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The Impact of Technology on Kate Chopin's Louise Mallard in "The Story of an Hour"

Kate Chopin is one of the most notable feminist voices of American Literature. Because she is a Realist, her characters are relatable and utterly human. They are flawed, and they represent the traits that many readers recognize in themselves—even when it is difficult to admit. One such character is Louise Mallard, the young wife in "The Story of an Hour." In this story, which is set during a time of great change, Louise receives news by telegram that her husband has been killed in a railroad accident. Within the space of an hour, Louise digests this news and begins to envision a new, independent life for herself. Before the hour is up, however, her husband, who had missed his train, arrives home, and Louise dies upon seeing him. Chopin uses the untimely death of this young character to make bold statements about the changes that are taking place at the end of the Nineteenth Century. Chopin proves that the speed at which information is received, during a time of technological and social awakening, can have devastating consequences.