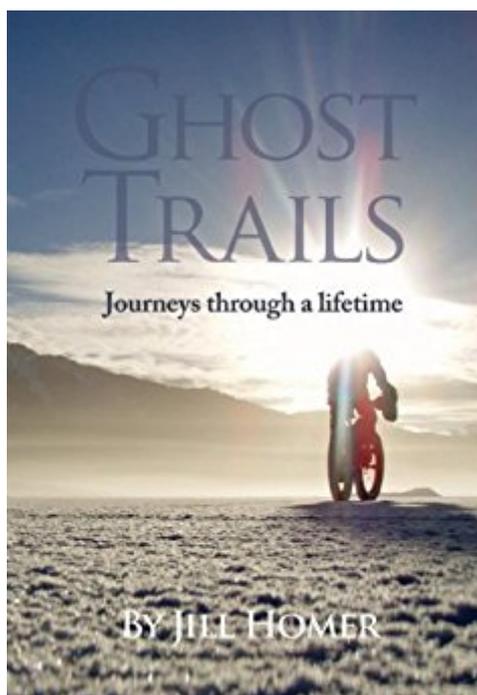


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# Ghost Trails: Journeys Through A Lifetime



## Synopsis

Jill wasn't an athlete, at least not in the more insecure corners of her identity. What she was, was cold. And frightened. And alone in the frozen wilderness of Alaska, more than a hundred miles from the nearest outpost of civilization. As she struggled to maintain forward motion, she couldn't help but strive to piece together the reasons that brought her here in the first place, to the Iditarod Trail, with nothing more than a bicycle and a few essential pieces of gear, in February. What possessed her, a timid Mormon girl from the suburbs of Salt Lake City, to sign up for a 350-mile bicycle race across frozen Alaska? How was she possible going to survive, let alone finish, this grueling adventure through the heart of her deepest fears? She muddled for answers from the wind, the mountains, the tundra, the faint trail she followed, and the ghostly trails of her memories. "Ghost Trails: Journeys Through a Lifetime" is the inspirational journey of an unlikely endurance athlete locked in one of the most difficult wilderness races in the world, the Iditarod Trail Invitational. Through her struggles and discoveries in Alaska's beautiful, forbidding landscape, Jill begins to understand the ultimate destination of her life's trails. This second edition includes the account of her return to the Iditarod Trail in 2014, traveling 350 miles on foot. "There is no ideology that can shield us from the searing wind, the frozen emptiness, and the desperate loneliness of a night in the Alaska Range at 20 below. And there are no words that can prepare us for the raw amazement, the sweeping beauty and the quiet joy spread across white, unbroken land. We find so much wonder it makes civilized life seem shallow, and so much pain it makes death seem kind. We find love we can't express in a place so uncaring it breaks our hearts. We find that we're stronger than we ever hoped to be and weaker than we ever imagined. We find that there is reason to hope, and there is always reason to hope, as long as weary hearts keep beating. And what we realize is that everything we were looking for was inside of us, all along."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a great read for anyone and highly recommended. I am not a cyclist, nor ultra sport athlete or anything remotely close to what Jill is... that being said, her writing style and ability to grab the reader and bring them into her story is amazing. Sometimes reading this book you may start to drift into the realm of thinking this is fiction and have to pinch yourself back into reality and realize that all of this is based on her life and experiences. buy the book now... you won't regret it! and with a quick google search I found Jill's blog [...] and mention of the upcoming iditarod trail race [...] GO JILL!

Jill is an incredible writer, who is destined for greater things in the journalism world. Her style is such, you pick up the book (or view her blog) and realize hours and hours have passed. I'm sure this will be the first of many books. She works for the paper in Juneau, and was followed and picked up last year by NPR. Read the book, view her blog, and follow her adventures. You will never complain its too cold to ride your bike again!

The author has a style of writing that makes you feel like you are experiencing the race with her. Once I start her books, I don't like to lay them down. I would recommend this book to dreamers that have passed the age of experiencing what Ms. Homer has but want details of what it is like to bike or walk 350 miles through Alaska.

I adore Jill Homer's writing but I felt like this book was put together out of order. Chapters end and begin in a haphazardly fashion. One chapter is on Alaska, the next Utah, then back to Alaska. I am never sure of the timeline or what happened from the chapter before. Did she get frostbite? Did she finish the race? I don't mind reading little snippets about each race but I think that "how the race ends" should be part of the snippet. Order the book because I want you to support a great lady

cyclist but don't expect it to be a clearly written story about racing.

I liked it so much I bought another copy for my dad, who happened to be bed-bound after an accident, who also loved it. I think the best part about them is to see someone actually taking steps to live the dream that others cannot, as well as conquering conditions that would steer most people away. Good for Jill!

I'm definitely in awe of Jill. She keeps tackling adventures that I just dream about. Back when I was just out of college and stuck in a city, I became obsessed with the Iditarod, and loved reading tales of the dog sledgers and their training and adventures. Fast forward a few years, when I learned about Jill because of her other amazing achievement -- racing the Tour Divide. And now that I find myself researching snow biking for the winter, I had to go back and read her tales of biking the Iditarod. Besides getting a feel for what it means to travel 350 miles through snow and ridiculously low temperatures and ridiculously strong winds, you get to understand how at least one ultra adventurer pushes herself onwards, even when it hurts so so much. It's not inspiring so much as it's enlightening. You can do hard things if you choose to. And sometimes in order to do hard things, you have to put yourself in a position that it would be even harder to quit.

Very personal account of a brutal ride and trek along the iditarod trail...she is so strong and self disciplined even in the grip of paralyzingly cold and draining fatigue. Very expressive writing and full of the enduring human spirit.

Very frustrating read jumping back and forth between life events and the Iditarod race. I finally started skipping the chapters that weren't relating to the Iditarod. I give all respect and praise to Jill for her ability to persevere in very difficult conditions. It just didn't appeal to my reading style. Others may enjoy the read.

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