

WHAT
HAPPENED

"The Awakening" was originally published on April 22, 1899.

Kate Chopin was a feminist in a place and time that wasn't ready for feminism. Her 1899 novel, "The Awakening," was a failure until it was republished in the 1970s to worldwide acclaim.

A St. Louis, Missouri, native, Chopin married Louisiana native Oscar Chopin and moved with him to New Orleans in 1870. They later moved to Cloutierville in Natchitoches Parish. After her husband died in 1882, leaving her in debt, Kate Chopin took up writing as a way to make a living.

Though Chopin moved back to her St. Louis' home, Chopin's writing remained in Louisiana.

Her first novel, "At Fault," published in 1890, is set in New Orleans and is about a young widow.

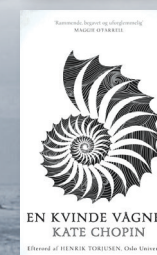
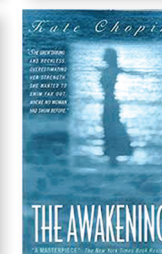
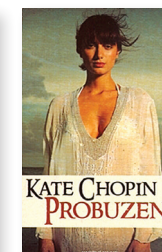
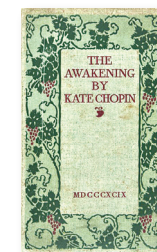
Chopin's second novel, "The Awakening," was set in Grand Isle and depicted the life of New Orleanians' visiting what was then a family resort. The novel is considered important not only because of its subject matter — a dissatisfied young woman — but also because of Chopin's fluid writing style.

"The Awakening" and some of Chopin's short stories, including "Désirée's Baby" are considered important narratives about women and race of the era.

Chopin's short stories, many of which were set in Natchitoches, appeared in several national magazines, including the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Vogue*, and were published in two collections, *Bayou Folk* (1894) and *A Night in Acadie* (1897),



Kate Chopin and three of her six children in New Orleans, 1877.



"THE VOICE OF THE SEA IS SEDUCTIVE; NEVER CEASING, WHISPERING, CLAMORING, MURMURING, INVITING THE SOUL TO WANDER FOR A SPELL IN ABYSSES OF SOLITUDE; TO LOSE ITSELF IN MAZES OF INWARD CONTEMPLATION."

'The Awakening' has been translated into dozens of languages since 1952, including Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, Galician, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malayalam, Polish, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Vietnamese.