The Awakening
by
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The Awakening: Road Map

I. Grand Isle: Summer Vacation. Ch. I-XVI

II. New Orleans. Chs. XVII
   B. Edna is left alone: Leonce, her father, and her children have left. Chs. XXIV – XXIX
      1. Her relationship with Arobin. Chs. XXV – XXIV
      2. Her relationship with Robert. (There is overlap.) Chs. XXV – XXXVIII
      3. Edna attends Mme. Ratignolie’s childbirth. Chs. XXXVII
      4. Robert leaves. Chs. XXXVII

III. Edna returns to Grand Isle. She swims to her death. Ch. XXXIX
The Awakening

Significant Actions by Edna Pontellier

Grand Isle
1. Edna learns to swim. Ch. X
2. Edna disobeys her husband, Leonce. Ch. XI
3. Edna invites Robert to go with her to the Chieniere. Ch. XII

New Orleans
4. Edna stops receiving on Tuesdays. Ch. XVII
5. Edna takes off her wedding ring, stamps on it, breaks a vase. Ch. XVII (See Ch. I)
6. Edna stands up to her husband; becomes “insolent”. Ch. XIX
7. Edna goes up to her atelier; begins pursuing her painting seriously. Ch. XIX
8. Edna refuses to attend her sister’s wedding. Ch. XXIV
9. Edna goes to the races often. Ch. XXV
10. Edna has dinner alone with Arobin. Ch. XXV
11. Arobin kisses Edna and she kisses him. Ch. XXVII
The Awakening

Significant Actions by Edna Pontellier
New Orleans, cont’d

13. Edna moves to the Pigeon House. Chs. XXVI-XXXI
14. Edna gives a grand “farewell” dinner party Ch. XXX
15. Edna has sex with Arobin. Ch. XXXI
16. Edna kisses Robert, and declares her love Ch. XXXVI
17. Edna goes to Mme. Ratignolle’s childbirth at her request. Ch. XXXVII
18. Edna goes to Grand Island and swims out into the ocean to her death. Ch. XXXIX
Edna – Statements

- Perhaps it was the first time she was ready, perhaps the first time her being was tempered to take the impress of abiding truth. Ch. IX, p. 26

- Edna felt as if she were being borne away from some anchorage which had held her fast, whose chains had been loosening—had snapped the night before when the mystic spirit was abroad, leaving her free to drift whithersoever she chose to set her sails. Ch. XII, p. 34

- she tried to discover wherein this summer had been different from any and every other summer of her life. She could only realize that she herself—her present self—was in some way different from the other self. That she was seeing with different eyes and making the acquaintance of new conditions in herself that colored and changed her environment, she did not yet suspect. Ch. XIV, p. 40

- Don't speak to me like that again; I shall not answer you. Ch. XI, page 31

- I would give my life for my children, but I wouldn’t give myself. Ch. XVI, p.47

- She began to do as she liked and to feel as she liked. Ch. XIX, p. 56

- She had resolved never to take another step backward. Ch. XIX, p. 57

- She had resolved never again to belong to another than herself. Ch. XXVI, p. 80

- I would give up the unessential; I would give my money, I would give my life for my children; but I wouldn't give myself. I can't make it more clear; it's only something which I am beginning to comprehend, which is revealing itself to me. Ch. XVI, page 47.
Edna – Statements, Continued

- I am no longer one of Mr. Pontellier’s possessions to dispose or not. I give myself where I choose. Ch. XXXVI, p. 108

- I am not going to be forced into doing things. Ch. XXVIII, p. 111

- "One of these days," she said, "I'm going to pull myself together for a while and think—try to determine what character of a woman I am; for, candidly, I don't know. By all the codes which I am acquainted with, I am a devilishly wicked specimen of the sex. But some way I can't convince myself that I am. I must think about it." Ch. XXXVII, p. 111
Edna: Sensuality, Passion

1. she soon lent herself readily to the Creole’s gentle caress. Ch. VII, p. 17

2. the very passions themselves were aroused in her soul, swaying it, lashing it, as the waves daily beat upon her splendid body. Ch. IX, p. 26

3. No multitude of words could have been more significant than those moments of silence, or more pregnant with the first-felt throbblings of desire. Ch. X, p. 30

4. colorless existence which never uplifted its possessor beyond the region of blind contentment, in which no moment of anguish ever visited her soul, in which she would never have the taste of life’s delirium. Ch. XVII, p. 56

5. A subtle current of desire passed through her body. Ch. XIX, p. 50

6. The music grew strange and fantastic - turbulent, insistent, plaintive, and soft with entreaty. Ch. XXI, p. 64
Edna: Sensuality, Passion (cont’d)

7. He stood close to her, and the effrontery of his eyes repelled the old, vanishing self in her, yet drew all her awakening sensuousness. Ch. XXV, p.76

8. He sometimes talked . . . in a way that pleased her at last, appealing to the animalism that stirred impatiently within her. Ch. XXVI, p. 78

9. *See Chapter XXVIII, pp. 83-84*
Edna: Unaware (unthinking, capricious, naïve)

1. She could not have told why she was crying. Ch. III – p. 6

2. Sometimes I feel this summer as if I were walking through the green meadows again, idly aimlessly, unthinking and unguided. Ch. VII, p. 16

3. She was flushed and felt intoxicated with the sound of her own voice and the unaccustomed taste of candor. It muddled her like wine, or a first breath of freedom. Ch. VII, pp. 18-19

4. She was blindly following whatever impulse moved her, as if she had placed herself in alien hands for direction, and freed her soul of responsibility. Ch. XII, p.32

5. Edna vaguely wondered what she meant by “life’s delirium”. It had crossed her thought like some unsought, extraneous impression. Ch. XVIII, p. 56

6. There were days when she was very happy without knowing why . . . . There were days when she was unhappy, she did not know why . . . . Ch. XIX, p. 58

7. Instinct had prompted her to put away her husband’s bounty in casting off her allegiance. Ch. XXVI, p. 80
8. There was no moment of deliberation, no interval of repose between the thought and its fulfillment. Ch. XXIX, p. 84

9. All sense of reality had gone out of her life; she had abandoned herself to Fate, and awaited the consequences with indifference. Ch. XXXV, p. 104

10. She did not appear conscious that she had done anything unusual in commanding his presence. Ch. XII, p. 33

11. It did not strike her as in the least grotesque that she should be making of Robert the object of conversation, and leading her husband to speak of him. Ch. XVII, p. 47

12. Before dinner in the evening Edna wrote a charming letter to her husband, telling him of her intention to move for a while into the little house around the block, and to give a farewell dinner before leaving, regretting that he was not there to share it, to help out with the menu and assist her in entertaining the guests. Her letter was brilliant and brimming with cheerfulness. Ch. XXVI. P. 26