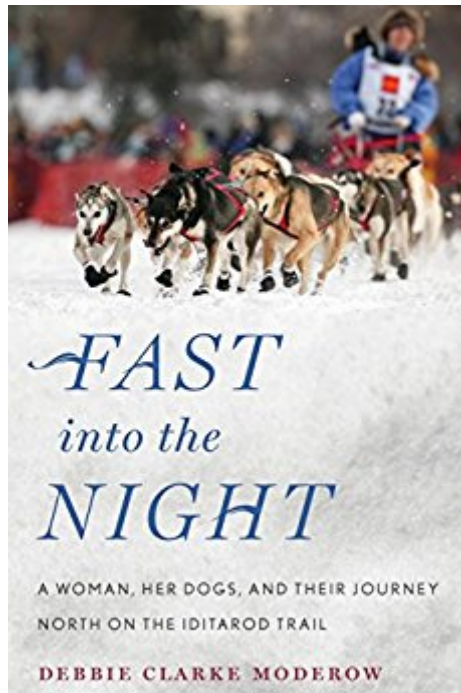


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Fast Into The Night: A Woman, Her Dogs, And Their Journey North On The Iditarod Trail



Synopsis

A captivating memoir of one woman's attempt to finish the Iditarod, led by her team of spunky huskies with whom she shares a fascinating and inextricable bond. At age forty-seven, a mother of two, Debbie Moderow was not your average musher in the Iditarod, but that's where she found herself when, less than 200 miles from the finish line, her dogs decided they didn't want to run anymore. After all her preparation, after all the careful management of her team, and after their running so well for over a week, the huskies balked. But the sting of not completing the race after coming so far was nothing compared to the disappointment Moderow felt in having lost touch with her dogs. Fast into the Night is the gripping story of Moderow's journeys along the Iditarod trail with her team of spunky huskies: Taiga and Su, Piney and Creek, Nacho and Zeppy, Juliet and the headstrong leader, Kanga. The first failed attempt crushed Moderow's confidence, but after reconnecting with her dogs she returned and ventured again to Nome, pushing through injuries, hallucinations, epic storms, flipped sleds, and clashing personalities, both human and canine. And she prevailed. Part adventure, part love story, part inquiry into the mystery of the connection between humans and dogs, Fast into the Night is an exquisitely written memoir of a woman, her dogs, and what can happen when someone puts herself in that place between daring and doubt and soldiers on.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Debbie Clarke Moderow's passion for her dogs shows in her story. Her love for the animals and her love for the outdoors (however brutally cold) are what got me engaged in this story from the start. I am ~NOT~ an Iditarod racer, nor a musher of any kind and I really do not like arctic weather. Moderow's story here confirms my dislike for cold weather. But this is not just a story about Moderow's attempt and failure in 2003 to complete the Iditarod. She tries again in 2005 with much better results. In 2003 the race course was diverted because of lack of snow along the original route. The route that year followed the Yukon river in parts, and crossed frozen sea sections that are not conducive to dogs' performances. Racing along a frozen river brings its own risks such as blowing wind, blinding whiteouts and tortuous boredom. This fast read is about how she trains her dogs in 2003, why she drops out, and why she tries again in 2005. While other Iditarod stories talk about how great the winners are, this story has more honesty and shows human failings. I really like that. Moderow accepts defeat but it doesn't stop her from doing this race a second time. Interspersed within this story are shorter chapters on specific moments in her life, some biographies about a few of the dogs she has had, and stories about her son Andy and his success with the Iditarod. Moderow's family is a dog-loving mushing family and these family stories are well narrated. I really liked Chapter 7, "The White Dog." While the story of the Iditarod is fascinating, what is most engaging is how Moderow describes the close bond between dogs and human.

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