon as she started showing any kind of independence, the husband went crazy. The other short stories were pretty good as well. One of them confused me as to what happened in it.

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### **Kim says**

#### **The Awakening ~ A Review in Two Parts ~**

##### **Me, 20 years old, circa early '90s**

Okay, so I just read *The Awakening*. What a novella before its time! You've got Edna Pontellier, manipulated into a stodgy marriage, her husband expecting her to conform to society's rules and trappings. She now has 2 children and is feeling the pull of wanting to be her own person. An artist, a free thinker, not meant to stay at home and accept visitors. On a summer vacation in Grand Isle, she meets Robert Lebrun, a younger idealist, not as wealthy but still the type who will cater to her every whim. Who sees the person that she wants to be and doesn't deny her that sense of self. Edna falls into the lull that women crave.. 'lull' isn't the correct word. It's almost opposite of what I want to say, I'd go more with the excitement of being feverishly desired by a handsome young man. It's addicting, more than addicting, it's *dangerous*. However, for some reason, Robert leaves for Mexico and Edna is left with her marriage and her position in society. She starts to act out and her clueless husband is concerned:

*It sometimes entered Mr. Pontellier's mind to wonder if his wife were not growing a little unbalanced mentally. He could see plainly that she was not herself. That is, he could not see that she was becoming herself and daily casting aside that fictitious self which we assume like a garment with which to appear before the world.*

Okay, so she's not entertaining guests, she must be crazy. Upon returning to New Orleans, she continues to find herself and after her children and husband leave for an indeterminate amount of time, she starts to find her independence. She moves out of the mansion and into a 'pigeon house' around the corner, she begins an affair with a local playboy and all the while she still yearns for Robert.

I won't go into anymore of the plot, but to say that I can see how it would be considered a scandal when

released back in 1899. Women didn't follow their heart or their minds, they were objects upon marriage, losing all identity. Society dictates that she marry well and put up pretenses and she fights back! As Susan Powter would say, 'Stop the Insanity!' *The Awakening* shows that women are capable of being individuals and believing in everlasting love that breaks all conventions. Bring forth the Spice Girls and rock on.

### **Me, Now, somewhat older...**

Edna Pontellier, what a narcissistic little hussy you are. Okay, look...It's 1899... you're married to a guy that *adores* you... Yeah, so he thinks that you might want to act like a woman of the times.. maybe he's a little off on the whole suffrage movement (which has yet to happen, DUH) and maybe you're feeling a bit stifled in your marriage, but it's a GOOD marriage, you want for nothing, you don't have to take care of your somewhat non-demonic children, you get to vacation for entire summers... when you're down your husband plans to redecorate the house for you. It's not like he's ignoring you! So, what exactly is the problem? He's not hot? Yeah. He's not young? Okay. He doesn't swoon over your little paintings? Whatever. Look, the short of it is, you weren't forced into the marriage, as much as you thought you had to find a guy that would look good in society and take care of you. You could have said no. Now, what the hell are you doing? Prancing around race tracks with the 1899 equivalent of Ashton Kutcher? Waiting for this poor fool who realizes the restraints of society to come and just be your little cabana boy? Hell, if this were modern times, you'd be reading *Twilight* and hanging out at skate parks. Get over yourself.

/rant

Okay, so that was *The Awakening* and if I had to rate this based on that novella alone, I'd go with 2 stars. I suppose I've got the Sherwood Anderson syndrome here and maybe it's my fault for not understanding 1899 like I should... I go on my gut feelings, sorry. I'm reading this now, I'm judging it now. I can appreciate the time it was written in, but I'm not going to go gaga over a story that I pretty much think of as a cop out.

But, that being um... said... I did enjoy the other 15 stories, well, most of them. Kate Chopin was a hoot. I think she had the wit and the not so subtle talent and voice to let her feelings be known. She was bitter, yo. I don't blame her... Widowed at 32 with 6 kids? Hell yeah. And, here she has this talent and what does she get when she publishes her work to make sure she can support her family? Shock, disdain, crap. Sorry... they can all go to Hell. She had balls. My suggestion is to read some of the shorter stories... I enjoyed *The Story of an Hour*, *A Point at Issue!*, *A Lady of Bayou St. John*, *Athénaïse*... those are my favorites, but they're all short enough to enjoy and to see what a talented, wry writer she was.

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### **Poppy says**

Since discovering this gem while studying, it has become a firm favourite and a rarity in that I can reread it many times and it never loses appeal. I'm certainly not surprised it figures on most 'best novella' lists – even the heavily male-author orientated ones – as Chopin created not just a compelling story set in southern america during the late 1890s, which can be savoured in its own right, she also produced an iconic tale that challenges the perceptions and expectations of a woman's 'place' in society.

Full review: <https://poppypeacockpens.com/2015/11/...>

## **Fyza Parviz Jazra says**

"The Awakening" by Kate Chopin was first published in 1899 and soon rose to eminence as a forerunner of feminist literature. The novel revolves around a 28-year-old woman Mrs. Edna Pontellier who hails from the South. While vacationing with her family, she realizes that she has been living a routine life. A mood comes over her that pushes her to let go of her inhibitions and impose her will.

Acquiring this new found courage makes her into an artist-leaving all past prejudice behind. Her awakening confounds her husband and her friends, yet she is determined not to sacrifice herself for her family. But then what about her two young children? She has to grip with the fact that they need her and she needs them. They are a much more profound part of her identity that she cannot quickly rub off.

Edna is unable to resolve this problem, and this leads to her annihilation. This short novel deals with heavy themes of individualism, motherhood, tradition, love, and sexuality. Too bad Kate Chopin died soon after the book's publication and did not live to see its success.

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## **júls the pug says**

Me ha gustado (pero no tanto como madame bovary), me parece super interesante leer por fin el adulterio des del punto de vista de una mujer.

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## **Rhian says**

The awakening to self-awareness of a rich New Orleans woman at the end of the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, in my opinion a rather dull book about a very dull woman.

On the island of Grand Isle in the Gulf of Mexico a number of wealthy New Orleans are spending their summer vacation away from the city. Mrs Pontellier is of these: a young woman who has drifted into marriage and motherhood with very little thought, and with no strong feelings in relation to her husband, and very few towards her children, she finds herself bored with her life after six years of marriage. Robert Lebrun, the son of the house where they are staying, devotes himself slavishly to Edna Pontellier throughout her visit but, as he devotes himself slavishly (and innocently) to one young married woman or other during every summer season, this passes without remark or without exciting any jealousy on the part of Mr Pontallier. But rather than it just being an innocent flirtation for Edna, on her return to New Orleans she starts to question the very life that she leads.

So a story of a woman's awakening to realisation of herself as a person in her own right, rather than as a wife and mother with needs subjugated to those of her family. But unfortunately I couldn't see Edna as anything other than a selfish little rich girl, who was quite happy to take from others without being prepared to give in return, and didn't seem to care about anybody other than herself in any meaningful way. She just didn't engage my interest at all, and neither did any of the other characters. So OK, but not great.

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## Grady Ormsby says

Regional Realism is a characteristic element in American Literature from the mid to late Nineteenth Century into the early Twentieth Century. Sometimes called "local color," the fiction of that genre has a particular emphasis on setting and a focus on landscape, dialect, history, customs and the narrative tradition of storytelling. **The Awakening and Other Stories** by Kate Chopin is a prime example of the genre. After an Introduction by Lewis Leary the book begins with twenty short stories, most of which had been previously published in magazines with national circulation. Chopin is often regarded as a forerunner of the feminist authors of the 20th Century and, indeed, most of the stories feature strong women, usually as the main character. Even the women who seem to be subservient or docile in the opening of a story develop into characters who begin to exercise choices and move toward lives richer in personal freedom. The stories explore a variety of themes: love, fear, sanity, temptation, fidelity. There is a wide range of characters including Caucasians, Anglo-Americans, Latinos, Afro-Americans, creoles and mulattos, all in sympathetic and complex roles. There are occasional examples of stereotyping and even a bit of overt racism ascribable perhaps more to the prevailing temper of the times more than to Chopin herself. Though there are examples of ornate and formulaic usage, Chopin's use of language is rather modern. She displays a strong mastery of dialect. A few of her tales are in the vein of O. Henry and Saki with totally unexpected, ironic endings. The book ends with the novel **The Awakening**, shocking in its day with a frankness and honesty about topics usually kept under wraps. Take a little trip into the past. Travel into the Deep South to the plantations, town houses, shanties, bayous and swamps along the Mississippi. You'll enjoy the visit.

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## Paula Bardell-Hedley says

*"She wanted to swim far out, where no woman had swum before."*

This short but impassioned novel, first published at the turn of the 19th century, portrays a new way of thinking; a dissension among the women of North America and Europe, which caused excitement and consternation in equal measure.

Kate Chopin's clever, lyrical story, set on the Louisiana Gulf coast and in New Orleans, draws on the lives of the Franco-Creole beau monde, using their apparently sparkling lives as a backdrop to highlight the strict social conventions of the day.

The young Edna Pontellier, an attractive, seemingly happily married woman, dreams of putting her needs before those of her husband and children. She is far from contented with her cosseted but strictly controlled existence, and becomes wilful and defiant. Her subsequent behaviour is considered unacceptable and unwomanly in such a patriarchal society.

Chopin is a magnificent storyteller. Her frank portrayal underscores the very real frustrations experienced by her contemporaries and vividly depicts the tremendous courage required for a woman to slip her shackles.

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## Elizabeth says

The entire time I was reading Chopin's work I was going 'yass queen!' in my head, which doesn't tell you anything about the book, other than that I really liked it.

In both her novel (novella?) and short stories, Chopin turns a keen eye towards the gender issues of the late 19th century. Rather than passing judgment, she often presents her narratives in a way that allows the reader to draw their own conclusions.

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### **Pam says**

loved the awakening, and i really liked almost all of the short stories, i was worried about how much racism would be in this book but it wasn't as bad as i expected, there was a part in the last sort story i read where she kept saying the hotel owner was going to cut up this mixed race kid with a knife, that went a little over my head, i'm hoping she didn't mean that literally? lol i can definitely say she avoided the "white savior" that is so loved in any stories involving slaves, in "la belle zoraïde" i thought she was headed in that direction at first but nope, not at all, the mistress was HORRIBLE in that story, took away everything the woman loved and literally drove her mad

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