



# The New View from Cane River

Critical Essays on Kate Chopin's *At Fault*

Edited by **HEATHER OSTMAN**

*The New View from Cane River* features ten in-depth essays that provide fresh, diverse perspectives on Kate Chopin's first novel, *At Fault*. While much critical work on the author prioritizes her famous, groundbreaking second book, *The Awakening*, its 1890 predecessor remains a fascinating text that presents a complicated moral universe, including a plot that involves divorce, alcoholism, and murder set in the aftermath of the Civil War.

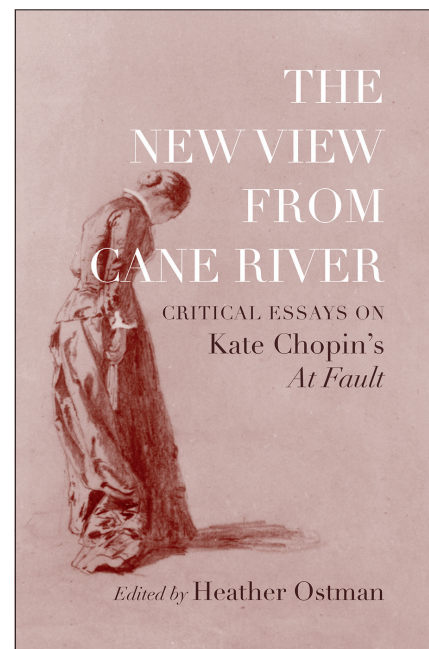
Edited by Chopin scholar Heather Ostman, the essays in *The New View from Cane River* provide multiple approaches for understanding this complex work, with particular attention to the dynamics of the post-Reconstruction era and its effects on race, gender, and economics in Louisiana. Original perspectives introduced by the contributors include discussions of Chopin's treatment of privilege, sexology, and Unitarianism, as well as what *At Fault* reveals about the early stages of literary modernism and the reading audiences of late nineteenth-century America.

This overdue reconsideration of an overlooked novel gives enthusiastic readers, students, and instructors an opportunity for new encounters with a cherished American author.

**HEATHER OSTMAN** is professor of English and director of the Humanities Institute at SUNY Westchester Community College. She is the author of *Kate Chopin and Catholicism* and the coeditor of *Kate Chopin in Context*. She is also the cofounder and president of the Kate Chopin International Society.

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