

**哈佛**

蓝星双语名著导读

**Today's Most Popular Study Guides**

**觉醒**

**The Awakening**

〔美〕 Kate Chopin 原著

Selena Ward

Sarah Spain 导读

王茹 翻译

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# 致读者

亲爱的读者，在这个多元文化的世界里，渴望知识，钟情文学，热爱英语的你是否想过站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢？

你手上这本蓝色小册子正是风行全美的哈佛蓝星笔记，是哈佛学生们将名著阅读与文学学习融会贯通，编写而成的名著导读本。它们以经典性和流行性并存的名著为素材，以明晰的风格和地道的语言而著称。每一本都包括著作的创作背景，人物分析，主题解析，篇章讲解，重要引文释义，作品档案，并且附有相关的思考题，推荐的论文题，阅读后的小测验，要点注释，以及推荐阅读篇目。

这样的编排使你不仅仅停留在对名著内容上的了解，更可迅速、全面、深入地掌握著作的全部资料，同时也满足了对文化做进一步了解和研究的需求。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格将“半天阅读一本名著”的想法变为现实，帮你在有限的闲暇内阅读更多的书，在地道的语言环境中迅速提高英语水平，丰富文学内涵，增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司精挑细选了50本蓝星笔记，由我国外语界资深专家张滨江教授、刘品义教授主持翻译和审校工作，天津外国语教授、副教授以及部分优秀青年教师进行翻译，陈法春教授，阎玉敏、常子霞副教授和李晓霞讲师协助审校，共同合作、精心制作成为“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”，既保留了原书特点，并对文中的知识要点做了注释，更加适合你的需要。

蓝星闪耀，照你前行！

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## CONTEXT

**K**ate Chopin was born Catherine O'Flaherty on February 8, 1850, in St. Louis, Missouri. She was one of five children, but both her sisters died in infancy and her brothers died in their twenties. When she was five years old, Kate was sent to a Catholic boarding school named The Sacred Heart Academy. Just months later, however, her father died in a train accident, and she was sent home to live with her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, all widowed. After two years in their care, she returned to Sacred Heart, where she excelled in French and English, finishing at the top of her class.

Both at home with family and at school with the nuns, Kate grew up surrounded by intelligent and independent women. Her childhood lacked male role models, thus, she was rarely witness to the tradition of female submission and male domination that defined most late nineteenth-century marriages. The themes of female freedom and sexual awareness that dominated Chopin's adult writings were undoubtedly a result of the atmosphere in which she was raised.

After graduating from Sacred Heart, Kate became a part of the St. Louis social scene. In 1870 she married Oscar Chopin, the son of a prominent Creole\* family from Louisiana. Fulfilling the social responsibilities expected of her, Kate Chopin bore six children in the first ten years of her marriage to Oscar. Unlike many women of her time, however, she also enjoyed a wide range of unconventional freedoms. While Chopin was known to be a good wife and mother, she often grew tired of

## 来龙·去脉

凯特·肖班原名凯瑟琳·奥佛莱厄蒂，于1850年2月8日出生于密苏里州圣路易市。她兄妹5人，但是她的2个姐妹都夭折了，而2个兄弟也在20多岁时去世。凯特5岁时被送到一所叫圣心学校的天主教寄宿学校学习。然而，在几个月以后她的父亲就在一场火车事故中丧生，她也被送回家和寡居的母亲、祖母及曾祖母住在一起。在她们的照料下，2年以后肖班又回到了圣心学校，她的法语和英语都非常出色，毕业时在班里名列前茅。

无论是在家里和家人在一起还是在学校里和修女们在一起，在凯特的成长过程中，她周围的人都是具有聪明智慧和独立精神的女人。她的童年里缺少男性角色的典型；因此，她几乎没有目睹19世纪末男性占统治地位女性处于从属地位的婚姻传统。肖班成年以后作品中突出表现的女性自由和性意识主题无疑应归咎于她所成长的环境。

从圣心学校毕业以后，凯特成为了圣路易斯市社会生活中的一员。1870年凯特和奥斯卡·肖班结婚。奥斯卡是来自路易斯安那州显赫的克里奥耳家族之子。在与奥斯卡结婚后的前10年中，凯特·肖班养育了6个子女，履行了社会所赋予她的责任。然而，和当时那个年代许多妇女不同的是，她还享有广泛的、不落俗套的自由。虽然人们公认她是贤妻良母，但她却经常会因家庭生活的厌烦而溜出去吸烟或是沿新



domestic life and escaped to smoke cigarettes or take solitary walks through New Orleans. She took strong, often controversial positions on the issues of the day. Chopin's husband loved her very deeply and supported and admired her independence and intelligence. She and her family lived happily in New Orleans for nine years.

When Oscar Chopin's cotton brokerage failed in 1879, he moved the family to Cloutierville, Louisiana, where he owned some land. Kate Chopin adjusted her habits easily to the smaller provincial lifestyle of Cloutierville and became the subject of much gossip. While other women in town were completing their household chores, Chopin would stroll or ride horseback down the town's main street, earning the attention and admiration of any man who passed her. In 1882, her husband died suddenly of swamp fever, leaving Chopin devastated. However, she would soon learn to enjoy the pleasures of independence and was rumored to have had an affair with a married neighbor, Albert Sampite, in the year following her husband's death. After a year spent managing her late husband's general store and plantation, Chopin moved back to Missouri with her children to be with her mother and family, a move that may have coincided with the end of her affair with Sampite. Sadly, Chopin's mother died shortly after her return, another in the series of tragic deaths that marked Kate's life.

In 1889 Chopin began writing fiction, an activity that enabled her to develop and express her strong views on women, sex, and marriage while simultaneously supporting her family. Chopin enjoyed immediate success with her writings about the French Creoles and Cajuns\* she had met and observed during her New Orleans and Cloutierville years. She sold dozens of

奥尔良港独自漫步。对当时的社会问题她总是持有强烈的、有争议的观点。肖班的丈夫深深地爱着她，并且支持和仰慕她的独立精神和聪明智慧。她和她的家庭在新奥尔良幸福地生活了9年。

1879年，奥斯卡的棉花生意破产后，他们举家搬迁到路易斯安那州的克卢捷维尔镇，他在那里还拥有一些土地。凯特·肖班很容易地就使自己适应了克卢捷维尔镇的生活方式同时又成为了人们背后议论的主题。当镇上的其他妇女干家务活的时候，肖班总是去散步或者骑马走在大道上，使得路过的男人无一不注意并仰慕她。1882年，她的丈夫突然死于疟疾，这使肖班极度悲哀。然而她很快就学会了享受独立带来的快乐，并有传闻说在她丈夫去世1年后她和一个已婚的邻居阿伯特·萨姆帕特有不正当的关系。在用了1年的时间打点前夫的杂货店和种植园的生意后，肖班和她的孩子们搬回到密苏里州和她母亲及家人住在一起，这次搬家恰好结束了她和萨姆帕特之间的关系。令肖班伤心的是她搬回来后不久，她的母亲就去世了，这是给肖班的生活打下烙印的一系列悲剧性死亡事件中的又一件。

1889年肖班开始写小说，这使得她能够去探讨和表达有关妇女、性以及婚姻问题的强烈观点，同时还可以维持家庭的生计。肖班很快就因她的作品而获得了成功，她的作品都是关于她在新奥尔良和克卢捷维尔镇居住的几年里所遇到和观察到的法国克里奥耳人和法裔路易斯安那州人的故事。她还销出了许多

short stories and essays exploring themes of love and independence, passion and freedom. By setting her stories in a specific region and community and by basing her characters on real people, Chopin was able to publish controversial stories in a socially acceptable format. Readers could choose to see the passions she described as curiosities of a localized culture rather than universalities in human nature. Chopin was often asked to attend conferences and give speeches and was widely celebrated for the majority of her short but prolific career.

Chopin's second and final novel, *The Awakening*, was published in 1899 at the height of her popularity. Ironically, this work, now regarded as a classic, essentially marked the end of Chopin's writing career. Many of Chopin's earlier works had been accepted despite their controversial subject matter because they appeared to contain narrative reporting rather than critical commentary. An underlying sense of support invaded the generally objective tone of *The Awakening*, however, and the reading public was shocked by such a sympathetic view toward the actions and emotions of the sexually aware and independent female protagonist.

The feminist movement\*, just beginning to emerge in other parts of America, was almost entirely absent in the conservative state of Louisiana. In fact, under Louisiana law, a woman was still considered the property of her husband. Chopin's novel was scorned and ostracized for its open discussion of the emotional and sexual needs of women. Surprised and deeply hurt by the negative reaction to *The Awakening*, Chopin published only three more short stories before she died in 1904 of a brain hemorrhage.

After her death, Chopin was remembered for her "local


延伸爱情、独立、情感和自由这些主题的短篇小说与论文。由于她小说的背景是一个具体的地区和社区，人物也是根据真人刻画的，这使得肖班能够以社会可以接受的形式出版有争议的小说。读者可以把她描写的情感问题看做是对地方特色文化的好奇，而不是人类本性中的普遍性。肖班经常应邀出席会议并发表演讲，她短暂却多产的写作生涯中的大部分时间里都得到了人们的赞赏。


肖班的第2部也是最后一部小说《觉醒》于1899年出版，当时正是她成名后的鼎盛时期。具有讽刺意味的是，这部作品，现在虽然被认为是一部经典作品，却标志着肖班写作生涯的结束。肖班的许多早期作品，虽是有争议的题材，却已被人们接受，因为这些作品看上去是叙述性的报道而非批评性的评论。在《觉醒》中，作者客观的描述里透露出一种隐晦的支持，但是，小说对女主人公性觉醒情感和独立性的做法给予同情的观点让广大读者感到震惊。

当时女权运动在美国的其他地区刚刚出现，在保守的路易斯安那州几乎是不存在的。事实上，根据路易斯安那州的法律，妇女仍然被认为是丈夫的财产。肖班的小说由于公开讨论了妇女的情感和性需求，因而遭到了蔑视和排斥。人们对《觉醒》否定的反映使肖班不仅感到惊讶而且受到了深深的伤害，以至于在1904年她因脑出血去世前只再出版了3部短篇小说。

肖班去世后，她那具有“地方特色”描写新奥尔良



color” works about the people of New Orleans but was never acknowledged as a true literary talent until the rediscovery of *The Awakening* some fifty years later. New generations, more accepting of the notions of female sexuality and equality, praise the novel’s candid and realistic views and have found it to be informative about early American feminism. Modern critics have noted the book’s rich detail and imagery and find that its ironic narrative voice is a rich source for analysis. *The Awakening* has now earned a place in the literary canon for the way it uses these formal and structural techniques to explore themes of patriarchy, marriage and motherhood, woman’s independence, desire, and sexuality both honestly and artistically. 

人的作品让人们记住了她，但是直到 50 年后《觉醒》被人们重新发现时，肖班才被认为是一位真正的文学天才。新一代的读者更能接受妇女对于性和平等的意识，赞扬了小说坦率和现实的观点，并且发现这本小说对了解美国早期的女权运动有参考价值。现代的批评家已经注意到这本小说丰富的细节描写和想像力，并且发现小说中具有讽刺意味的叙述很值得分析。小说《觉醒》通过运用形式和结构上的技巧真实地、艺术性地探讨了父权制、婚姻和母性，以及妇女的独立、欲望和性等问题，因此，在文学的宝殿中赢得了自己的一席之地。



## PLOT OVERVIEW

**T**he Awakening opens in the late 1800s in Grand Isle, a summer holiday resort popular with the wealthy inhabitants of nearby New Orleans. Edna Pontellier is vacationing with her husband, Léonce, and their two sons at the cottages of Madame Lebrun, which house affluent Creoles from the French Quarter. Léonce is kind and loving but preoccupied with his work. His frequent business-related absences mar his domestic life with Edna. Consequently, Edna spends most of her time with her friend Adèle Ratignolle, a married Creole who epitomizes womanly elegance and charm. Through her relationship with Adèle, Edna learns a great deal about freedom of expression. Because Creole women were expected and assumed to be chaste, they could behave in a forthright and unreserved manner. Exposure to such openness liberates Edna from her previously prudish behavior and repressed emotions and desires.

Edna's relationship with Adèle begins Edna's process of "awakening" and self-discovery, which constitutes the focus of the book. The process accelerates as Edna comes to know Robert Lebrun, the elder, single son of Madame Lebrun. Robert is known among the Grand Isle vacationers as a man who chooses one woman each year—often a married woman—to whom he then plays "attendant" all summer long. This summer, he devotes himself to Edna, and the two spend their days together lounging and talking by the shore. Adèle Ratignolle often accompanies them.

At first, the relationship between Robert and Edna is inno-