

THE AWAKENING

Chapter 28 — Narrator Script (Booth Ready)

by Kate Chopin · narrated by Mike Vendetti & Kathy Verduin

Léonce Pontellier Edna Pontellier Robert Lebrun Madame Lebrun Parrot
(off-stage voice — French) Adèle Ratignolle Monsieur Ratignolle
Mademoiselle Reisz Victor Lebrun Mariequita Monsieur Farival Doctor
Mandelet

NARRATOR

★ BEAT — Edna weeps, and takes stock of what she feels

One of the novel's most interior chapters — barely two hundred words, a single sustained interior monologue. Read it quietly, almost in a whisper, as if Edna herself is cataloguing sensations in the dark after Arobin has gone. Each clause is a separate emotional layer — irresponsibility, shock, her husband's reproach, Robert's reproach, and then, towering over the rest, understanding. Give each its own brief weight before moving on. The turn at 'Above all, there was understanding' should feel like a small revelation. The final sentence is the chapter's whole meaning: neither shame nor remorse — but also not love. Read it without judgment, with a kind of bare clarity that mirrors Edna's own.

Edna cried a little that night after Arobin left her. It was only one phase of the multitudinous emotions which had assailed her. There was with her an overwhelming feeling of irresponsibility. There was the shock of the unexpected and the unaccustomed. There was her husband's reproach looking at her from the external things around her which he had

provided for her external existence. There was Robert's reproach making itself felt by a quicker, fiercer, more overpowering love, which had awakened within her toward him. Above all, there was understanding. She felt as if a mist had been lifted from her eyes, enabling her to look upon and comprehend the significance of life, that monster made up of beauty and brutality. But among the conflicting sensations which assailed her, there was neither shame nor remorse. There was a dull pang of regret because it was not the kiss of love which had inflamed her, because it was not love which had held this cup of life to her lips.

— *END OF CHAPTER 28* —