

# The Extraordinary Life of Ohitika Woman Mary Brave Bird: An Inspiring Tale of Bravery and Resilience

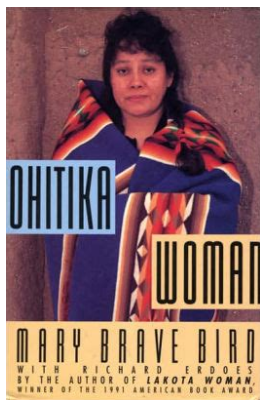


In the realm of Native American activism, few names come close to the resonance and significance of Mary Brave Bird, also known as Ohitika Woman. A

Lakota Sioux born on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Brave Bird led a remarkable life filled with courage, struggle, and triumph. Her unwavering commitment to her culture and tireless fight for justice and Indigenous rights made her an icon and an inspiration to many. This article dives into the extraordinary life and legacy of Ohitika Woman Mary Brave Bird.

## Born into Adversity: Growing up on the Reservation

Mary Brave Bird was born on September 26, 1954, on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, a land marked by deep poverty, historical trauma, and limited opportunities. Growing up in a challenging environment, Brave Bird experienced firsthand the harsh effects of forced assimilation policies and systemic discrimination against Native Americans. Yet, even in the face of adversity, she held on to her Lakota heritage and a fervent desire to reclaim her people's identity and rights.



### Ohitika Woman by Mary Brave Bird (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3717 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 308 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported



## Activism Ignited: Standing Up for the Sacred

Brave Bird's activism began in the early 1970s when she joined the American Indian Movement (AIM), a grassroots organization fighting for Native American

rights and empowerment. She played a crucial role in the occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973, where AIM members and Lakota activists occupied the village of Wounded Knee for 71 days, demanding justice and attention to the dire conditions faced by Indigenous communities.

Throughout her life, Brave Bird fearlessly stood up against the injustices committed against Native Americans, advocating for freedom, self-determination, and the preservation of Indigenous cultures. Her tireless efforts in promoting Native American sovereignty made her a prominent voice in the struggle for Indigenous rights.

### **A Voice Through Words: Mary Brave Bird's Literary Contributions**

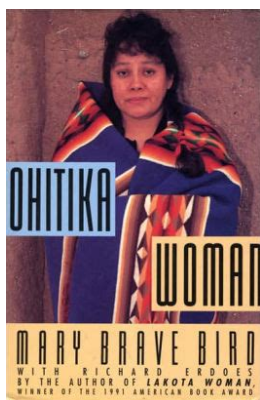
Beyond her activism, Brave Bird also found solace and power in the written word. In collaboration with writer Richard Erdoes, she published her memoir titled "Lakota Woman" in 1990. This gripping autobiography details her childhood, experiences during the AIM occupation, and her journey towards reclaiming her Native identity. The book became a bestseller, receiving critical acclaim for its unflinching portrayal of both personal struggles and the larger fight for Native American rights.

### **Legacy and Impact**

Mary Brave Bird's indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to justice left an extraordinary legacy. Throughout her life, she inspired countless individuals, both Native and non-Native, to advocate for the rights of Indigenous communities and embrace their cultural heritage. Her memoir, "Lakota Woman," continues to be widely read and has contributed to raising awareness about the challenges faced by Native Americans.

Ohitika Woman Mary Brave Bird's story is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of resistance. Her unwavering bravery and relentless fight for justice serve as an inspiration to individuals worldwide, reminding us all of the importance of standing up for what is right. Her legacy lives on, empowering many to continue the work she started.

Mary Brave Bird, also known as Ohitika Woman, exemplified the resilience and strength of the Lakota Sioux people in the face of systemic oppression and adversity. Her dedication to preserving the Native American culture and championing the rights of Indigenous peoples will forever be remembered. As we reflect on her life and legacy, let us be inspired by her bravery and continue the fight for justice and equality for all.



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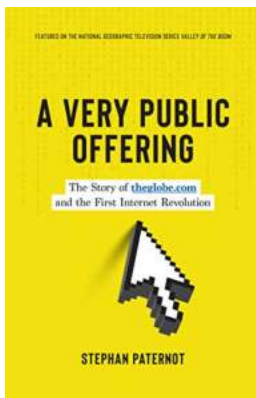


In this follow-up to her acclaimed memoir Lakota Woman, the bestselling author shares “a grim yet gripping account” of Native American life (The Boston Globe).

In this stirring sequel to the now-classic Lakota Woman, Mary Brave Bird continues the chronicle of her life with the same grit, passion, and piercing

insight. It is a tale of ancient glory and present anguish, of courage and despair, of magic and mystery, and, above all, of the survival of both body and mind.

Having returned home from Wounded Knee in 1973 and gotten married to American Indian movement leader Leonard Crow Dog, Mary became a mother who had hope of a better life. But, as she says, "Trouble always finds me." With brutal frankness she bares her innermost thoughts, recounting the dark as well as the bright moments in her tumultuous life. She talks about the stark truths of being a Native American living in a white-dominated society as well as her experience of being a mother, a woman, and, rarest of all, a Sioux feminist. Filled with contrasts, courage, and endurance, *Ohitika Woman* is a powerful testament to Mary's will and spirit.



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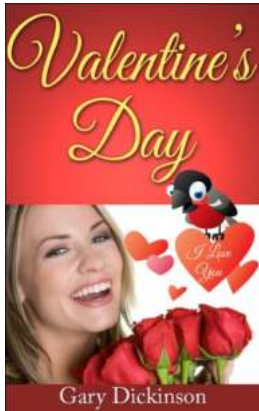
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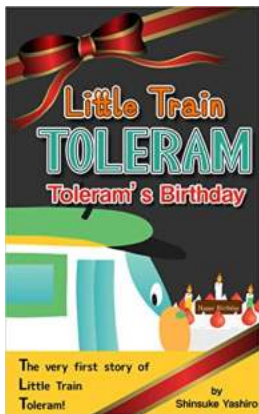
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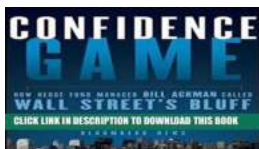
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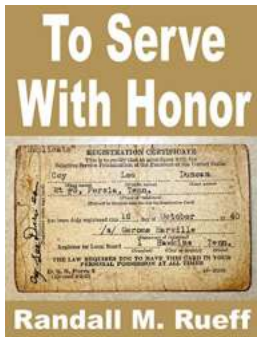
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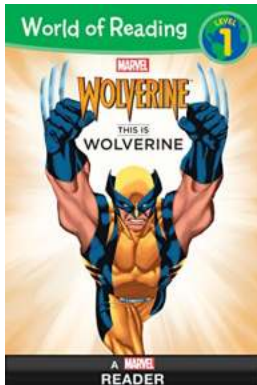
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