

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Awakening

Edna Pontellier spends her summer holiday with her husband, Leonce Pontellier and her two sons, Raoul and Etienne in Grand Isle at a resort owned by Madame Lebrun and her sons, Robert and Victor Lebrun.

Edna is a rich woman of high class society. However, during the holiday, she realizes that her marriage is unsatisfactory in spite of the wealth she has. Her husband considers her his property. Besides, befriending with Madame Ratignolle reminds her of her frustrating duties as a wife and a mother. She finds a consolation in Robert Lebrun and becomes closer to him during the holiday. However, realizing that the relationship will not work, Robert decides to leave Edna and goes to Mexico.

The summer holiday is over; Edna goes back to New Orleans and starts to abandon her duties as a wife and a mother. Not long after that, from Mademoiselle Reisz she finds out that Robert still loves her and that he will come back from Mexico. She then starts to have a relationship again with Robert.

One day, she is called to Madame Ratignolle's house to help her give birth to her child. This scene reminds her again of the pressure of womanhood and motherhood. Going home with a more depressed feeling than before, she finds a note written by Robert, stating that he has gone away, leaving her for the second

time and will not come back. In the end, depressed by her life, Edna commits suicide by drowning herself in the sea of the Gulf of Mexico.

Synopsis of Mrs. Craddock

Bertha Ley, a wealthy twenty-one-year-old woman who is living with her aunt after her father's death, announces that she is going to marry Edward Craddock, a twenty-seven-year-old man. She has known Edward since childhood as Edward's father works as her father's tenant. Her decision is not approved by Dr. Ramsay, her guardian, but she insists on going through this marriage as she loves Edward very much – even though she barely knows about Edward's personalities.

Married to Edward, she soon realizes that his characteristics make him pay little attention and affection to her. She starts to be disappointed at her unsatisfactory marriage. She gets a little hope of happiness when she knows that she is pregnant, but her son is stillborn, and this makes her even more disappointed than before.

Bertha finally decides to visit her aunt in London and later goes to Paris and Rome with her as a way of relieving the grief of losing her child and the unsatisfactory marriage. Coming back from Rome to her husband, she meets the nineteen-year-old Gerald Vaudrey – a cousin she has met before – who stays in London while waiting for his trip to the United States.

They are attracted to each other but Gerald soon has to leave for the United States. Some time after Gerald's departure, she gets a letter from him which she burns without opening. Bertha returns to her husband and goes through

the depressing married life again, but some years later, Edward dies because of a riding accident and for the first time since her marriage, Bertha feels free.

Biography of Kate Chopin

Kate Chopin was an American novelist and short story writer who was born Katherine O’Flaherty on February 8, 1851 in St. Louis, Missouri. Her father died when she was four years old and Chopin was brought up by strong-willed women in the family. In 1868, she graduated from the St. Louis Academy of Sacred Heart, met Oscar Chopin, got married, and settled down in New Orleans. By the age of 29, Chopin had already had six children.

In 1880, her husband’s cotton business collapsed and the family had to move to a small village in Cajun area, Louisiana. The family ran a general store and small plantations since then, but the profit was not enough to cover the debt Oscar left after his death in 1882. Chopin’s mother died the following year and she started to write short stories as a way of healing her depression as well as getting an income for the family.

Chopin has since written many works from short story collections like Bayou Folk (1894) and A Night in Acadie (1895) until important short stories like “Desiree’s Baby” (1893) and “The Storm” (1898), but it was her best known novel, The Awakening (1899), that made a public controversy. Its protagonist was a woman who refused to accept the consequences of marriage and motherhood – something unsuitable for the social and moral standard at that time.

Chopin died of brain hemorrhage at the age of 54 in August 22, 1904 and was buried in the Calvary Cemetery in St Louis.

Source: Carey 5-8, "Kate Chopin"

Biography of William Somerset Maugham

William Somerset Maugham was an English author who was born in Paris, France, on January 25, 1874. His father was a solicitor who worked as a counselor in the British Embassy in Paris. Born in a wealthy family, Maugham had a great knowledge of both English and French high class societies. His parents died when he was ten years old. Since then, he was taken care of by his uncle, Henry MacDonald Maugham, a vicar at All Saint's Church in Whitstable, Kent.

Maugham was sent to study at The King's School, Canterbury, but refused to continue. Instead, he traveled to Germany to study literature, German, and philosophy at Heidelberg University. After that, he went back to England and studied medicine at St. Thomas' Hospital in Lambeth, London.

Maugham was once married to a woman but he was believed to have many sexual affairs with men, two of whom were John Ellingham Brooks, his senior in Heidelberg University and Frederick Gerald Haxton, someone he met during his service in France as an ambulance driver during the World War I. He continued the relationship until Haxton died in 1944. After that, Maugham went back to England and then in 1946 to France, where he spent the rest of his days until he passed away on December 16, 1965 in Nice, France, at the age of 91.

Maugham had been writing since he was twenty and had since produced many works like Liza of Lambeth (1897), The Moon and Sixpence (1919), Mrs. Craddock (1902), Cakes and Ale (1930) and Of Human Bondage (1915), his most well-known and notable work.

Source: McKinney 5-11, "W. Somerset Maugham"