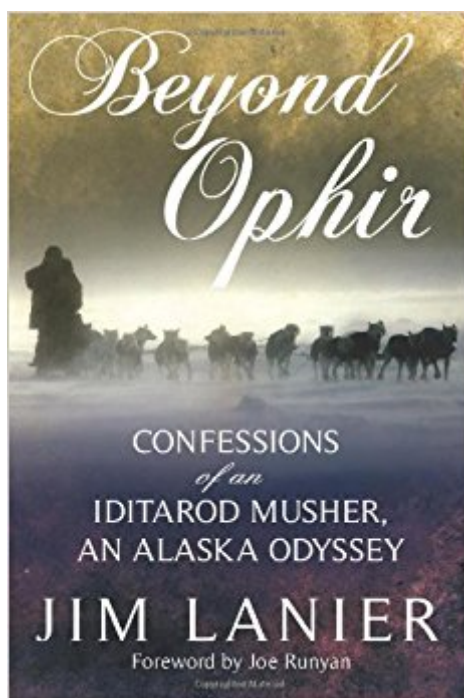


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# Beyond Ophir: Confessions Of An Iditarod Musher, An Alaska Odyssey



## Synopsis

Jim Lanier had a good life going: a great family, a successful pathologist, a sometimes singer. Then he went to the dogs, ran the Iditarod in 1979, and has never recovered. With that '79 race as the book's backbone, Jim tells its tale--entertaining, exciting, occasionally informative, and mostly the truth. From the bustle of metropolitan Anchorage to Front Street in Nome, it's no how to do. If anything, it's how not to--how not to give in to the urge to quit when the going gets tough, in life and in this metaphorical Iditarod.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is fantastic that Jim's one-of-a-kind humor has actually come out in his penmanship. To hear Jim's stories first hand, while on the trail, has always been a special part of running the Iditarod. When I need a good smile, I try to find Jim. But, now, I don't even have to get on the sled runners this season--I could just sit in my comfy Lazy Boy, open up this book, and be entertained without all the cold weather and fuss! --Aliy Zirkle, Competitive Iditarod Veteran and 2000 Yukon Quest Champion

Like my grandfather and as mentioned in *Beyond Ophir*, Jim drinks hot Tang on the trail. It's great to travel with him, and his book should give lots of people an idea of how wild and crazy, and fun, a sled dog trip to Nome can be. --Ray Redington, Jr., Competitive Iditarod Veteran and Grandson of Joe Redington, Sr., Father of the Iditarod

*Beyond Ophir* is a true to life Iditarod tale that will entertain the reader to the very end. Jim's witty wanderings, told campfire style, take the reader on Jim's first Iditarod Race in 1979, weaving in other Iditarod races and experiences. His humor, descriptive trail adventures, and tidbits of Alaska's history give wonderful, living insights into the

mind of a truly determined, engaging, Alaskan Iditarod musher. --Katie Mangelsdorf, author of  
Champion of Alaskan Huskies: Joe Redington Sr. Father of the Iditarod

Born the year 1940 in Washington, DC and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, Jim Lanier has been an Alaskan since 1967. He was first brought north by the U. S. Public Health Service and for two years was a medical doctor at Anchorage's Alaska Native Medical Center. Then, after four years of specialty training at the Mayo Clinic, Jim practiced pathology for 33 years at Providence Hospital in Anchorage. Bit by the mushing bug in the 70s, he ran his first Iditarod Sled Dog Race in 1979. Over the years since he has entered and completed numerous other races and 15 more Iditarods (as of 2013), and the end is not in sight.

I have read many books written by Mushers who tell their tale of participating in the Iditarod. I would come away feeling that they didn't tell the entire story, just giving me the highlights of certain stories along the trail. Jim Lanier puts you in his sled and takes you along the trail with him. Tales of checkpoints and the trail between checkpoints. He paints such a wonderful tale, ok sometimes not so wonderful. He certainly shows the glory and all the warts, loss of body parts, the love of family, friends and dogs, a real tale of getting to and down the Iditarod trail. Loved every word and picture.

I read this book after visiting Alaska this summer and had the opportunity to go mushing on a glacier outside of Seward. I wanted to know more about what the race is like and this book did that for me. What a lot of work and a dangerous sport! I respect the people who run this race. Would I perhaps have done it if I was born in the far north? What an adventure to be proud of! Thanks Jim!

I have to give this book only 3 stars because I don't have the cred to understand it. It's best enjoyed by someone who's had at least second-hand experience with dogs and the Iditarod. The author is the Real Thing, a famous Iditarod champion, and the organization and situations in the book assume some kind of familiarity with the subject, but ring hollow with me. I don't even rate as an armchair musher so should have saved my money for a romance or something.

I love Jim's sense of humor! This was a fast paced, yet thorough look at an early Iditarod race from the musher's point of view. It held my attention right to the end & I knew how it ended! Good read for Iditarod fans and those interested in the race.

A wonderful companion read while following the 2015 Iditarod. Highly recommended for the stories and humor, but even more, the feeling of the race.

Great book about the history of the Iditarod and the trials people went through . It also gives a lot of history of Alaska

While I enjoyed this book, my favorite was probably The Lance Mackey Story. Beyond Ophir was well written as one would expect a doctor to write.

Delightful read. Read it during the 2016 Iditarod while Jim was running again.

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