

the awakening sparknotes

the awakening sparknotes serves as an essential guide for students, literature enthusiasts, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Kate Chopin's groundbreaking novel. In this comprehensive article, you'll discover a detailed summary of *The Awakening*, in-depth character analyses, exploration of major themes and symbols, and an overview of the novel's historical context. The article also examines the literary techniques Chopin employs to convey her message and addresses the book's critical reception and enduring legacy. Whether you're preparing for an essay, exploring classic literature, or searching for insights into feminist literature, this guide will provide valuable knowledge, clear explanations, and concise summaries to enhance your comprehension of *The Awakening*.

- Summary of *The Awakening*
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Summary of *The Awakening*

The Awakening, written by Kate Chopin and published in 1899, follows Edna Pontellier, a young wife and mother living in Creole society in Louisiana. The story begins during a summer vacation on Grand Isle, where Edna starts to question her traditional role as a wife and mother. Surrounded by the sea and a cast of intriguing characters, Edna experiences a series of awakenings—spiritual, emotional, and sexual—that challenge the expectations placed upon her by society.

As Edna becomes increasingly aware of her desires and seeks independence, she distances herself from her husband Léonce and forms a close bond with Robert Lebrun, a young man who reciprocates her feelings. The return to New Orleans brings more challenges as Edna strives for autonomy by moving into her own home and pursuing her art. Despite her efforts, societal pressures and isolation lead Edna to make a final, tragic choice. *The Awakening's* plot highlights the conflict between personal freedom and societal expectations, making it a cornerstone of early feminist literature.

Main Characters in The Awakening

Edna Pontellier

Edna Pontellier is the protagonist of *The Awakening*. She undergoes significant personal growth, moving from a conventional wife and mother to a woman determined to live by her own rules. Edna's journey is marked by her quest for identity, autonomy, and passion, which ultimately causes conflict with the rigid moral codes of her society.

Léonce Pontellier

Léonce Pontellier is Edna's husband, a successful businessman who expects his wife to fulfill her social and domestic duties. His inability to understand Edna's transformation underscores the constraints women faced in the 19th century.

Robert Lebrun

Robert Lebrun is a charming young man who forms a close, romantic friendship with Edna. His affection and respect for Edna spark her emotional awakening, but his own adherence to societal norms ultimately prevents their relationship from flourishing.

Adèle Ratignolle

Adèle Ratignolle represents the ideal Creole woman—devoted, nurturing, and self-sacrificing. She serves as a foil to Edna, highlighting the differences between traditional and modern femininity.

Mademoiselle Reisz

Mademoiselle Reisz is a talented, independent pianist who encourages Edna's artistic ambitions. Her strength and nonconformity inspire Edna, but also demonstrate the loneliness that can accompany true independence.

Major Themes and Symbols

Search for Identity and Independence

A central theme in *The Awakening* is Edna's search for selfhood within a restrictive society. She strives to break free from traditional roles and assert her individuality, even as it leads to isolation and conflict. This theme resonates with readers as a powerful exploration of female empowerment and autonomy.

Feminism and Societal Expectations

The Awakening is often cited as an early feminist text. It critiques the limitations placed on women in the late 19th century and challenges the notion that women should sacrifice personal fulfillment for family and social obligations.

Marriage and Motherhood

Through characters like Edna and Adèle, Chopin examines the roles of marriage and motherhood, contrasting societal ideals with individual desires. Edna's struggle reflects the tension between self-fulfillment and the duties imposed upon her by marriage and motherhood.

The Sea as Symbol

The sea is a recurring symbol in *The Awakening*, representing freedom, escape, and self-discovery. Edna's connection to the sea parallels her journey toward independence, and its final role in the novel underscores the depth of her transformation.

Other Important Symbols

- Birds: Symbolize freedom and entrapment, particularly the caged bird and the bird with a broken wing.
- Art and Music: Reflect Edna's inner world and her struggle for self-expression.
- Houses: Represent societal expectations, security, and confinement versus independence.

Historical and Literary Context

The Awakening was published during the late 19th century, a period marked by strict social codes, especially regarding gender roles and family life. In this era, women were expected to prioritize home and family over personal ambition. Chopin's novel challenged these

norms, which led to initial criticism and controversy.

The book's setting in Creole Louisiana provides a unique backdrop, blending French, Spanish, and American influences. The cultural richness of New Orleans and Grand Isle adds depth to the narrative and highlights contrasts between conformity and individuality. The Awakening draws on literary movements such as realism and naturalism, depicting everyday experiences and examining the influence of environment on individual behavior.

Literary Techniques in The Awakening

Point of View and Narrative Style

The Awakening is told through a third-person limited narrator, focusing closely on Edna's inner thoughts and experiences. This narrative style allows readers intimate access to her awakening and emotional turmoil, while also illustrating the limitations imposed by her environment.

Symbolism and Imagery

Chopin uses rich symbolism throughout the novel. The sea, birds, and music all serve as metaphors for Edna's transformation. Vivid imagery immerses readers in the lush settings of Grand Isle and New Orleans, enhancing the mood and emotional impact.

Irony and Subtle Critique

Irony permeates The Awakening, particularly in the contrast between societal expectations and individual desires. Chopin subtly critiques the status quo, using Edna's experiences to highlight the costs of nonconformity.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Upon its publication, The Awakening faced harsh criticism for its frank portrayal of female sexuality and its challenge to traditional gender roles. Many contemporary readers considered it scandalous and immoral, leading to its initial obscurity. However, the novel was rediscovered in the 20th century and is now celebrated as a pioneering work of feminist literature.

Today, The Awakening is studied in classrooms worldwide and is recognized for its powerful depiction of women's struggles for autonomy. Its themes remain relevant, contributing to ongoing discussions about gender, identity, and societal expectations. The novel's influence extends to modern literature and feminist thought, securing its place in the literary canon.

Q&A: Trending Questions about the awakening sparknotes

Q: What is the main plot of The Awakening?

A: The main plot follows Edna Pontellier, a woman in 19th-century Louisiana who seeks personal freedom and identity, challenging societal expectations as she experiences emotional and spiritual awakenings.

Q: Who are the key characters in The Awakening?

A: Key characters include Edna Pontellier (protagonist), Léonce Pontellier (her husband), Robert Lebrun (her love interest), Adèle Ratignolle (her friend), and Mademoiselle Reisz (an independent pianist).

Q: What are the major themes in The Awakening?

A: Major themes include female independence, identity, societal expectations, the constraints of marriage and motherhood, and the quest for self-fulfillment.

Q: Why is the sea important in The Awakening?

A: The sea symbolizes freedom, escape, and self-discovery, mirroring Edna's emotional journey and serving as a metaphor for her quest for autonomy.

Q: How did critics react to The Awakening when it was first published?

A: The novel faced significant criticism for its bold portrayal of female sexuality and rejection of traditional gender roles, resulting in controversy and limited initial popularity.

Q: What literary techniques does Kate Chopin use in The Awakening?

A: Chopin uses symbolism, imagery, irony, and a third-person limited narrative to convey Edna's inner life and critique societal norms.

Q: How does The Awakening address feminism?

A: The novel explores feminist themes by highlighting Edna's struggle for independence and selfhood, challenging the traditional roles of women in society.

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

A: Birds symbolize both freedom and entrapment, reflecting Edna's aspirations and the limitations she faces within her restrictive environment.

Q: What impact has The Awakening had on literature?

A: The Awakening is considered a landmark in feminist literature, influencing later works and ongoing discussions about gender and identity in society.

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The Awakening SparkNotes: A Comprehensive Guide to Kate Chopin's Masterpiece

Are you facing a looming deadline for your English class, grappling with the complexities of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, or simply looking for a deeper understanding of this feminist classic? This comprehensive guide provides a concise yet insightful SparkNotes-style overview of *The Awakening*, covering its key themes, characters, and plot points. We'll delve into Edna Pontellier's journey of self-discovery, exploring the societal constraints of the late 19th century and the powerful impact of awakening to one's true self. Prepare to unlock the secrets of this enduring novel!

The Awakening: A Quick Plot Summary

The Awakening follows Edna Pontellier, a seemingly content wife and mother living in Grand Isle, Louisiana, during the late 1800s. Her seemingly idyllic life begins to unravel as she experiences a gradual awakening of her own desires and aspirations, desires that sharply contrast with the societal expectations placed upon women of her time. This awakening is sparked by a growing dissatisfaction with her marriage to Léonce Pontellier, and a burgeoning romantic interest in Robert Lebrun. As Edna confronts the limitations of her role as a wife and mother, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery, ultimately leading to a tragic yet powerful conclusion.

Key Characters and Their Significance

Understanding the characters is crucial to grasping the novel's complexities.

Edna Pontellier: The Protagonist's Journey of Self-Discovery

Edna is the central figure, a woman trapped by societal expectations of the time. She is initially presented as a somewhat detached mother and wife, but her encounter with Robert and her exploration of her artistic inclinations ignite a profound shift within her. Her journey is one of rebellion, self-expression, and ultimately, tragic acceptance of her own desires.

Robert Lebrun: The Catalyst for Change

Robert acts as a catalyst for Edna's awakening, representing a freedom and passion she craves. His departure and subsequent return dramatically shape Edna's emotional landscape. He embodies the romantic ideal she seeks, but ultimately, he is unable to provide her with the complete liberation she desires.

Léonce Pontellier: The Confining Husband

Léonce, Edna's husband, represents the patriarchal structure that confines Edna. He is largely oblivious to his wife's inner turmoil, prioritizing societal appearances and his own comfort over Edna's emotional needs. His character highlights the limitations placed upon women within the confines of a conventional marriage.

Alcée Arobin: A Tempting but Flawed Alternative

Alcée represents a different kind of relationship for Edna, one based on passionate physical attraction. However, his relationship with Edna lacks the depth and emotional connection she truly seeks. He serves as a temporary distraction rather than a lasting solution to her dissatisfaction.

Mademoiselle Reisz: The Independent Woman

Mademoiselle Reisz, a talented musician, acts as a mentor figure for Edna. She represents a form of female independence and artistic self-expression that Edna admires and strives towards. She is a symbol of the unconventional path Edna seeks to forge for herself.

Exploring Key Themes in The Awakening

The Awakening explores several powerful and enduring themes:

The Search for Identity and Self-Expression

This is the most central theme, epitomized by Edna's struggle to define herself outside the restrictive roles imposed upon women in her society. Her exploration of art, her burgeoning

romantic relationships, and her ultimate defiance of societal norms all contribute to this quest.

The Suffocating Nature of Societal Expectations

The novel powerfully critiques the societal expectations placed upon women in the late 19th century. Edna's struggle highlights the limitations imposed on women regarding marriage, motherhood, and self-expression.

The Power of Female Friendship and Mentorship

The relationships between Edna and other women, particularly Mademoiselle Reisz, highlight the importance of female support and guidance in navigating a patriarchal society. These relationships provide Edna with alternative models of womanhood and offer crucial emotional support.

The Inevitability of Tragedy

While hopeful at times, Edna's journey ultimately culminates in a tragic conclusion, highlighting the devastating consequences of challenging deeply entrenched societal norms. Edna's tragic end emphasizes the limitations and frustrations faced by women who dared to break free from the constraints of their time.

The Awakening's Enduring Legacy

The Awakening, despite its tragic ending, remains a powerful and relevant work of literature. Its exploration of female identity, societal constraints, and the search for self-expression continues to resonate with readers today, cementing its place as a feminist classic. Edna's journey serves as a testament to the enduring struggle for women to define their own lives on their own terms.

Conclusion

The Awakening is more than just a novel; it's a testament to the enduring human spirit's desire for self-discovery and liberation. By understanding its key characters, plot points, and themes, you can truly appreciate Chopin's masterful portrayal of a woman confronting the limitations of her time. This guide serves as a starting point for your exploration of this complex and rewarding literary masterpiece.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the main conflict in The Awakening? The central conflict is Edna's internal struggle against the societal expectations placed upon her, coupled with her external conflicts with her

husband and her own desires.

2. What is the significance of the sea in *The Awakening*? The sea symbolizes freedom, escape, and ultimately, a release from the constraints of land and society. It represents a path to self-discovery, even if it's a tragic one.
3. How does *The Awakening* reflect feminist ideals? The novel challenges the patriarchal norms of its time by portraying a woman who actively resists the limitations imposed upon her, ultimately sacrificing her life in pursuit of self-expression.
4. Is *The Awakening* a happy ending or sad ending? The novel ends tragically, with Edna's death, but this tragic ending underscores the profound impact of challenging restrictive societal norms and the devastating consequences for women who dared to defy them.
5. What is the best way to understand the symbolism in *The Awakening*? Consider the recurring motifs – the sea, birds, and the different relationships Edna has – and how they represent Edna's evolving sense of self and her struggle for freedom. Look for metaphorical meaning beyond the literal events.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: *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.

the awakening sparknotes: *The House on Mango Street* Sandra Cisneros, 2013-04-30 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A coming-of-age classic about a young girl growing up in Chicago • Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught in schools and universities alike, and translated around the world—from the winner of the 2019 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. “Cisneros draws on her rich [Latino] heritage...and seduces with precise, spare prose, creat[ing] unforgettable characters we want to lift off the page. She is not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one.” —The New York Times Book Review *The House on Mango Street* is one of the most cherished novels of the last fifty years. Readers from all walks of life have fallen for the voice of Esperanza Cordero, growing up in Chicago and inventing for herself who and what she will become. “In English my name means hope,” she says. “In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. Told in a series of vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes joyous—Cisneros’s masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery and one of the greatest neighborhood novels of all time. Like Sinclair Lewis’s *Main Street* or Toni Morrison’s *Sula*, it makes a world through people and their voices, and it does so in language that is poetic and direct. This gorgeous coming-of-age novel is a celebration of the power of telling one’s story and of being proud of where you’re from.

the awakening sparknotes: *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.

the awakening sparknotes: *The Story Of An Hour* Kate Chopin, 2014-04-22 Mrs. Louise Mallard, afflicted with a heart condition, reflects on the death of her husband from the safety of her locked room. Originally published in *Vogue* magazine, “The Story of an Hour” was retitled as “The

Dream of an Hour," when it was published amid much controversy under its new title a year later in St. Louis Life. "The Story of an Hour" was adapted to film in *The Joy That Kills* by director Tina Rathbone, which was part of a PBS anthology called *American Playhouse*. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

the awakening sparknotes: *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 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.

the awakening sparknotes: *Hatchet* Gary Paulsen, 1989-07-01 After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

the awakening sparknotes: *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.

the awakening sparknotes: *The Half Has Never Been Told* Edward E Baptist, 2016-10-25 A groundbreaking history demonstrating that America's economic supremacy was built on the backs of enslaved people Winner of the 2015 Avery O. Craven Prize from the Organization of American Historians Winner of the 2015 Sidney Hillman Prize Americans tend to cast slavery as a pre-modern institution -- the nation's original sin, perhaps, but isolated in time and divorced from America's later success. But to do so robs the millions who suffered in bondage of their full legacy. As historian Edward E. Baptist reveals in *The Half Has Never Been Told*, the expansion of slavery in the first eight decades after American independence drove the evolution and modernization of the United States. In the span of a single lifetime, the South grew from a narrow coastal strip of worn-out

tobacco plantations to a continental cotton empire, and the United States grew into a modern, industrial, and capitalist economy. Told through the intimate testimonies of survivors of slavery, plantation records, newspapers, as well as the words of politicians and entrepreneurs, *The Half Has Never Been Told* offers a radical new interpretation of American history.

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

the awakening sparknotes: 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

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: The Code of the Extraordinary Mind Vishen Lakhiani, 2016-05-10 What if everything we think we know about how the world works--our ideas of love, education, spirituality, work, happiness, and love--are based on Brules (bullsh*t rules) that get passed from generation to generation and are long past their expiration date? This book teaches you to think like some of the greatest non-conformist minds of our era, to question, challenge, hack, and create new rules for YOUR life so you can define success on your own terms. *The Code of the Extraordinary Mind* is a blueprint of laws to break us free from the shackles of an ordinary life. It makes a case that everything we know about the world is shaped by conditioning and habit. And thus, most people live their lives based on limiting rules and outdated beliefs about pretty much everything--love, work, money, parenting, sex, health, and more--which they inherit and pass on from generation to generation. But what if you could remove these outdated ideas and start anew? What would your life

look like if you could forget the rules of the past, and redefine what happiness, purpose, and success mean for you? Not Just a Book, but a Movement Blending computational thinking, integral theory, modern spirituality, evolutionary biology, and humor, personal growth entrepreneur Vishen Lakhiani provides a revolutionary 10-point framework for understanding and enhancing the human self. You will learn about bending reality. You will learn how to apply unique models like consciousness engineering to help you learn and grow at speeds like never before. You will learn to make a dent in the universe and discover your quest. This framework is based on Lakhiani's personal experiences, the 5 million people he's reached through Mindvalley, and 200 hours of interviews and questions posed to incredible minds, including Elon Musk, Richard Branson, Peter Diamandis, Ken Wilber, Dean Kamen, Arianna Huffington, Michael Beckwith, and other legendary leaders. In a unique fusion of cutting-edge ideas, personal stories, irreverence, and a brilliant teaching style, Lakhiani reveals the 10 powerful laws that form a step-by-step process that you can apply to life to shed years of struggle and elevate yourself to exceptional new heights. The 10 Laws to an Extraordinary Life This book challenges conventional ideas of relationships, goal-setting, mindfulness, happiness, and meaning. In a unique fusion of cutting-edge ideas, personal stories, and humorous irreverence, and not to mention, humor and napkin diagrams, this framework combines computational thinking with personal growth to provide a powerful framework for re-coding yourself--and replacing old, limiting models that hold you back with new, empowering beliefs and behaviors that set you on the path toward an extraordinary life. A life of more happiness and achievement than you might have dared to dream possible. Once you discover the code, you will question your limits and realize that there are none. Step into a new understanding of the world around you and your place in it, and find yourself operating at a new, extraordinary level in every way...happiness, purpose, fulfillment, and love. This Book Is a Living, Breathing Manifesto That Goes Beyond a Traditional Publication For those who want more, The Code of the Extraordinary Mind connects to a full on immersive experience including ways for you to dive into particular chapters to unlock additional videos or training and connect with each other and the author to learn via peer-to-peer learning networks.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: A New Earth Eckhart Tolle, 2006 First published in the United States of America by Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2005--Copyright page.

the awakening sparknotes: How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America Kiese Laymon, 2020-11-10 A New York Times Notable Book A revised collection with thirteen essays, including six new to this edition and seven from the original edition, by the "star in the American literary firmament, with a voice that is courageous, honest, loving, and singularly beautiful" (NPR). Brilliant and uncompromising, piercing and funny, *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America* is essential reading. This new edition of award-winning author Kiese Laymon's first work of nonfiction looks inward, drawing heavily on the author and his family's experiences, while simultaneously examining the world—Mississippi, the South, the United States—that has shaped their lives. With subjects that range from an interview with his mother to reflections on Ole Miss football, Outkast, and the labor of Black women, these thirteen insightful essays highlight Laymon's profound love of language and his artful rendering of experience, trumpeting why he is "simply one of the most talented writers in America" (New York magazine).

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

the awakening sparknotes: Children of Time Adrian Tchaikovsky, 2018-09-18 Winner of the 2023 Hugo Award for Best Series! Adrian Tchaikovsky's award-winning novel *Children of Time*, is the epic story of humanity's battle for survival on a terraformed planet. Who will inherit this new Earth? The last remnants of the human race left a dying Earth, desperate to find a new home among the stars. Following in the footsteps of their ancestors, they discover the greatest treasure of the past age—a world terraformed and prepared for human life. But all is not right in this new Eden. In

the long years since the planet was abandoned, the work of its architects has borne disastrous fruit. The planet is not waiting for them, pristine and unoccupied. New masters have turned it from a refuge into mankind's worst nightmare. Now two civilizations are on a collision course, both testing the boundaries of what they will do to survive. As the fate of humanity hangs in the balance, who are the true heirs of this new Earth?

the awakening sparknotes: *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...

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: UNSCRIPTED MJ DeMarco, 2017-05-23 What if Life Wasn't

About 50 Years of Wage-Slavery, Paying Bills and then Dying? Tired of sleepwalking through a mediocre life bribed by mindless video-gaming, redemptive weekends, and a scant paycheck from a soul-suffocating job? Welcome to the SCRIPTED club— where membership is neither perceived or consented. The fact is, ever since you've been old enough to sit obediently in a classroom, you have been culturally engineered for servitude, unwittingly enslaved into a Machiavellian system where illusionary rules go unchallenged, sanctified traditions go unquestioned, and lifelong dreams go unfulfilled. As a result, your life is hijacked and marginalised into debt, despair, and dependence. Life's death sentence becomes the daily curse of the trivial and mundane. Fun fades. Dreams die. Don't let life's consolation prize become a car and a weekend. Recapture what is yours and make a revolutionary repossession of life-and-liberty through the pursuit of entrepreneurship. A paradigm shift isn't needed—the damn paradigm needs to be thrown-out altogether. The truth is, if you blindly follow conventional wisdom pushed by conventional people living conventional lives, can you expect to be anything but conventional? Rewrite life's script: ditch the job, give Wall Street the bird, and escape the insanity of trading your life away for a paycheck and an elderly promise called retirement. UNSCRIPT today and start leading life— instead of life leading you.

the awakening sparknotes: *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

the awakening sparknotes: *Olive, Again* Elizabeth Strout, 2019-10-15 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK • Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout continues the life of her beloved Olive Kitteridge, a character who has captured the imaginations of millions. "Strout managed to make me love this strange woman I'd never met, who I knew nothing about. What a terrific writer she is."—Zadie Smith, *The Guardian* "Just as wonderful as the original . . . Olive, Again poignantly reminds us that empathy, a requirement for love, helps make life 'not unhappy.'"—NPR NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY PEOPLE AND ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Time • Vogue • NPR • The Washington Post • Chicago Tribune • Vanity Fair • Entertainment Weekly • BuzzFeed • Esquire • Real Simple • Good Housekeeping • The New York Public Library • The Guardian • Evening Standard • Kirkus Reviews • Publishers Weekly • BookPage Prickly, wry, resistant to change yet ruthlessly honest and deeply empathetic, Olive Kitteridge is "a compelling life force" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). The *New Yorker* has said that Elizabeth Strout "animates the ordinary with an astonishing force," and she has never done so more clearly than in these pages, where the iconic Olive struggles to understand not only herself and her own life but the lives of those around her in the town of Crosby, Maine. Whether with a teenager coming to terms with the loss of her father, a young woman about to give birth during a hilariously inopportune moment, a nurse who confesses a secret high school crush, or a lawyer who struggles with an inheritance she does not want to accept, the unforgettable Olive will continue to startle us, to move us, and to inspire us—in Strout's words—"to bear the burden of the mystery with as much grace as we can." Praise for *Olive, Again* "Olive is a brilliant creation not only because of her eternal

cantankerousness but because she's as brutally candid with herself about her shortcomings as she is with others. Her honesty makes people strangely willing to confide in her, and the raw power of Ms. Strout's writing comes from these unvarnished exchanges, in which characters reveal themselves in all of their sadness and badness and confusion. . . . The great, terrible mess of living is spilled out across the pages of this moving book. Ms. Strout may not have any answers for it, but she isn't afraid of it either."—The Wall Street Journal

the awakening sparknotes: *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.

the awakening sparknotes: *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.

the awakening sparknotes: *The Secret Life of Bees* Sue Monk Kidd, 2003-01-28 The multi-million bestselling novel about a young girl's journey towards healing and the transforming power of love, from the award-winning author of *The Invention of Wings* and *The Book of Longings* Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted Black stand-in mother, Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of Black beekeeping sisters, Lily is

introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

the awakening sparknotes: I Have Lived a Thousand Years Livia Bitton-Jackson, 2011-11-01 What is death all about? What is life all about? So wonders thirteen-year-old Elli Friedmann as she fights for her life in a Nazi concentration camp. A remarkable memoir, *I Have Lived a Thousand Years* is a story of cruelty and suffering, but at the same time a story of hope, faith, perseverance, and love. It wasn't long ago that Elli led a normal life that included family, friends, school, and thoughts about boys. A life in which Elli could lie and daydream for hours that she was a beautiful and elegant celebrated poet. But these adolescent daydreams quickly darken in March 1944, when the Nazis invade Hungary. First Elli can no longer attend school, have possessions, or talk to her neighbors. Then she and her family are forced to leave their house behind to move into a crowded ghetto, where privacy becomes a luxury of the past and food becomes a scarcity. Her strong will and faith allow Elli to manage and adjust, but what she doesn't know is that this is only the beginning. The worst is yet to come...

the awakening sparknotes: Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership Ruth Haley Barton, 2018-04-03 In this expanded edition of her spiritual formation classic, Ruth Haley Barton invites us to an honest exploration of what happens when spiritual leaders lose track of their souls. Weaving together contemporary illustrations with penetrating insight from the life of Moses, Barton explores topics such as facing the loneliness of leadership, leading from your authentic self, reenvisioning the promised land and more.

the awakening sparknotes: Desiree's Baby Kate Chopin, 2017-04 *Desiree's Baby* BY Kate Chopin is about the daughter of Monsieur and Madame Valmond💎, who are wealthy French Creoles in antebellum Louisiana. Abandoned as a baby, Desiree was found by Monsieur Valmond💎 lying in the shadow of a stone pillar near the Valmond💎 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.

the awakening sparknotes: Awareness Anthony De Mello, 1990-06-01 "Wisdom from one of the greatest spiritual masters of our time."—James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* The heart of Anthony de Mello's bestselling spiritual message is awareness. Mixing Christian spirituality, Buddhist parables, Hindu breathing exercises, and psychological insight, de Mello's words of hope come together in *Awareness* in a grand synthesis. In short chapters for reading in quiet moments at home or at the office, he cajoles and challenges: We must leave this go-go-go world of illusion and become aware. And this only happens, he insists, by becoming alive to the needs and potential of others, whether at home or in the workplace. Here, then, is a masterful book of the spirit, challenging us to wake up in every aspect of our lives.

the awakening sparknotes: Awake Angelo DiLullo, Jr., 2021-05-17 A user's manual for the awakening process.

the awakening sparknotes: The Midnight Library Matt Haig, 2021-01-27 Good morning America book club--Jacket.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

the awakening sparknotes: 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*.

the awakening sparknotes: 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.

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