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## **APPENDIXES**

### **A. Synopsis of the Novel**

Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* novel is a feminist novel that tells the story of Edna Pontellier as the main character in the novel who is uncomfortable in her marriage and doesn't want to be tied down to being the mother she should be. She wants to feel true pleasure and freedom.

This story begins in the summer of Edna Pontellier and her husband Leonce, and their two children Raoul and Etienne Pontellier vacationed on the island of Grand Isle in New Orleans, Louisiana near from Gulf of Mexico. It is managed by Madame Lebrun, and her two sons, Robert and Victor.

Edna is also with her best friend, namely Adele Ratingnolle. There, Edna spent a lot of time with her best friend. Adele Ratingnolle has a very beautiful face. She is a very kind mother and an ideal woman. She served her husband and children very well. Adele also always reminds Edna of her duties as a wife and mother.

On Grand Isle, Edna and Robert often spend time together. Adele warned Robert for what he was doing. That He couldn't do something like that to the person who trusted him, namely Edna's husband, Leonce Pontellier. Robert could not stand what he felt for Edna. He couldn't deny that he fell in love with Edna. Finally, Robert decided to go to Mexico for business reasons and left Edna.

When summer vacation ends, Edna and her family return to New Orleans. After coming home from vacation, Edna does what she wants and to make herself happy

like painting. Edna closes herself from New Orleans society, she also does not fulfill her role as a wife to her husband and mother to her children. Edna also went to visit Mademoiselle Reisz's house. Mademoiselle Reisz is an unconventional and unpopular older woman who serves as an inspiration to Edna throughout her gradual awakening. She is also a pianist. During her visit, Mademoiselle told her that Robert sent a letter to Mademoiselle. Edna asked to see the letter but Mademoiselle refused to give it and in the end Edna seduced him and gave the letter. Edna read the letter accompanied by the piano sound played by Mademoiselle.

With Edna's indifferent attitude towards her family, Leonce is angry with Edna's attitude. He told the doctor about Edna's attitude because he was afraid that something would happen to his mental health. Doctor told Leonce to give him some space and assure Leonce that things will return to normal.

Leonce also left to New York City on business. He left Edna and her children. Left with her husband for a long time, Edna also pondered all kinds of aspects of her life. After being left behind by her husband for a long time, Edna moved from their house which was close enough to her house to find something she liked. Edna goes to find Mademoiselle. Edna was introduced to Alcee Arobin by Mademoiselle. After that, Alcee Arobin visited Edna's house. Edna has a relationship with Alcee Arobin because of her sexual desire.

Edna often visits Mademoiselle. There, she told us that, She had moved house. He said that he was tired of keeping the mansion he lived in. She told Mademoiselle that she would like her little house.

Finally, Robert came back to New Orleans and met Edna. Robert told all the truth about his truth to action in Mexico. And confess to him. Edna was called by Adele to accompany her in the birth process. Edna left Robert for a while. However, when Edna returned she found a letter from Robert that he left Edna because he loved her.

After that incident, Edna returned to Grand Isle where she first met Robert. There, she went swimming, drowned herself and died.

## **B. Biography of the Author**



Kate Chopin, née O'Flaherty, was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1850 (cf. Carey, 5ff). The combination of two heritages, Irish on her father's side and French on her mother's, molded and fashioned her unique character.

Kate Chopin was only four years old when her father died. She then grew up in the company of her mother, grandmother and her great-grandmother. Their strength and independence as well as their ways of entertaining Chopin by telling tales about people and adventures strongly influenced Kate Chopin in her career as a unique woman and writer.

Kate Chopin had the opportunity to indulge in an extraordinary education for a woman of her time, and she finally graduated from the St. Louis Academy of the

Sacred Heart in 1868. Soon after her graduation she met Oscar Chopin, a man who was especially fascinated by her individualism. In their marriage she was given an immense amount of personal freedom, which was rather unusual for wives at that time. Oscar and Kate Chopin spent the first nine years of their marriage in New Orleans, and after Oscar's business in the cotton industry failed miserably they had to move to Cloutierville, a small village in the Cajun area of Louisiana. Through her life in Louisiana Chopin was introduced to Creole and Cajun culture and society, which had a great impact on her writing. As her stories are mainly set in the Louisiana of Creole culture, she was considered a local color or regional writer for a long time. This reputation is partly responsible for her 'being ignored as one of America's finest fictional writers' (Carey,7). Only after her death, her novels and stories were discovered as important works of feminist literature.

By the age of thirty, Kate Chopin was the mother of six children. When Oscar died in 1882, Chopin ran their plantations. In the secure space of social acceptance as a mother and widow, Kate Chopin had the opportunity to express her views of life, especially as a woman, in her writings. The primary concern of her fiction was 'the celebration of female sexuality, and the tension between erotic desire and the demands of marriage, the family, and a traditional society' (Martin, 1). She wrote two novels -*At Fault* in 1890 and *The Awakening* in 1899 - and almost a hundred short stories, poems, essays, plays and reviews. Kate Chopin was highly acclaimed for her volumes of short stories, *Bayou Folk* (1894) and *A Night in Acadie* (1897). After the publication of *The Awakening*, which was considered a scandalous book as it dealt



with adultery and sexual desires of married women, there was an outcry of contemporary critics and the novel was widely condemned.

Consequently, Chopin's third volume of short stories, *A Vocation and a Voice*, was refused to be published. As an answer to the scathing criticism and the banning of *The Awakening* from libraries, Kate Chopin even wrote a note of apology in a local paper. (cf. Carey, 7). It was a satiric and mocking apology, which did not express Chopin's true disappointment over the negative reactions, and the attacks from reviewers towards her and the novel did not come to an end. Chopin, though she never regretted having written *The Awakening*, felt that her career as a writer had no further future, and she had only two more stories published afterwards. She devoted the rest of her life to her family until she died on August 22, 1904.