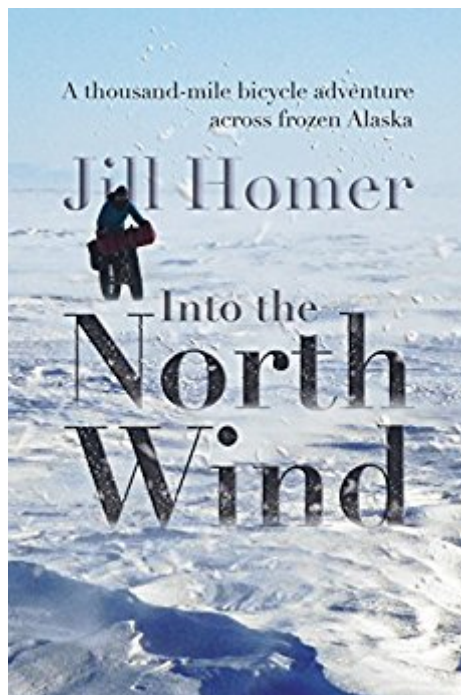




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# **Into The North Wind: A Thousand-mile Bicycle Adventure Across Frozen Alaska**



## Synopsis

Into the North Wind • chronicles Jill Homer's record-breaking bicycle ride across Alaska on the Iditarod Trail. Jill is one of those "accidental athletes" who stumbled into endurance racing shortly after she moved to Alaska in 2005. After a hundred miles, her first race only scratched the surface of the historic trail that spans a vast and frozen wilderness. Ever since, she dreamed about the chiming of ice crystals at thirty below zero, black spruce shadows in the moonlight, the ethereal dance of the Northern Lights, and a journey that could take her deeper into this transcendental world " the thousand-mile race to Nome. After ten years of dreaming, she finally made the leap in 2016. Fitness, however, remained elusive as ambitious preparations left a wake of failures, sickness and injury. Even the existence of the trail remained in question " throughout the winter, Alaska experienced unprecedented heat waves and snow melt that threatened to render the Iditarod Trail impassable. By the time Jill lined up at the start, she was ready to chuck her dream into the barely-frozen lake. Instead, she pedaled across waterlogged ice, repeating her mantra of "one day at a time." This account is not just a story about seeking beauty, overcoming setbacks and uncovering hidden strength " it's a journey into the benevolent heart of the coldest, loneliest trail.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I wish I was as talented writing a quick review as Jill is writing an entire book. I have read all of Jill's books and each deserve a 5+ star rating. This story is no exception. Superb story about her life, health issues, training and the actual racing of the 2016 Iditarod Trail Invitational. The ITI is a 1,000 mile race in the dead of winter across frozen Alaska to the village of Nome. In 2016 Jill not only completed the entire distance but she now holds the women's record. This is a REAL & HONEST story about the training and racing challenges. Her words pull you into the story and you feel like YOU are the one cycling 2mph on the sea ice battling ferocious head winds. Jill's adventures and books are truly inspiring even for those of us that are not endurance athletes. I highly recommend any and all of her books!!

How can anyone, especially a girl, since girls are supposed to be less capable of withstanding harshness... This lady has done an amazing feat, impossible to sit home and imagine. In addition to discussing the physical issues incomparably well, Jill reveals her heart, her mind, her emotions without self consciousness. Therein is the reason she does such a truly "Fantasy," achievement such as this. The drive and desire to do it regardless of overwhelming set backs. I am a lifetime outdoors man, familiar with working on the Iditarod, All my outdoor endeavors fall to trivia upon reading, Into The North Wind. Rarely does an author delve so much into the overlooked, incomprehensible, emotional aspects of such lonely traveling, along with the tremendously, (What's a stronger word than that, Jill? Stupendously?) challenging difficulties of such a physical challenge. The emotions, the will power, the self sustaining desire to go on, alone, not team mates to help, all internalized without cheer leaders, coaches, helpers, are arguably the most important aspect of what you describe.

Jill Homer is my "go to" guide/adventurer for thrills, and spills, but always pure adventure. This time she chose to compete in, and hopefully complete, the bike portion of the Iditarod Trail race. She raced on a fat bike over one long, cold, lonely trail. And much to her surprise, and a little luck, she WON! She pedaled, sometimes so sick (literally), along, always so very cold, and almost blown over by the endless and relentless wind. She learned how to "pee" FAST before her butt froze. She

learned how to lock her frozen fingers around the handlebars so she had her two hands to steer the bike. But this didn't always keep her from toppling over and then struggling to get back up and onto her bike. In spite of all her trouble, she finished FIRST in her division. She beat the reigning woman's champ! And she took it stride when she got little recognition for her efforts at the finish line. Why? A dog sled "hot" behind her crossed the line and reaped all the praise from the press. I can't wait for Jill's next adventure.

I first discovered Jill by reading "Be Brave, Be Strong", her account of tackling the Great Divide mountain bike race. From that book on I have been hooked. As a self-proclaimed non-athletic, non-competitive, slight of stature girl from Utah, she has accomplished feats under the most extreme conditions that one could only imagine being performed by a superwoman. "Into the North Wind" is yet another amazing account of her trials and tribulations while attempting to concur the brutal Alaskan 1000 mile Iditarod Trail Race on a bike. Spoiler alert, she succeeds. Her writing style is so personal, so diarist, so engaging that one feels as if they are riding, suffering and celebrating along with her. If you enjoy personal and introspective accounts of amazing feats of endurance and accomplishment, by all means I highly recommend this book as well as any of her others. For my own selfish reasons, I hope that she continues to challenge and test her limits and continues to write about those exploits.

Another great tale from Jill Homer! I've read all of her books and anxiously awaited the release of this new one. Like the previous tales, I find inspiration in her being an "unlikely athlete" who found endurance racing almost by accident. The details of the doubt, emotion, and dangerous weather give Jill's writing an authenticity that I find easy to relate to.

Hats off to Jill for taking on this tough event and for sharing her adventures. I've read a couple of her books now. Her writing is engaging and honest but there are still a bit too many typos. I see her writing continuing to unfold. Keep editing and adventuring then sharing it all!

As a fan of arctic books on any level, this particular one did not let me down. It was well written and engaging. The story is unique unlike a lot of the expeditions that I read which tend to follow a predictable timeline. Being an avid runner and reader of ultra marathons this book was a twofer for me, an arctic story and an ultra adventure. While some of the descriptions of the trail and nature will become a bit mundane at times the book is well worth reading and page 12 may just change your

life, I know I will jot that entire page in my person journal for future reflection.

I highly recommend this book for both endurance athletes and armchair jocks. The story of finding meaning in life through pursuing difficult goals will resonate with many readers. Jill's ability to memorialize fleeting moments in life makes all her books worth reading, and makes me want to bring more introspection and intention to my life.

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