

sparknotes the awakening

sparknotes the awakening is a comprehensive guide designed to help readers understand Kate Chopin's groundbreaking novel, *The Awakening*. This article provides a detailed summary, explores the main themes, analyzes key characters, and discusses the book's literary significance. Whether you are a student searching for an in-depth analysis, or a literature enthusiast eager to revisit this classic, this article delivers valuable insights using clear, accessible language. Readers will also discover the historical context of the novel, its reception, and how *The Awakening* continues to influence modern literature. With an organized structure and keyword-rich content, this article ensures an informative reading experience. Continue below for a user-friendly breakdown of everything you need to know about sparknotes the awakening.

- Overview of *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- Plot Summary and Key Events
- Main Characters and Their Roles
- Major Themes and Motifs
- Symbolism in *The Awakening*
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Overview of *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

The Awakening, published in 1899, stands as one of the most influential novels in American literature. Written by Kate Chopin, the story centers on Edna Pontellier, a woman struggling to break free from societal norms and expectations in late 19th-century New Orleans. The novel explores themes of individuality, freedom, and self-discovery, making it a key text for feminist literary studies. Despite its initial controversial reception, *The Awakening* is now celebrated for its insightful portrayal of a woman's search for personal identity. This overview provides essential background and introduces the central concerns examined in sparknotes the awakening.

Plot Summary and Key Events

A thorough understanding of the plot is vital for anyone researching sparknotes the awakening. The narrative follows Edna Pontellier as she grapples with her roles as a wife and mother, and her growing sense of independence. The story is set in Grand Isle, a summer resort popular with wealthy Creole families, and later shifts to New Orleans.

- Edna's awakening begins during a summer vacation, where she forms a close friendship with Robert Lebrun, sparking feelings she has never previously experienced.
- She starts to question the expectations placed on her by her husband, Léonce, and the society around her.
- Back in New Orleans, Edna pursues her artistic passions, moves into her own house, and forms new relationships, including a romantic involvement with Alcée Arobin.
- Robert returns, but their reunion is complicated by societal constraints, leading Edna to confront the limitations of her newfound freedom.
- The novel concludes with Edna making a final, tragic decision that underscores her struggle for autonomy.

These key events in sparknotes the awakening highlight Edna's transformation and the consequences of defying social conventions.

Main Characters and Their Roles

An analysis of the main characters is essential for a complete understanding of sparknotes the awakening. Each character serves as a representation of different societal values and personal desires.

Edna Pontellier

Edna is the protagonist of *The Awakening*. Her journey from passive obedience to self-assertion drives the narrative. She is portrayed as introspective, passionate, and determined to live life on her own terms, making her one of literature's most memorable female characters.

Léonce Pontellier

Léonce is Edna's husband, a successful businessman who represents traditional values and societal expectations. His inability to understand Edna's needs highlights the conflict between personal fulfillment and social duty.

Robert Lebrun

Robert is Edna's confidant and love interest. His affection for Edna awakens her emotional and romantic desires, but he ultimately chooses to adhere to societal norms rather than pursue a

relationship with her.

Alcée Arobin

Alcée is a charismatic and flirtatious man who becomes Edna's lover. His relationship with Edna is passionate but lacks the emotional depth she seeks.

Madame Ratignolle and Mademoiselle Reisz

Madame Ratignolle embodies the ideal "mother-woman" of Creole society, offering a stark contrast to Edna. Mademoiselle Reisz, a talented pianist, inspires Edna's artistic ambitions and encourages her independence.

Major Themes and Motifs

Sparknotes the awakening explores several powerful themes that remain relevant today. The novel's central ideas are woven throughout Edna's experiences and relationships.

Independence and Self-Discovery

The Awakening traces Edna's journey toward independence. Her quest for autonomy—emotionally, artistically, and romantically—is a major focus. Chopin examines the challenges women face when seeking personal fulfillment outside traditional roles.

Societal Expectations and Gender Roles

The novel critiques the restrictive social conventions of the late 1800s, especially those governing women's behavior. Edna's resistance to these norms highlights the limited options available to women and the consequences of defiance.

Love, Desire, and Identity

Edna's relationships with Robert and Alcée force her to confront her desires and question her identity. The Awakening explores the complexities of love, passion, and the search for meaning beyond marriage and motherhood.

The Sea as a Symbol

Water—especially the sea—is a recurring motif symbolizing freedom, rebirth, and escape. Edna's connection to the sea represents her longing for liberation and ultimately plays a pivotal role in the novel's conclusion.

Symbolism in The Awakening

Symbolism is a hallmark of Chopin's narrative style in *The Awakening*. The novel uses vivid imagery to reinforce its themes and character development.

- **The Sea:** Symbolizes freedom, self-discovery, and the unconscious mind. It draws Edna toward her awakening and final act of self-determination.
- **Birds:** Birds, particularly the caged parrot and the injured bird at the novel's end, represent Edna's struggle for freedom and the consequences of her rebellion.
- **Piano Music:** The music played by Mademoiselle Reisz inspires Edna's emotional awakening and desire for artistic expression.
- **Edna's House ("Pigeon House"):** Her move to a smaller residence symbolizes her break from traditional domestic life and pursuit of independence.

These symbols are integral to understanding the deeper layers of meaning in *The Awakening*.

Historical Context and Reception

Understanding the historical background is crucial for contextualizing *The Awakening*. Published at the close of the 19th century, *The Awakening* challenged the patriarchal values of the time. Its frank portrayal of female sexuality and autonomy was met with harsh criticism and led to the novel's initial obscurity.

However, as attitudes toward gender equality evolved, the novel was rediscovered in the 20th century and recognized as a pioneering work in feminist literature. *The Awakening* now occupies a central place in academic discussions about women's rights, social norms, and the evolution of American fiction.

Literary Significance and Legacy

The Awakening underscores the novel's enduring influence on literature and culture. *The Awakening* is celebrated for its innovative narrative style, psychological depth, and candid

exploration of women's experiences. Chopin's work paved the way for later feminist authors and inspired ongoing debates about freedom, identity, and societal expectations.

The novel's legacy is evident in its continued presence on school reading lists, its adaptation into films and plays, and its influence on modern discussions about gender and autonomy. The *Awakening* remains a timeless examination of selfhood and resistance, ensuring its relevance for generations of readers.

Q: What is *The Awakening* about?

A: *The Awakening* is a novel by Kate Chopin that follows Edna Pontellier's journey toward self-discovery and independence as she challenges societal expectations in late 19th-century New Orleans.

Q: Who are the main characters in *The Awakening*?

A: The main characters include Edna Pontellier, her husband Léonce Pontellier, Robert Lebrun, Alcée Arobin, Madame Ratignolle, and Mademoiselle Reisz.

Q: What are the central themes of *The Awakening*?

A: Major themes include independence, self-discovery, societal expectations, gender roles, love, desire, and the search for identity.

Q: How does the sea function as a symbol in *The Awakening*?

A: The sea symbolizes freedom, escape, and self-realization for Edna. It represents both the allure and the dangers of pursuing autonomy.

Q: Why was *The Awakening* controversial when it was published?

A: The novel was controversial due to its frank depiction of female sexuality, autonomy, and criticism of traditional gender roles, which challenged the prevailing societal norms of the late 1800s.

Q: How does Edna Pontellier change throughout the novel?

A: Edna evolves from a compliant wife and mother to a self-aware individual seeking personal fulfillment, ultimately making dramatic choices to assert her independence.

Q: What role does music play in *The Awakening*?

A: Music, especially through Mademoiselle Reisz's piano playing, inspires Edna's emotional and artistic awakening, reinforcing her desire for self-expression.

Q: How was *The Awakening* received by critics at the time?

A: Critics initially condemned *The Awakening* as immoral and inappropriate, leading to its marginalization. It was later recognized as a significant feminist work.

Q: What is the significance of birds in *The Awakening*?

A: Birds symbolize Edna's aspirations and struggles for freedom, with caged and wounded birds reflecting the constraints imposed by society.

Q: Why is *The Awakening* considered important in American literature?

A: *The Awakening* is important for its pioneering exploration of feminist themes, innovative narrative style, and lasting impact on discussions about gender, autonomy, and identity.

[Sparknotes *The Awakening*](#)

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SparkNotes *The Awakening*: Your Concise Guide to Kate Chopin's Masterpiece

Are you facing a mountain of required reading, and Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* is at the top? Don't despair! This comprehensive guide provides a thorough SparkNotes-style overview of the novel, dissecting its major themes, characters, and plot points to help you fully grasp its complexities and achieve a deeper understanding. We'll explore Edna Pontellier's journey of self-discovery, the societal constraints she faces, and the ultimately tragic consequences of her defiance. Forget endless hours of struggling through dense prose – let's unlock the secrets of *The Awakening* together.

Understanding the Novel's Core Themes:

Self-Discovery and the Search for Identity:

The Awakening is fundamentally a story about Edna Pontellier's desperate search for self-discovery. Trapped within the confines of her societal role as a wife and mother in late 19th-century Louisiana, Edna grapples with a growing sense of dissatisfaction and a yearning for something more. Her journey is not straightforward; it's a complex exploration of female identity at a time when women were largely defined by their roles within the patriarchal structure. Chopin masterfully portrays Edna's evolving understanding of herself, showing the painful process of shedding societal expectations to embrace her true desires.

The Suffocating Nature of Societal Expectations:

Edna's struggle is directly tied to the rigid societal expectations placed upon women of her time. She confronts the suffocating limitations of her marriage, the constraints of motherhood, and the pervasive societal pressure to conform to a prescribed ideal of femininity. Chopin vividly depicts the stifling atmosphere of Creole society, revealing how it restricts women's autonomy and self-expression. This restrictive environment acts as a central catalyst for Edna's rebellion and ultimately, her tragic fate.

Female Sexuality and its Societal Taboos:

A controversial aspect of The Awakening revolves around its exploration of female sexuality. Edna's burgeoning feelings for Robert Lebrun and her later affair with Alcée Arobin challenge the Victorian era's strict moral codes. The novel's unflinching portrayal of Edna's desires and her exploration of her own sexuality was revolutionary for its time, sparking debate and controversy that continues even today. Chopin skillfully depicts the consequences of defying societal norms regarding female sexuality, highlighting the risks associated with breaking free from prescribed gender roles.

Nature as a Symbol of Freedom:

Throughout the novel, nature serves as a powerful symbol of freedom and escape for Edna. The sea, in particular, represents both a source of solace and a potential path to liberation. Edna finds respite and a sense of connection to something larger than herself in the natural world, contrasting sharply with the constrictions of her social environment. This symbolic use of nature allows Chopin to further emphasize Edna's yearning for independence and her eventual tragic resolution.

Key Characters in The Awakening:

Edna Pontellier: The Protagonist's Journey

Edna is the central character, a complex and often contradictory figure. She is initially portrayed as a somewhat detached wife and mother, slowly awakening to a sense of her own individuality. Her journey is characterized by both intellectual and emotional growth, marked by moments of defiance and self-doubt. Understanding her motivations and internal conflicts is crucial to comprehending the novel's central themes.

Robert Lebrun: A Catalyst for Change

Robert represents a catalyst for Edna's awakening. His presence ignites a spark of romantic desire within her, forcing her to confront her feelings and the limitations of her marriage. However, his departure and subsequent return complicate the situation, highlighting the constraints imposed on their relationship by societal norms and personal circumstances.

Alcée Arobin: A Symbol of Temptation

Alcée serves as a symbol of both temptation and superficiality. His affair with Edna, while fulfilling a physical need, ultimately lacks the emotional depth and intellectual connection she seeks with Robert. This relationship highlights the limitations of seeking fulfillment solely through physical intimacy without true emotional connection.

Léonce Pontellier: The Uncaring Husband

Léonce represents the patriarchal structure that confines Edna. He is largely oblivious to his wife's emotional and intellectual needs, focusing primarily on maintaining appearances and social standing. His inability to understand or support Edna's evolving identity contributes significantly to her growing dissatisfaction.

Plot Summary and Key Events:

The novel follows Edna's transformation from a seemingly complacent wife and mother to a woman who actively challenges societal norms. Key plot points include her developing relationships with Robert and Alcée, her growing artistic aspirations, her attempts to establish independence, and her ultimate, tragic decision. Understanding the sequence of events is critical to appreciating the evolution of Edna's character and the thematic arc of the novel.

Conclusion:

The Awakening remains a powerful and relevant work of literature, exploring timeless themes of self-discovery, societal constraints, and female identity. By understanding the key themes, characters, and plot points, you can gain a deeper appreciation for Chopin's masterful storytelling and the lasting impact of this groundbreaking novel.

FAQs:

1. What is the significance of the title, *The Awakening*? The title refers to Edna's gradual awakening to her own desires and the limitations imposed upon her by society. It's a process of self-discovery and recognition of her own individuality.
2. Is *The Awakening* a feminist novel? While not explicitly labeled as such, *The Awakening* is widely considered a proto-feminist novel due to its unflinching portrayal of a woman challenging societal expectations and seeking autonomy.
3. What is the symbolic meaning of the sea? The sea represents freedom, escape, and a connection to something larger than oneself. It embodies both the allure of liberation and the potential for danger and destruction.
4. What is the ending of *The Awakening*? The novel ends tragically with Edna's suicide, a powerful statement about the consequences of societal constraints and the struggle for self-determination.
5. How does *The Awakening* reflect the societal norms of its time? The novel accurately portrays the limited opportunities and restrictive social expectations placed upon women in late 19th-century Louisiana, highlighting the patriarchal structure and its impact on individual lives.

sparknotes the awakening: The Awakening Kate Chopin, 2024-01-16 In late 19th-century New Orleans, social constraints are strict, especially for a married woman. Edna Pontellier leads a secure life with her husband and two children, but her restlessness grows within the confined societal norms, and the expectations placed upon her – from her husband and the world around her – create increasing pressure. During a trip to Grand Isle, an island off the coast of Louisiana, her life is turned upside down by an intense love affair, and passion forces her to question the foundations of her – and every woman's – existence. Kate Chopin's novel *The Awakening* caused a scandal with its

outspokenness when it was published in 1899. The novel's openly sexual themes and disregard for marital and societal conventions led to it not being reprinted for fifty years. It wasn't until the 1950s that Chopin's work was rediscovered, and *The Awakening* received significant acclaim. Today, it is not only seen as an early feminist milestone but also as a classic. KATE CHOPIN [1851–1904] was born in St Louis. She had six children during her marriage, and it wasn't until after her husband's death in 1882 that she emerged as a writer. She published short stories in magazines such as *Vogue* and *The Atlantic*, gaining appreciation and recognition for her depictions of the American South. However, she was also criticized for her disregard for social traditions and racial barriers.

sparknotes the awakening: The Awakening of Miss Prim Natalia Sanmartin Fenollera, 2014-07-08 In this #1 international bestseller, a young woman leaves everything behind to work as a librarian in a remote French village, where she finds her outlook on life and love challenged in every way. Prudencia Prim is a young woman of intelligence and achievement, with a deep knowledge of literature and several letters after her name. But when she accepts the post of private librarian in the village of San Ireneo de Arnois, she is unprepared for what she encounters there. Her employer, a book-loving intellectual, is dashing yet contrarian, always ready with a critique of her cherished Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott. The neighbors, too, are capable of charm and eccentricity in equal measure, determined as they are to preserve their singular little community from the modern world outside. Prudencia hoped for friendship in San Ireneo but she didn't suspect that she might find love—nor that the course of her new life would run quite so rocky or would offer challenge and heartache as well as joy, discovery, and fireside debate. Set against a backdrop of steaming cups of tea, freshly baked cakes, and lovely company, *The Awakening of Miss Prim* is a distinctive and delightfully entertaining tale of literature, philosophy, and the search for happiness.

sparknotes the awakening: The Awakening of Malcolm X Ilyasah Shabazz, Tiffany D. Jackson, 2021-01-05 *The Awakening of Malcolm X* is a powerful narrative account of the activist's adolescent years in jail, written by his daughter Ilyasah Shabazz along with 2019 Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe award-winning author, Tiffany D. Jackson. No one can be at peace until he has his freedom. In Charlestown Prison, Malcolm Little struggles with the weight of his past. Plagued by nightmares, Malcolm drifts through days, unsure of his future. Slowly, he befriends other prisoners and writes to his family. He reads all the books in the prison library, joins the debate team and the Nation of Islam. Malcolm grapples with race, politics, religion, and justice in the 1940s. And as his time in jail comes to an end, he begins to awaken -- emerging from prison more than just Malcolm Little: Now, he is Malcolm X. Here is an intimate look at Malcolm X's young adult years. While this book chronologically follows *X: A Novel*, it can be read as a stand-alone historical novel that invites larger discussions on black power, prison reform, and civil rights.

sparknotes the awakening: The Book of Awakening Mark Nepo, 2020-01-01 A new edition of the #1 NYT's bestseller by Mark Nepo, who has been called "one of the finest spiritual guides of our time" and "a consummate storyteller." Philosopher-poet and cancer survivor Mark Nepo opens a new season of freedom and joy—an escape from deadening, asleep-at-the-wheel sameness—that is both profound and clarifying. His spiritual daybook is a summons to reclaim aliveness, liberate the self, take each day one at a time, and savor the beauty offered by life's unfolding. Reading his poetic prose is like being given second sight, exposing the reader to life's multiple dimensions, each one drawn with awe and affection. *The Book of Awakening* is the result of Nepo's journey of the soul and will inspire others to embark on their own. He speaks of spirit and friendship, urging readers to stay vital and in love with this life, no matter the hardships. Encompassing many traditions and voices, Nepo's words offer insight on pain, wonder, and love. Each entry is accompanied by an exercise that will surprise and delight the reader in its mind-waking ability.

sparknotes the awakening: Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World Jack Weatherford, 2005-03-22 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The startling true history of how one extraordinary man from a remote corner of the world created an empire that led the world into the modern age—by the author featured in *Echoes of the Empire: Beyond Genghis Khan*. The Mongol army led by Genghis Khan subjugated more lands and people in twenty-five years than the Romans

did in four hundred. In nearly every country the Mongols conquered, they brought an unprecedented rise in cultural communication, expanded trade, and a blossoming of civilization. Vastly more progressive than his European or Asian counterparts, Genghis Khan abolished torture, granted universal religious freedom, and smashed feudal systems of aristocratic privilege. From the story of his rise through the tribal culture to the explosion of civilization that the Mongol Empire unleashed, this brilliant work of revisionist history is nothing less than the epic story of how the modern world was made.

sparknotes the awakening: Monstress: Book One Marjorie Liu, 2019-07-03 A teenage girl struggles to overcome the trauma of war in an alternate, matriarchal 1900s Asia that's brimming with arcane dangers. This task is made all the more difficult by her mysterious psychic link to an eldritch monster of tremendous power a connection that will transform them both, and place them in the crosshairs of both human and otherworldly powers. Creator/writer MARJORIE LIU (who made history as the first woman to win an Eisner Award for Best Writer) and creator/artist SANA TAKEDA present a deluxe, oversized hardcover edition of their beloved breakout comic in MONSTRESS, BOOK ONE. This massive edition features a striking new cover and includes never-before-seen sketches, script pages, and more for over 500 pages of award-winning content. Collects MONSTRESS #1-18

sparknotes the awakening: Parkland Dave Cullen, 2019-02-12 The New York Times bestseller about the extraordinary young survivors who took on the gun lobby: "One of the most uplifting books you will read all year." —The Washington Post Back in 1999, Dave Cullen was among the first to arrive at Columbine High, even before most of the SWAT teams went in. While writing his acclaimed account of the tragedy, he suffered two bouts of secondary PTSD. He covered all the later tragedies from a distance, working with a cadre of experts cultivated from academia and the FBI, but swore he would never return to the scene of a ghastly crime. But in 2018, Cullen went to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School because something radically different was happening. After nearly twenty years witnessing the mass shooting epidemic escalate, he was stunned and awed by the courage, anger, and conviction of the high school's students. Refusing to allow adults and the media to shape their story, these remarkable adolescents took control—pushing back against the NRA and feckless Congressional leaders, organizing the massive March for Our Lives demonstration, and inspiring millions to join their grassroots #neveragain movement. They used their grief as a catalyst for change, and galvanized a nation. Cullen unfolds the story of Parkland through the voices of key participants. Instead of taking us into the mind of the killer, he takes us into the hearts of the Douglas students as they cope with the concerns of high school students everywhere—awaiting college acceptance letters, studying for midterms, competing against their athletic rivals, putting together the yearbook, staging the musical Spring Awakening, enjoying prom—while moving forward from a horrific event that has altered them forever. Deeply researched and beautifully told, Parkland is "a moving petition to America that it not look away from the catastrophes at Columbine, Sandy Hook, Virginia Tech, and, yes, Parkland. It succeeds as an in-depth report about the 'generational campaign' in the aftermath of the Parkland tragedy, a bi-partisan movement advocating serious gun reform" (Atlanta Journal-Constitution). "[A] page-turner. . . . Both realistic and optimistic, this insightful and compassionate chronicle is a fitting testament to a new chapter in American responses to mass shootings." —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

sparknotes the awakening: The Minutemen and Their World Robert A. Gross, 2011-04-01 The Bancroft Prize-winning classic of American history now in a revised and expanded edition with a new preface and afterword by the author. On April 19, 1775, the American Revolution began at the Old North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts. The "shot heard round the world" catapulted this sleepy New England town into the height of revolutionary fervor, and Concord went on to become the intellectual capital of the new republic. The town—future home to Emerson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne—soon came to symbolize devotion to liberty, intellectual freedom, and the stubborn integrity of rural life. In *The Minutemen and Their World*, Robert A. Gross has written a remarkably subtle and detailed reconstruction of the lives and community of this special place, and a compelling

interpretation of the American Revolution as a social movement.

sparknotes the awakening: Awakening Robin Wasserman, 2007 J.D. knows she is in danger and she can not shake the dark visions in her dreams. AC 44736 and 44744.

sparknotes the awakening: The Democratization of American Christianity Nathan O. Hatch, 1991-01-23 A provocative reassessment of religion and culture in the early days of the American republic The so-called Second Great Awakening was the shaping epoch of American Protestantism, and this book is the most important study of it ever published.—James Turner, Journal of Interdisciplinary History Winner of the John Hope Franklin Publication Prize, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic book prize, and the Albert C. Outler Prize In this provocative reassessment of religion and culture in the early days of the American republic, Nathan O. Hatch argues that during this period American Christianity was democratized and common people became powerful actors on the religious scene. Hatch examines five distinct traditions or mass movements that emerged early in the nineteenth century—the Christian movement, Methodism, the Baptist movement, the black churches, and the Mormons—showing how all offered compelling visions of individual potential and collective aspiration to the unschooled and unsophisticated.

sparknotes the awakening: The Perishing Natasha Deón, 2022-11-01 A Black immortal in 1930's Los Angeles must recover the memory of her past in order to discover who she truly is in this extraordinarily affecting novel for readers of N. K. Jemisin and Octavia E. Butler. Lou, a young Black woman, wakes up in an alley in 1930s Los Angeles with no memory of how she got there or where she's from. Taken in by a caring foster family, Lou dedicates herself to her education while trying to put her mysterious origins behind her. She'll go on to become the first Black female journalist at the Los Angeles Times, but Lou's extraordinary life is about to take an even more remarkable turn. When she befriends a firefighter at a downtown boxing gym, Lou is shocked to realize that though she has no memory of meeting him, she's been drawing his face for years. Increasingly certain that their paths previously crossed—and beset by unexplainable flashes from different eras haunting her dreams—Lou begins to believe she may be an immortal sent here for a very important reason, one that only others like her can explain. Setting out to investigate the mystery of her existence, Lou must make sense of the jumble of lifetimes calling to her, just as new forces threaten the existence of those around her. Immersed in the rich historical tapestry of Los Angeles—Prohibition, the creation of Route 66, and the collapse of the St. Francis Dam—The Perishing is a stunning examination of love and justice through the eyes of one miraculous woman whose fate seems linked to the city she comes to call home.

sparknotes the awakening: The One Minute Manager Meets the Monkey Kenneth H. Blanchard, William Oncken, Hal Burrows, 1989 When a person goes to the boss with a problem and the boss agrees to do something about it, the monkey is off his back and onto the boss's. How can managers avoid these leaping monkeys? Here is priceless advice from three famous experts: how managers can meet their own priorities, give back other people's monkeys, and let them solve their own problems.

sparknotes the awakening: Daphnis and Chloe ... Longus, 1587

sparknotes the awakening: Domestic Manners of the Americans Frances Trollope, 2014-05 Domestic Manners of the Americans is an entertaining, witty, and often scathing account of Trollope's travels in America between 1827 and 1832 and her criticisms of American manners, from vulgarity to the treatment of slaves. One of the most influential travel books of the century, it also speaks to political debates on equality in England.

sparknotes the awakening: What Beauty There Is Cory Anderson, 2021-04-06 A 2022 William C. Morris YA Debut Award Finalist, What Beauty There Is is Cory Anderson's stunning novel about brutality and beauty, and about broken people trying to survive—Intense, brutal, and searingly honest, perfect for fans of Patrick Ness, Laura Ruby, and Meg Rosoff. To understand the truth, you have to start at the beginning. Ava Bardem lives in isolation, a life of silence. For seventeen years, Ava's father, a merciless man, has controlled her fate. He's taught her to love no one. But then she

meets Jack. Living in poverty, Jack Dahl is holding his breath. He and his younger brother have nothing—except each other. With their parents gone, Jack faces a stark choice: lose his brother to foster care or find the drug money that sent his father to prison. He chooses the money. Suddenly, Jack's and Ava's fates become intimately—and dangerously—linked as Ava's father hunts for the same money as Jack. When he picks up on Jack's trail, Ava must make her own wrenching choice: remain silent or speak and fight for Jack's survival. Choices. They come at a price.

sparknotes the awakening: Daring to Drive Manal Sharif, 2017-06-13 A memoir by a Saudi Arabian woman who became the unexpected leader of a movement to support women's rights describes how fundamentalism influenced her radical religious beliefs until her education, a job, and legal contradictions changed her perspectives.

sparknotes the awakening: The Awakening Nora Roberts, 2020-11-24 #1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts begins a new trilogy of adventure, romance, and magick in *The Awakening*. In the realm of Talamh, a teenage warrior named Keegan emerges from a lake holding a sword—representing both power and the terrifying responsibility to protect the Fey. In another realm known as Philadelphia, a young woman has just discovered she possesses a treasure of her own... When Breen Kelly was a girl, her father would tell her stories of magical places. Now she's an anxious twentysomething mired in student debt and working a job she hates. But one day she stumbles upon a shocking discovery: her mother has been hiding an investment account in her name. It has been funded by her long-lost father—and it's worth nearly four million dollars. This newfound fortune would be life-changing for anyone. But little does Breen know that when she uses some of the money to journey to Ireland, it will unlock mysteries she couldn't have imagined. Here, she will begin to understand why she kept seeing that silver-haired, elusive man, why she imagined his voice in her head saying Come home, Breen Siobhan. It's time you came home. Why she dreamed of dragons. And where her true destiny lies—through a portal in Galway that takes her to a land of faeries and mermaids, to a man named Keegan, and to the courage in her own heart that will guide her through a powerful, dangerous destiny...

sparknotes the awakening: Rising Out of Hatred Eli Saslow, 2019-09-03 From a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, the powerful story of how a prominent white supremacist changed his heart and mind. This is a book to help us understand the American moment and to help us better understand one another. "The story of Derek Black is the human being at his gutsy, self-reflecting, revolutionary best, told by one of America's best storytellers at his very best. *Rising Out of Hatred* proclaims if the successor to the white nationalist movement can forsake his ideological upbringing, can rebirth himself in antiracism, then we can too no matter the personal cost. This book is an inspiration." —Ibram X. Kendi, National Book Award-winning author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* Derek Black grew up at the epicenter of white nationalism. His father founded Stormfront, the largest racist community on the Internet. His godfather, David Duke, was a KKK Grand Wizard. By the time Derek turned nineteen, he had become an elected politician with his own daily radio show—already regarded as the leading light of the burgeoning white nationalist movement. We can infiltrate, Derek once told a crowd of white nationalists. We can take the country back. Then he went to college. At New College of Florida, he continued to broadcast his radio show in secret each morning, living a double life until a classmate uncovered his identity and sent an email to the entire school. Derek Black ... white supremacist, radio host ... New College student??? The ensuing uproar overtook one of the most liberal colleges in the country. Some students protested Derek's presence on campus, forcing him to reconcile for the first time with the ugliness of his beliefs. Other students found the courage to reach out to him, including an Orthodox Jew who invited Derek to attend weekly Shabbat dinners. It was because of those dinners—and the wide-ranging relationships formed at that table—that Derek started to question the science, history, and prejudices behind his worldview. As white nationalism infiltrated the political mainstream, Derek decided to confront the damage he had done. *Rising Out of Hatred* tells the story of how white-supremacist ideas migrated from the far-right fringe to the White House through the intensely personal saga of one man who eventually disavowed everything

he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost. With great empathy and narrative verve, Eli Saslow asks what Derek Black's story can tell us about America's increasingly divided nature.

sparknotes the awakening: *The Soul of a Team* Tony Dungy, 2019-01-22 From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Mentor Leader* and *Quiet Strength* comes a book sure to transform your team or organization! For most people, succeeding in life requires mastering the art of teamwork. Whether at work, school, church, or home, virtually everyone is part of a team—and when they work well, teams can accomplish more than individuals working by themselves. But not all teams are created equal. When a team isn't functioning well, individual strengths can be undermined and weaknesses accentuated, making the work environment a terrible place to be. So what does a truly effective team environment look like, and how can you create one within your own organization? As a former Super Bowl-winning coach, Tony Dungy is an expert at building and bringing out the best in a team. Drawing on his experiences from years of coaching and working with other leaders, this football fable lays out four essential principles practiced by truly effective teams. Telling the story of a fictional NFL team looking for a turnaround, *The Soul of a Team* not only identifies some of the most common issues that hold a team back but also lays out a game plan for winning teamwork. Whether you aspire to be a better leader or a stronger team player, *The Soul of a Team* will show you how to contribute to a stronger, healthier, more productive team destined for success.

sparknotes the awakening: Obsessed Allison Britz, 2017-09-19 A brave teen recounts her debilitating struggle with obsessive-compulsive disorder—and brings readers through every painful step as she finds her way to the other side—in this powerful and inspiring memoir. Until sophomore year of high school, fifteen-year-old Allison Britz lived a comfortable life in an idyllic town. She was a dedicated student with tons of extracurricular activities, friends, and loving parents at home. But after awakening from a vivid nightmare in which she was diagnosed with brain cancer, she was convinced the dream had been a warning. Allison believed that she must do something to stop the cancer in her dream from becoming a reality. It started with avoiding sidewalk cracks and quickly grew to counting steps as loudly as possible. Over the following weeks, her brain listed more dangers and fixes. She had to avoid hair dryers, calculators, cell phones, computers, anything green, bananas, oatmeal, and most of her own clothing. Unable to act “normal,” the once-popular Allison became an outcast. Her parents questioned her behavior, leading to explosive fights. When notebook paper, pencils, and most schoolbooks were declared dangerous to her health, her GPA imploded, along with her plans for the future. Finally, she allowed herself to ask for help and was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder. This brave memoir tracks Allison's descent and ultimately hopeful climb out of the depths.

sparknotes the awakening: Awaken the Giant Within Anthony Robbins, 2013 Shows readers how to clarify their personal values, resolve internal conflicts, master emotions, and overcome debilitating habits.

sparknotes the awakening: *Are You My Mother?* Alison Bechdel, 2012-05-01 The New York Times bestselling graphic memoir about Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home*, becoming the artist her mother wanted to be. Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* was a pop culture and literary phenomenon. Now, a second thrilling tale of filial sleuthery, this time about her mother: voracious reader, music lover, passionate amateur actor. Also a woman, unhappily married to a closeted gay man, whose artistic aspirations simmered under the surface of Bechdel's childhood...and who stopped touching or kissing her daughter good night, forever, when she was seven. Poignantly, hilariously, Bechdel embarks on a quest for answers concerning the mother-daughter gulf. It's a richly layered search that leads readers from the fascinating life and work of the iconic twentieth-century psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott, to one explosively illuminating Dr. Seuss illustration, to Bechdel's own (serially monogamous) adult love life. And, finally, back to Mother—to a truce, fragile and real-time, that will move and astonish all adult children of gifted mothers. A New York Times, USA Today, Time, Slate, and Barnes & Noble Best Book of the Year “As complicated, brainy, inventive and satisfying as the finest prose memoirs.”—New York Times Book Review “A work of the most humane kind of genius,

bravely going right to the heart of things: why we are who we are. It's also incredibly funny. And visually stunning. And page-turningly addictive. And heartbreaking.”—Jonathan Safran Foer “Many of us are living out the un-lived lives of our mothers. Alison Bechdel has written a graphic novel about this; sort of like a comic book by Virginia Woolf. You won't believe it until you read it—and you must!”—Gloria Steinem

sparknotes the awakening: A Woman Is No Man Etaf Rum, 2019-03-05 A Goodreads Choice Awards Finalist for Best Fiction and Best Debut • BookBrowse's Best Book of the Year • A Marie Claire Best Women's Fiction of the Year • A Real Simple Best Book of the Year • A PopSugar Best Book of the Year • A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice • A Washington Post 10 Books to Read in March • A Newsweek Best Book of the Summer • A USA Today Best Book of the Week • A Washington Book Review Difficult-To-Put-Down Novel • A Refinery 29 Best Books of the Month • A BuzzFeed News 4 Books We Couldn't Put Down Last Month • A New Arab Best Books by Arab Authors • An Electric Lit 20 Best Debuts of the First Half of 2019 • A The Millions Most Anticipated Books of the Year “Garnering justified comparisons to Khaled Hosseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns*... Etaf Rum’s debut novel is a must-read about women mustering up the bravery to follow their inner voice.” —Refinery 29 The New York Times bestseller and Read with Jenna TODAY SHOW Book Club pick telling the story of three generations of Palestinian-American women struggling to express their individual desires within the confines of their Arab culture in the wake of shocking intimate violence in their community. Where I come from, we’ve learned to silence ourselves. We’ve been taught that silence will save us. Where I come from, we keep these stories to ourselves. To tell them to the outside world is unheard of—dangerous, the ultimate shame.” Palestine, 1990.

Seventeen-year-old Isra prefers reading books to entertaining the suitors her father has chosen for her. Over the course of a week, the naïve and dreamy girl finds herself quickly betrothed and married, and is soon living in Brooklyn. There Isra struggles to adapt to the expectations of her oppressive mother-in-law Fareeda and strange new husband Adam, a pressure that intensifies as she begins to have children—four daughters instead of the sons Fareeda tells Isra she must bear. Brooklyn, 2008. Eighteen-year-old Deya, Isra’s oldest daughter, must meet with potential husbands at her grandmother Fareeda’s insistence, though her only desire is to go to college. Deya can’t help but wonder if her options would have been different had her parents survived the car crash that killed them when Deya was only eight. But her grandmother is firm on the matter: the only way to secure a worthy future for Deya is through marriage to the right man. But fate has a will of its own, and soon Deya will find herself on an unexpected path that leads her to shocking truths about her family—knowledge that will force her to question everything she thought she knew about her parents, the past, and her own future.

sparknotes the awakening: Darkness Falls on the Land of Light Douglas L. Winiarski, 2017-02-09 This sweeping history of popular religion in eighteenth-century New England examines the experiences of ordinary people living through extraordinary times. Drawing on an unprecedented quantity of letters, diaries, and testimonies, Douglas Winiarski recovers the pervasive and vigorous lay piety of the early eighteenth century. George Whitefield's preaching tour of 1740 called into question the fundamental assumptions of this thriving religious culture. Incited by Whitefield and fascinated by miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit--visions, bodily fits, and sudden conversions--countless New Englanders broke ranks with family, neighbors, and ministers who dismissed their religious experiences as delusive enthusiasm. These new converts, the progenitors of today's evangelical movement, bitterly assaulted the Congregational establishment. The 1740s and 1750s were the dark night of the New England soul, as men and women groped toward a restructured religious order. Conflict transformed inclusive parishes into exclusive networks of combative spiritual seekers. Then as now, evangelicalism emboldened ordinary people to question traditional authorities. Their challenge shattered whole communities.

sparknotes the awakening: Life on the Color Line Gregory Howard Williams, 1996-02-01 “Heartbreaking and uplifting... a searing book about race and prejudice in America... brims with insights that only someone who has lived on both sides of the racial divide could gain.”—Cleveland

Plain Dealer "A triumph of storytelling as well as a triumph of spirit."—Alex Kotlowitz, award-winning author of *There Are No Children Here* As a child in 1950s segregated Virginia, Gregory Howard Williams grew up believing he was white. But when the family business failed and his parents' marriage fell apart, Williams discovered that his dark-skinned father, who had been passing as Italian-American, was half black. The family split up, and Greg, his younger brother, and their father moved to Muncie, Indiana, where the young boys learned the truth about their heritage. Overnight, Greg Williams became black. In this extraordinary and powerful memoir, Williams recounts his remarkable journey along the color line and illuminates the contrasts between the black and white worlds: one of privilege, opportunity and comfort, the other of deprivation, repression, and struggle. He tells of the hostility and prejudice he encountered all too often, from both blacks and whites, and the surprising moments of encouragement and acceptance he found from each. *Life on the Color Line* is a uniquely important book. It is a wonderfully inspiring testament of purpose, perseverance, and human triumph. Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize

sparknotes the awakening: *Oneida* Ellen Wayland-Smith, 2016-05-03 A fascinating and unusual chapter in American history about a religious community that held radical notions of equality, sex, and religion—only to transform itself, at the beginning of the twentieth century, into a successful silverware company and a model of buttoned-down corporate propriety. In the early nineteenth century, many Americans were looking for an alternative to the Puritanism that had been the foundation of the new country. Amid the fervor of the religious revival known as the Second Great Awakening, John Humphrey Noyes, a spirited but socially awkward young man, attracted a group of devoted followers with his fiery sermons about creating Jesus' millennial kingdom here on Earth. Noyes established a revolutionary community in rural New York centered around achieving a life free of sin through God's grace, while also espousing equality of the sexes and "complex marriage," a system of free love where sexual relations with multiple partners was encouraged. Noyes's belief in the perfectibility of human nature eventually inspired him to institute a program of eugenics, known as stirpiculture, that resulted in a new generation of Oneidans who, when the Community disbanded in 1880, sought to exorcise the ghost of their fathers' disreputable sexual theories. Converted into a joint-stock company, Oneida Community, Limited, would go on to become one of the nation's leading manufacturers of silverware, and their brand a coveted mark of middle-class respectability in pre- and post-WWII America. Told by a descendant of one of the Community's original families, Ellen Wayland-Smith's *Oneida* is a captivating story that straddles two centuries to reveal how a radical, free-love sect, turning its back on its own ideals, transformed into a purveyor of the white-picket-fence American dream.

sparknotes the awakening: Awakening Patrick S. Bresnan, 2016-09-16 *Awakening: An Introduction to the History of Eastern Thought* engages students with anecdotes, primary and secondary sources, an accessible writing style, and a clear historical approach. The text focuses on India, China, and Japan, while showing the relationships that exist between Eastern and Western traditions. Patrick Bresnan consistently links the past to the present, so students may see that Eastern traditions, however ancient their origins, are living traditions and relevant to modern times.

sparknotes the awakening: Life of Pi Yann Martel, 2022-01-27 Winner of the 2022 Olivier Award for Best New Play *Life of Pi* will make you believe in the power of theatre (Times). After a cargo ship sinks in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, there are five survivors stranded on a lifeboat - a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, a Royal Bengal tiger, and a sixteen year-old boy named Pi. Time is against them, nature is harsh, who will survive? Based on one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction - winner of the Man Booker Prize, selling over fifteen million copies worldwide - and featuring breath-taking puppetry and state-of-the-art visuals, *Life of Pi* is a universally acclaimed, smash hit adaptation of an epic journey of endurance and hope. Adapted by acclaimed playwright Lolita Chakrabarti, this edition was published to coincide with the West End premiere in November 2021.

sparknotes the awakening: Solitary Albert Woodfox, 2019-03-12 "An uncommonly powerful memoir about four decades in confinement . . . A profound book about friendship [and] solitary

confinement in the United States.” —New York Times Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award *Solitary* is the unforgettable life story of a man who served more than four decades in solitary confinement—in a 6-foot by 9-foot cell, twenty-three hours a day, in Louisiana’s notorious Angola prison—all for a crime he did not commit. That Albert Woodfox survived at all was a feat of extraordinary endurance. That he emerged whole from his odyssey within America’s prison and judicial systems is a triumph of the human spirit. While behind bars in his early twenties, Albert was inspired to join the Black Panther Party because of its social commitment and code of living. He was serving a fifty-year sentence in Angola for armed robbery when, on April 17, 1972, a white guard was killed. Albert and another member of the Panthers were accused of the crime and immediately put in solitary confinement. Without a shred of evidence against them, their trial was a sham of justice. Decades passed before Albert was finally released in February 2016. Sustained by the solidarity of two fellow Panthers, Albert turned his anger into activism and resistance. The Angola 3, as they became known, resolved never to be broken by the corruption that effectively held them for decades as political prisoners. *Solitary* is a clarion call to reform the inhumanity of solitary confinement in the United States and around the world.

sparknotes the awakening: *An American Childhood* Annie Dillard, 2009-10-13 *An American Childhood* more than takes the reader's breath away. It consumes you as you consume it, so that, when you have put down this book, you're a different person, one who has virtually experienced another childhood. — Chicago Tribune A book that instantly captured the hearts of readers across the country, *An American Childhood* is Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard's poignant, vivid memoir of growing up in Pittsburgh in the 1950s and 60s. Dedicated to her parents—from whom she learned a love of language and the importance of following your deepest passions—Dillard's brilliant memoir will resonate with anyone who has ever recalled with longing playing baseball on an endless summer afternoon, caring for a pristine rock collection, or knowing in your heart that a book was written just for you.

sparknotes the awakening: *Think Like a Monk* Jay Shetty, 2020-09-08 Jay Shetty, social media superstar and host of the #1 podcast *On Purpose*, distills the timeless wisdom he learned as a monk into practical steps anyone can take every day to live a less anxious, more meaningful life. When you think like a monk, you'll understand: -How to overcome negativity -How to stop overthinking -Why comparison kills love -How to use your fear -Why you can't find happiness by looking for it -How to learn from everyone you meet -Why you are not your thoughts -How to find your purpose -Why kindness is crucial to success -And much more... Shetty grew up in a family where you could become one of three things—a doctor, a lawyer, or a failure. His family was convinced he had chosen option three: instead of attending his college graduation ceremony, he headed to India to become a monk, to meditate every day for four to eight hours, and devote his life to helping others. After three years, one of his teachers told him that he would have more impact on the world if he left the monk's path to share his experience and wisdom with others. Heavily in debt, and with no recognizable skills on his résumé, he moved back home in north London with his parents. Shetty reconnected with old school friends—many working for some of the world's largest corporations—who were experiencing tremendous stress, pressure, and unhappiness, and they invited Shetty to coach them on well-being, purpose, and mindfulness. Since then, Shetty has become one of the world's most popular influencers. In 2017, he was named in the *Forbes* magazine 30-under-30 for being a game-changer in the world of media. In 2018, he had the #1 video on Facebook with over 360 million views. His social media following totals over 38 million, he has produced over 400 viral videos which have amassed more than 8 billion views, and his podcast, *On Purpose*, is consistently ranked the world's #1 Health and Wellness podcast. In this inspiring, empowering book, Shetty draws on his time as a monk to show us how we can clear the roadblocks to our potential and power. Combining ancient wisdom and his own rich experiences in the ashram, *Think Like a Monk* reveals how to overcome negative thoughts and habits, and access the calm and purpose that lie within all of us. He transforms abstract lessons into advice and exercises we can all apply to reduce stress, improve relationships, and give the gifts we find in ourselves to the world.

Shetty proves that everyone can—and should—think like a monk.

sparknotes the awakening: *The Awakening and Selected Short Stories* ,

sparknotes the awakening: *The Awakening and Selected Short Fiction* Kate Chopin, 2003 A reprint of the 1899 novel about Edna Pontellier, a Victorian-era wife and mother who is awakened to the full force of her desire for love and freedom when she becomes enamored with Robert LeBrun, a young man she meets while on vacation. Also includes the short stories: Beyond the bayou -- Ma'ame Pelagie -- Desiree's baby -- A Respectable woman -- The Kiss -- A Pair of silk stockings -- The Locket -- A Reflection.

sparknotes the awakening: *Zodiac Academy* Peckham, Susanne Valenti, 2021-08-30 **This is a retelling of book 1 of Zodiac Academy from the perspective of Orion, Darius, Caleb, Seth and Max** The Vega twins are alive. Those five words circle in my mind like an oncoming storm. They change everything about the future we thought had been set in stone. They challenge everything we were raised to be and the stability of the entire kingdom. They're coming to our academy looking for the life that was stolen from them, but we can't let them take it back. So much hangs in the balance and we can't risk the arrival of two naïve princesses destroying everything we worked so hard for. I have trained in dark magic, overcome all challenges and stood in the shadow of Lionel Acrux for far too long already. I won't let them come between me and his downfall. Which means they have to go before they discover how powerful they truly are. This is a retelling of the first book in the Zodiac Academy series from the point of view of Orion and the Heirs and should be read after you have finished the original story. It includes scenes from alternative points of view as well over 50k words of additional content and scenes which have never before been revealed. So prepare to step into the dark minds of the Zodiac boys and watch out for the heartbreak and carnage that will ensue.

sparknotes the awakening: The Weight Of Ink Rachel Kadish, 2017-06-06 WINNER OF A NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD A USA TODAY BESTSELLER A gifted writer, astonishingly adept at nuance, narration, and the politics of passion.—Toni Morrison Set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history. When Helen is summoned by a former student to view a cache of newly discovered seventeenth-century Jewish documents, she enlists the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student as impatient as he is charming, and embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents' scribe, the elusive Aleph. Electrifying and ambitious, *The Weight of Ink* is about women separated by centuries—and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order to reconcile the life of the heart and mind.

sparknotes the awakening: *The Haunting of Sunshine Girl* Paige McKenzie, Alyssa Sheinmel, 2015-03-26 *The Haunting of Sunshine Girl* is the first in a frighteningly good new series based on the popular YouTube sensation *The Haunting of Sunshine Girl Network*, created by Paige McKenzie. In that place where you're more asleep than awake any more, I hear something else. A phrase uttered in a child's voice, no more than a whisper: Night Night. Something freaky's going on with Sunshine's new house . . . there's the chill that wraps itself around her bones, the giggling she can hear in the dead of night, and then the strange shadows that lurk in her photographs. But the more weird stuff that happens, the less her mum believes her. Sunshine's always had a quirky affiliation with the past, but this time, history is getting much too close for comfort . . . If there is something, or someone, haunting her house, what do they want? And what will they do if Sunshine can't help them? As things become more frightening and dangerous, and the giggles she hears turn to sobs and screams, Sunshine has no choice but to accept what she is, face the test before her and save her mother from a fate worse than death.

sparknotes the awakening: *No More Mr Nice Guy* Dr Robert A Glover, 2022-11-02 Originally published as an e-book that became a controversial media phenomenon, *No More Mr. Nice Guy!* landed its author, a certified marriage and family therapist, on *The O'Reilly Factor* and the Rush Limbaugh radio show. Dr. Robert Glover has dubbed the Nice Guy Syndrome trying too hard to

please others while neglecting one's own needs, thus causing unhappiness and resentment. It's no wonder that unfulfilled Nice Guys lash out in frustration at their loved ones, claims Dr. Glover. He explains how they can stop seeking approval and start getting what they want in life, by presenting the information and tools to help them ensure their needs are met, to express their emotions, to have a satisfying sex life, to embrace their masculinity and form meaningful relationships with other men, and to live up to their creative potential.

sparknotes the awakening: *Dawn* Octavia E. Butler, 2021-04-27 One woman is called upon to rebuild the future of humankind after a nuclear war, in this revelatory post-apocalyptic tale from the award-winning author of *Parable of the Sower*. When Lilith Iyapo wakes from a centuries-long sleep, she finds herself aboard the vast spaceship of the Oankali. She discovers that the Oankali - a seemingly benevolent alien race -- intervened in the fate of the humanity hundreds of years ago, saving everyone who survived a nuclear war from a dying, ruined Earth and then putting them into a deep sleep. After learning all they could about Earth and its beings, the Oankali healed the planet, cured cancer, increased human strength, and they now want Lilith to lead her people back to Earth -- but salvation comes at a price. Hopeful and thought-provoking, this post-apocalyptic narrative deftly explores gender and race through the eyes of characters struggling to adapt during a pivotal time of crisis and change.

sparknotes the awakening: Desiree's Baby Kate Chopin, 2017-04 *Desiree's Baby* BY Kate Chopin is about the daughter of Monsieur and Madame Valmondé, who are wealthy French Creoles in antebellum Louisiana. Abandoned as a baby, Desiree was found by Monsieur Valmondé lying in the shadow of a stone pillar near the Valmondé gateway. She is courted by the son of another wealthy, well-known and respected French Creole family, Armand. They marry and have a child. People who see the baby have the sense it is different. Eventually they realize that the baby's skin is the same color as a quadroon (one-quarter African)-the baby has African ancestry. At the time of the story, this would have been considered a problem for a person believed to be white.

sparknotes the awakening: The Awakening L. J. Smith, 2010-01-01 Elena's discovers her exciting new boyfriend is actually a vampire.

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