



THE DAUGHTER OF THE SIOUX

CHARLES KING

The Daughter of the Sioux

by Charles King (1844 - 1933)

Charles King was a United States soldier and a distinguished writer. He graduated from West point in 1866 and served in the Army during the Indian Wars under George Crook. King fought in battles with Southwestern and Plains Indians and observed government policies first-hand. He was wounded in the arm, forcing his retirement from the regular army. During this time he became acquainted with Buffalo Bill Cody; King would later write scripts for several of Cody's silent films. King's novels relating to American Indians cover a complex range of opinion. His sympathy for their cause of defending their homelands, and being forced to adopt a new way of life, did not stop him from graphically portraying them as savage and barbaric peoples. However, in his writings King criticized U.S. government policies that resulted in Indian treaties not being honored and that permitted rampant corruption among government-appointed reservation agents. Charles King is credited today with helping to establish the "Western novel" as a romantic and dramatic genre of American literature, based upon a sturdy foundation of historical realism.

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