



## **Tonda: A Story of the Sioux (1904)**

*Warren King Moorehead*

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Warren King Moorehead was known in his time as the 'Dean of American archaeology' born in Siena, Italy to missionary parents on March 10, 1866, he died on January 5, 1939.

A contract to write for a national magazine about the "Ghost Dance" phenomenon on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation put Moorehead on the scene for the critical weeks leading up to what is now known as the Wounded Knee Massacre of Dec. 29, 1890. Moorehead was not present, though his camera was apparently used by journalists who were still on the scene to record the horrific aftermath; Gen. John Rutter Brooke ordered Moorehead off the reservation under armed military escort on Dec. 28, according to Moorehead's journal because he was the only reporter present who spoke some of the language and was permitted to stay overnight with the Sioux in their encampments.

Tonda is a Story of the Sioux Indians of the 1870s, based largely on fact and depicting the white man as seen by Indian eyes The scene is in northern Nebraska and in the Black Hills. Tonda is an Indian girl who has been educated at an agency school and returns to live with her own people and to marry an Indian brave. Sitting Bull is introduced as a character and the events related which led up to the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Many of the incidents related in this story about the Sioux Indians actually occurred and the customs are true to life. The book gives the reader a very accurate impression of the life of this race.

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