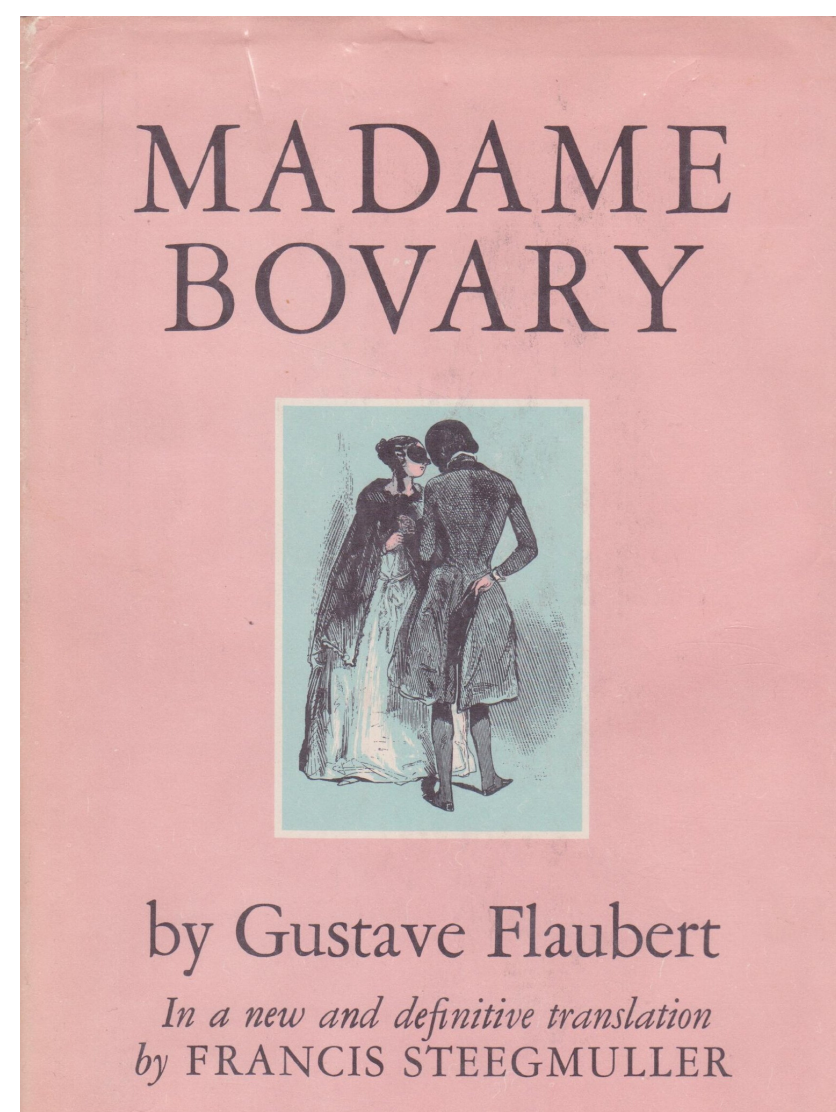
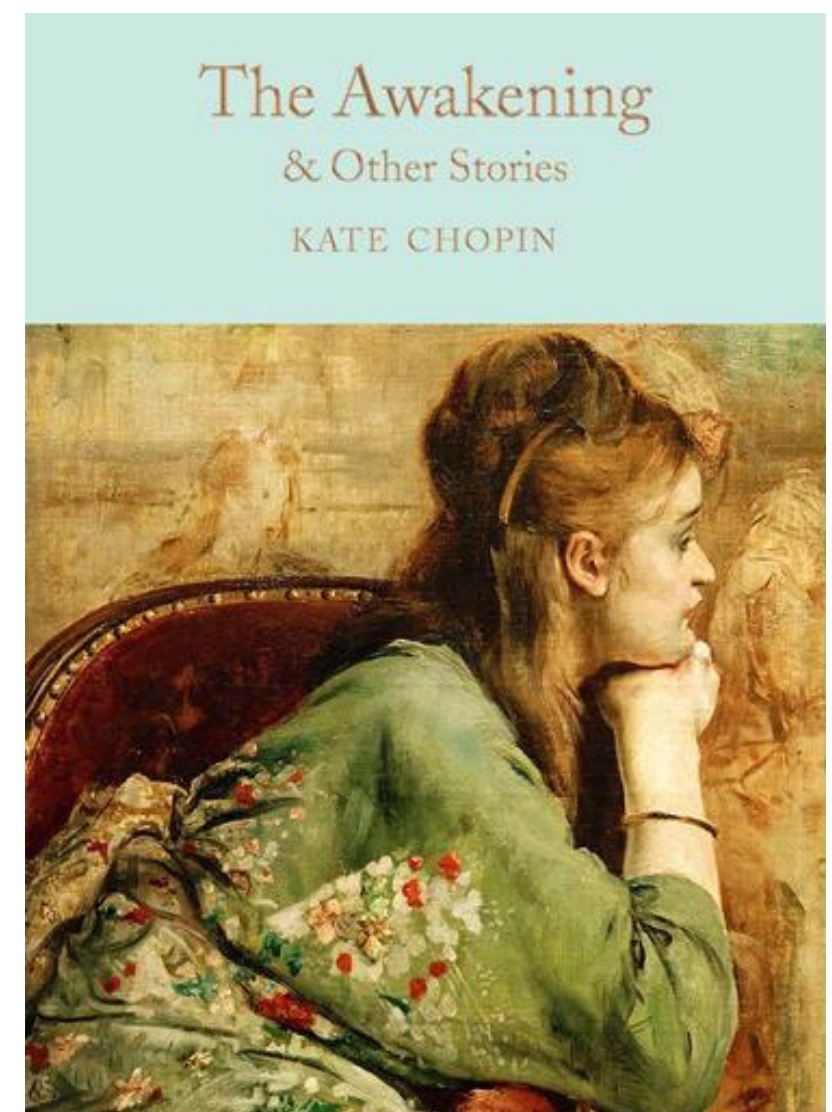


"SLEEPING BEAUTY,
SLEEPING BEAUTY. HOW I'M
LONGING FOR THAT DAY DIVINE.
I'LL AWAKEN YOU AND MAKE YOU MINE."
NAT KING COLE, "SLEEPING BEAUTY" (1955)



A Fantasy Retold: Four "Sleeping Beauties" and their Awakenings through Selected 19th Century Literary Texts

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This paper is a collection of literary-based research that explores the effect of metaphorical sleep on a female character within a patriarchy. This research consults each character's struggle to live "awakened" after being able to recognize the state of oppression that their sleep enforced, with each woman's tragic ending being a return to "sleep," or suicide. This study consults four different versions of "Sleeping Beauty" as secondary material.

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My project ultimately concludes that awakenings in the context of these four characters are twofold: the realization that they are unhappy, and the decision to end their lives because of it. The dark interpretation that each text offers to a seemingly innocent fairy tale demonstrates the level of oppression that faces each female character and the commonality of hopelessness that accompanies an enlightened woman in the 19th century.



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