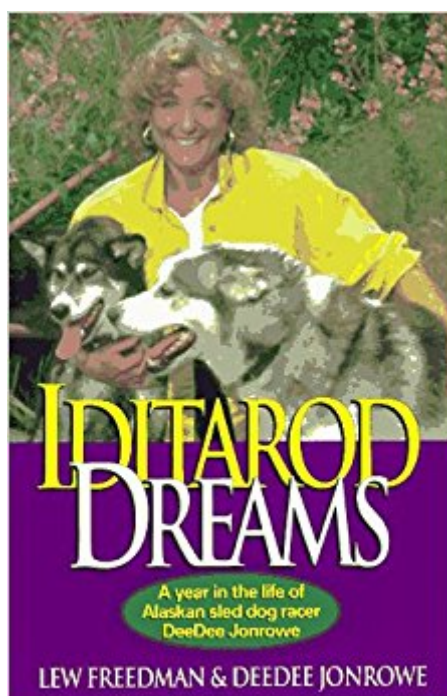


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Iditarod Dreams: A Year In The Life Of Alaskan Sled Dog Racer DeeDee Jonrowe



Synopsis

DeeDee Jonrowe loves dogs, and her consuming passion is the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Winter and summer, virtually day and night (even in her dreams!), she and her huskies prepare for the annual race across Alaska. IDITAROD DREAMS is an absorbing, personal account of a year in the life of this remarkable woman living on the edge of the wilderness with her husband, Mike, and enough howling huskies to populate a small town. It is about the special bond between a woman and her dogs and about the astonishing measure of skill and stamina required to compete in the Iditarod.

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Customer Reviews

The Iditarod is Alaska's answer to the lower 48 states' Super Bowl and Kentucky Derby. This dogsled race lasts ten or 11 days and covers 1100 miles. In her first-person narrative, Jonrowe describes her year preparing for the racing season and living the sledder's life. The book begins with the 1993 Iditarod, in which Jonrowe placed second, and ends with the 1994 race. The authors cover dog training, the raising of pups for future teams, other races such as the Alpinrod in Europe, and the politics of the Iditarod. Defending the race against animal rights groups' objections that the race and racers are cruel to the dogs, Jonrowe talks about motivation, love for the land, and never giving up. The chapters are a bit choppy, but overall the book is very readable. Recommended for large sports collections. ?Lisa J. Cochenet, Winfield P.L., Ill. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Recommended. --Library Journal For those of us who enjoy watching the Iditarod but wonder what it would be like to actually be a participant--this is the book to read! --Alaska Women Speak magazine

I enjoyed reading her experiences and getting a view of mushing that you can only get from one who has done it. She clearly loves her dogs and her way of life. I have read a lot about mushing because I am fascinated by it and the spirit of sled dogs. I will be keeping this book to reread. I have seen her in the Iditarod and will be heading to Alaska for the next one to cheer Dee Dee on again!

I am still reading this book but am finding it an interesting read. Hope I come upon more in depth detail of grueling situations. Give these women credit, it takes a lot of courage to make this race.

Really enjoyed it and was just as advertised. A great value!

Arrived on time and I can't wait to get started reading it.

Classy lady, great racer. Good book.

DeeDee Jonrowe is one of the few women racing at a competitive level in this sport. And I use the word "sport" advisedly. I am an Iditarod volunteer and the athleticism of the mushers never ceases to amaze me. Many run uphill behind the sled to conserve the dogs' energy. I loved DeeDee's insights into the day-to-day lifestyle of a musher. She writes of bonding with the puppies "I snuggle with them all the time. You can never waste time by sitting still and cuddling a puppy." She describes the process of training - beginning in the fall with a four-wheeler in Neutral. First they go on short runs, then longer and longer. If you've ever been pulled on your daily walk by your own dog you can imagine the pulling-power of ten or so sleddogs in harness. DeeDee writes about the satisfaction of overcoming adversity. And her commitment to her dogs. "...I have enough drive in myself to provide for my dogs, to make sure they are okay. I would rather help them than sleep. That's my internal drive." That drive was recognized by the volunteer veterinarians when they selected DeeDee to win the much-coveted Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award. It is given to the musher who has demonstrated outstanding care of his or her team throughout the race. DeeDee often visits schools and is a much-sought-after inspirational speaker. She is a gifted athlete and a kind and sweet person.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the incredible relationship between mushers and their dogs. Many animal lovers dream of a job where you can really spend time with your pets, mushers live that every day. As a person interested in animal welfare, I am familiar with the concerns that have been raised about the Iditarod. However, I've actually seen the race myself, and it is crystal clear that what makes those dogs run is the love of the sport itself, and an incredible devotion to the "Lead Dog" who just happens to be human. It is also clear that a love for the dogs is the primary motivation for the mushers. The life of an Iditarod musher is not easy, in fact, it appears that the "dog's life" is the easy one here! I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in learning more about sled dog racing or life in Alaska.

I have read this book, found it most inspiring, and learned so much from DeeDee Jonrowe.. This book has been an example in 'endurance' for me for every day living.... There should be more books like this one..DeeDee is a special person who loves her dogs. Once you open the cover, it's impossible to lay it down till you read the last page.... Worth reading, and learning from... how she cares for the dogs, loves them, as they ARE her best friends..And after traveling to Alaska and visiting in Denali Nat. Park, seeing the dogs there, I realized just how MUCH the dogs love to run. It's their life.. a life they love. There is so much to learn from the dogs and the 'mushers'. And this book takes you to the 'real experience' of running with the dogs. Quite inspiring. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to know the truth, and how it 'really is'.. An excellent book.!!!

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