



The Awakening and Selected Stories of Kate Chopin (Signet Classics)

By Kate Chopin

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The Awakening and Selected Stories of Kate Chopin (Signet Classics) By Kate Chopin

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

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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Editorial Review

Review

"Flexible, iridescent style."—Willa Cather

"As pertinent as any fiction this year or last. It is uncanny, nothing else."—*The New York Times*

From the Inside Flap

The Awakening shocked turn-of-the-century readers and reviewers with its treatment of sex and suicide. In a departure from literary convention, Kate Chopin failed to condemn her heroine's desire for an affair with the son of a Louisiana resort owner, whom she meets on vacation. The power of sensuality, the delusion of ecstatic love, and the solitude that accompanies the trappings of middle- and upper-class convention are themes of this now-classic novel.

The book was influenced by French writers ranging from Flaubert to Maupassant, and can be seen as a precursor of the impressionistic, mood-driven novels of Virginia Woolf and Djuna Barnes. Variously called "vulgar," "unhealthily introspective," and "morbid," the book was neglected for several decades, not least because it was written by a "regional" woman writer. This edition also includes selected stories from Kate Chopin's **Bayou Folk** and **A Night in Acadie**, and an introduction and notes by Nina Baym.

From the Back Cover

"A Creole Bovary is this little novel of Miss Chopin's."

--Willa Cather

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jay Burke:

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Linda Bryant:

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