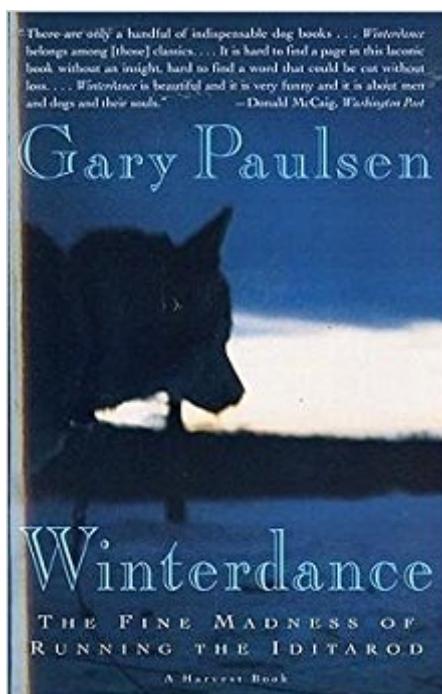


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# [(Winterdance: The Fine Madness Of Running The Iditarod )] [Author: Gary Paulsen] [Nov-2003]



## **Synopsis**

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## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 353 customer reviews

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## **Customer Reviews**

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I love Winterdance. My son sent me my 1st copy when he was in Alaska in 1995 working with sled dogs. I made the mistake of taking it to work with me on a long, lonely 12 hour midnight shift. It's actually a good thing it was long and lonely. I read the whole book in one sitting. I laughed till the tears rolled down my face on several occasions, and at the end I cried till the tears just wouldn't stop. I have given this book on several occasions to others who have also loved it, and I have re-read it several times myself and every time I love it as much as I did the 1st time. Except for this time. Which is the reason I only gave this 4 stars. I don't think it's my imagination, but the end has been edited over the way it was the 1st time. The original had a list of mushers for every race from its inception to when he ran. It is no longer there. And I won't spoil it for others - there is a part after the end of the chapter Nome that is no longer there. I would give good green money (with in reason) for one of the original editions. With the exception of that one small thing, this is truly a wonderful book. It makes a great gift and is an awesome read. Try it and get a box of tissues out. You'll need them. Merle Ragle

a zillion 'stars' for this extremely well written and wonderfully told real life adventure. His love and insight into his dogs, their mishaps and heroism and humor, love...combine to make this hands down my most favorite book ever. I have read it countless times...but, really, even after one reading, the story is so unforgettable it will live forever in your mind and heart. It also left me totally convinced that you have to be more than a little bit crazy to ever attempt the Iditarod. I realized at once I would never have cut it... I have to say you will never regret getting this book if you like dogs or adventures or are interested in what has to be a fairly honest accounting of a newcomers attempt at the Iditarod. most highly recommended and thoroughly beloved by me.

I have always been interested in the Iditarod,(I love the arctic breeds and we currently own a Samoyed, or rather he owns us -- heart and soul!) but never spent much time learning about it. That changed this past March when I began following the sport about midway through the race. The more I learned the more I wanted to know. That's when I found "Winterdance: The fine Madness of Running the Iditarod". What a find! I read the book to my husband every evening until we finished it in just a few days. We found it very compelling --- AND FUNNY! Many times we found ourselves laughing so hard we were crying. Mr. Paulsen's vivid descriptions of his steep learning curve in dog training and race preparation keep the reader turning pages! Two baby boomers who have long since left their teen years behind (and started into second childhood) highly recommend this as an entertaining and informative read about dog sledding and the Iditarod. Way to go Gary Paulsen! We plan to read more of your work.

This is a good book--a fast read that introduces you to the grueling Iditarod, and keeps you interested from the first page to the last. I was disappointed, however, in the complete lack of background information about the author or what lead him to attempt such a seemingly impossible feat. I read a lot of nature-adventure true stories, and part of what brings depth and interest to a story is learning about what has motivated a person to act. You learn nothing about Paulson, except that he lived in MN and bought dogs and tied them to a sled. His wife is barely mentioned in passing--he devotes more energy to describing the people in his hallucinations--and you don't learn until near the end that he has a child. His viewpoint is so narrow and self-focused, that he also leaves out a lot of details you'd want to know about the race itself. His tale reads as a series of short vignettes rather than a travel journal. I am online now to buy a book by someone else who has run the Iditarod to help round out the story.

This is one of the best books I've ever read, period.

It more than met my expectations. Couldn't put it down and enjoyed every moment.

This book is fantastically written. Once you sink into a chapter, you will not put it down. The author uses perfect descriptive verbiage to make you fall into his world. You will be engrossed from beginning to end. If you are passionate about anything ~ this book will prove to you that you can do ANYTHING once you put your mind to it. I Love this book and I recommend it to anyone with the slightest bit of passion or competitiveness in their blood.

I was hanging around the house with bronchitis when I picked up my daughter's copy of "Winterdance: the fine madness of running the Iditarod". What a surprise. This is a hilarious book by a driven man. Gary Paulsen and his wife, Ruth, are broke and down on their luck when they move to Northern Minnesota where Gary runs traplines using a dog team and sled. Eventually, he awakens to the idea of running the Iditarod. The book covers his experiences training for the race and then the race itself. His experiences are heart-warming (or perhaps ball-warming as when he sets kitchen matches alight in his pants pocket) and display a determination that's nearly other worldly. But people aren't the main characters in this book, it's the dogs. We eat, sleep and run with the dogs. And it is a learning experience. Gary Paulsen is one tough cookie who brings to life the hardship, wind, snowstorms, frostbite, dog fights, moose attacks, sleeplessness, hallucinations, concussions, physical abuse and brutal reality of the Iditarod. And gives us more: the magnificent beauty of Alaska and the strange, deep relationship that develops between dog and man. This is one of the best outdoor adventure books I've read (and there have been many). I highly recommend it.

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