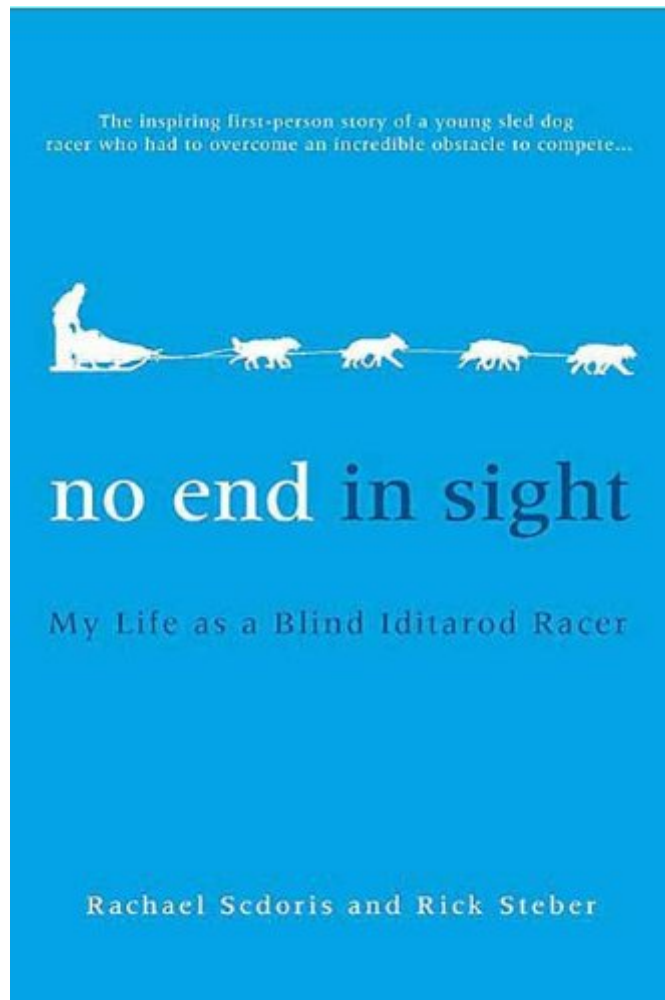




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No End In Sight: My Life As A Blind Iditarod Racer



Synopsis

The inspirational first person story of a young dog sled racer who had to overcome incredible odds to compete: she is legally blind. For more than eleven years, twenty-one-year-old Rachael Scdoris has been guiding teams of sled dogs across jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, and desolate tundra at speeds exceeding twenty mph. Not only is Rachael the youngest athlete to ever complete a 500-mile sled dog race mile, but she is also legally blind and has been since birth. Though she faced resistance from race organizers, Rachael finally achieved her goal of competing, with the aid of a visual interpreter, in the 2005 Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race across the wilds of Alaska. *No End in Sight* is a story full of heartache and hope, challenge and courage-- and ultimately the triumph of dreaming big and working to make those dreams come true.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a great book for others with Achromatopsia, their family and any person to get a gauge about what a legally blind person can achieve. I too have have the same sight condition as Rachael and

am also legally blind. The read brought tears to my eyes and made me laugh at how much I could relate personally to much of what Racael went through. The teasing at school, the beaurocracy that doesn't care and those that hate and would do anything to see the blind girl excluded from the sport - of course because of their bigotry to the misunderstanding of 'blind' (and the told you so, she will fail). Then there's the supporters, the inner strength bred by the desire and can do attitude. The runs on the board and proving she can. And in the end she did it, mushed that 1200 miles as not only a blind girl but also a young competitor rockie. She did good. I am disappointed the book doesn't come in audio format or kindle version. Hard copy makes it barely accessible to any vision impaired person...including the author, ironic. I read two other books on Kindle with audio while reading this book because it just takes strain and time to read normal print. I also had to scoff at the descriptions in the book of scenery and her body mid section bruise. They were described in colour lol! As any person with Complete Achromatopsia knows, we don't see colour. Our description of colour is typified by 'lighter / darker/ comments and guaranteed when Rachael looked at her bruise she would NOT be describing it as yellow, purple etc etc. But, I do understand this book is written for sighted people and a realistic descripto just would not have connected with the audience. Whereas those that don't see colour can at least image the shade. Adaptability at work. It was great to learn a little about the dog mushing caper too. A great read.

I really love the Iditarod and the team spirit in general, but this book discribes a whole new level of commitment that is purely amazing. Without a lot of self-pity, the blind musher discribes how she got together her dogs, trained and then ran the Iditarod. It goes into a lot more detail than this, obviously, but it doesn't get boring. If you want the ins and outs of sled-dog racing, this is it. If you want a great feel for woman/dog teamwork and devotion, this is it too. I highly recommend it.

I don't know much about dog racing, but this story had me mildly interested all the way through, and I learned a lot, not only about the sport, but about blind people and how one girl's courage catapulted her into a 500 mile, grueling endurance race across the wildest parts of a wild countryside. Rachel speaks candidly about how, when she was young, she wanted to be part of the clique of "popular girls" who ruled the roost at school, and how these uncaring girls mocked her and humiliated her for even trying. She didn't like being treated as some sort of second class and in a way, you can see the whole of her subsequent career as a sort of insolent salute to the girls who made her life hell. Her family was supportive, up to a point. But the challenge of the Iditarod Trail frightens even the most dedicated guides. And some unimaginative, if concerned, fellow sledders

told her she was crazy, being blind to attempt such a physical feat. For even strong men with both eyes sometimes went mad along the trail. The ITC wasn't helpful, and she had to appeal to them in person. What would she do if she had to go to the bathroom, for example? Rachel answers these questions with the frank good humor for which she has been known all over the world of sled racing. One indication of the deeper pain involved is that, usually, Rachel cries sometime during a race. But finally she's at a point where she's having fun and it shows not only in her work, but in the pages of this delightful book. My brother who gave me NO END IN SIGHT knows of my love for the books of David Sedaris, and he thought that Rachel might be some relation! Well, there's no direct blood connection (and her name is "Sedoris") but she is like David Sedaris in being able to find the humanity and humor even in the most awful of straits. Yes, it's "heavy sledding" at times, especially if like me you're a newbie with next to no knowledge of anything she's talking about and anything she's been through. But, there's a helpful glossary at the back of the book so all you non-mushers can decipher the somewhat specialized lingo. You'll be crying out "Haw!" and "Hike!" like seasoned trailhounds. Ever wonder what kind of personality you would have as a canine? Are you the wheel dog type or the swing dog, a team dog or a lead? Check out NO END IN SIGHT.

Rachel Sedoris was my spark to become a fan of the Iditarod sled dog race. This book chronicles Rachel's struggle of growing up legally blind and her dream of competing in and completing the 1100 mile sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome Alaska. The story begins with her birth and ends with her finish in the "Toughest Race On Earth" Well written with the help of Rick Steber, the book is another story of a person who is disadvantaged in some way who leaves those of us without such a burden no excuses for failing to pursue our own dreams. Like "Running With Champions" this book is more biography and less detail about the Iditarod, but Rick and Rachel do give a great deal of insight into the Iditarod Trail Committee and how the race is managed. If you are looking for a heart warming story about a young woman/girl, this is a book you would enjoy. It could be inspirational to young people and a motivator for those with some sort of impairment. It is not a technical or historical reference for Iditarod sled dog racing. Rachel is entered in the 2009 Iditarod, so the rest of the story is still being written. "GO Rachel! All the way to Nome!"

I came across this book while searching for books on the Iditarod. Rachael serves as an inspiration to many who have physical challenges, although she initially resisted this role. She has a lot of guts, stamina, and composure. I thank her for writing this book and giving all of us a reminder to go after our goals!

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