



The Awakening and Selected Stories (Penguin Classics)

Kate Chopin

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Introduction by Kaye Gibbons

Edited and with notes by Nina Baym

Commentary by Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and from *The Picayune's Creole Cook Book*

The Awakening shocked turn-of-the-century readers with its forthright treatment of sex and suicide. Departing 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 life are the themes of this now-classic novel. As Kaye Gibbons points out in her Introduction, Chopin "was writing American realism before most Americans could bear to hear that they were living it." This edition includes selected stories from Chopin's *Bayou Folk* and *A Night in Acadie*.

Includes a Modern Library Reading Group Guide

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Melinda Brown:

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