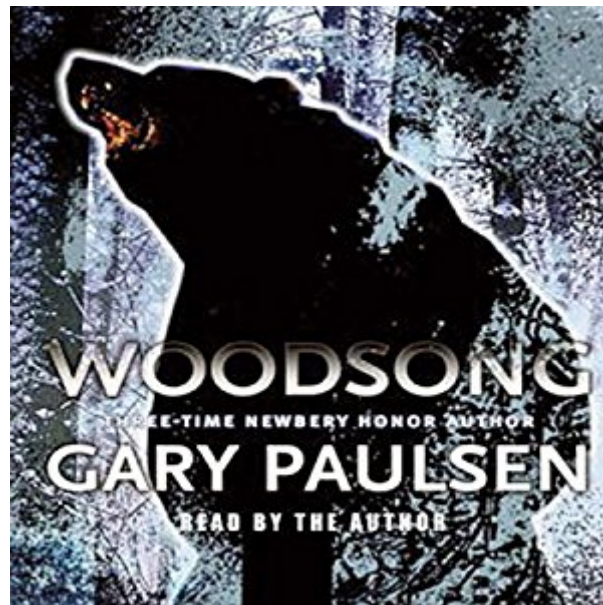


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# Woodsong



## Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. Gary Paulsen, three-time Newbery Honor author, is no stranger to adventure. He has flown off the back of a dogsled and down a frozen waterfall to near disaster, and waited for a giant bear to seal his fate with one slap of a claw. He has led a team of sled dogs toward the Alaskan Mountain Range in an Iditarod -- the grueling, 1,180-mile dogsled race -- hallucinating from lack of sleep, but he determined to finish. Here, in vivid detail, Paulsen recounts several of the remarkable experiences that shaped his life and inspired his award-winning writing. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 30 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Listening Library

Audible.com Release Date: February 17, 2009

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B001THVZHU

Best Sellers Rank: #18 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Literary #43 in Books > Teens > Sports & Outdoors #58 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Biographies & History

## Customer Reviews

After reading Gary Paulsen's *Winterdance*, I had to try this one. I teach 5th grade, so I thought *Woodsong* might be more geared toward them. I'm still reluctant to use this except in small groups...the depiction of nature's brutality with all the graphic detail, will be a little too intense for some of my students...only balanced by an adult's perspective (putting it into context). Setting aside that one word of caution, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Like one of his dogs, once I was harnessed in, I couldn't stop running through the pages. *Woodsong* isn't the marathon that *Winterdance* is...more like a quick run from White Mountain to Nome...but I only stopped briefly to eat and sleep. [Couldn't get my wife to rub my shoulders or change my socks, though. No moose chili, either. C'mon [...]] It's a book I'll read again and again. What Paulsen does, he does extremely well. To begin, it's a parallel story to *Winterdance*, but draws from a completely different set of experiences:

read both books! Paulsen masterfully strips away our romantic 'Disney' notions of nature with gritty reality. If you've ever spent time in remote places, off the beaten path, his stories will ring true to you. Paulsen is both humble and insightful in his understanding of himself, his thoughts and feelings, his limitations and motivations. That honesty is as rare as it is refreshing. Paulsen spends a little too much time focusing on the 'strange but true' encounters that happen in the wild, but I think it's part of his way of processing them...and sharing the wonder and awe that you get when you're out there. The grand scale of some of his stories, perhaps embellished, nevertheless leave you with the proper impression that the world of the Iditarod and Alaskan wilds are unimaginable and endless.

The number one item on my bucket list is to go to Alaska and see the beginning of the Iditarod dog sled race. Next month, I will be able to cross that off the list as that is exactly what I am going to do. While looking around the Iditarod website, I noticed that they recommended this book for people interested in dog sledding. I had read *Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod* previously by this same author and it is one of my favorite books of all time so I immediately downloaded this one. It is a relatively short book and is divided into two sections. The first section is a bit about his personal history and how his growing-up years really revolved around nature and engaging in out-door activities. He also explains how he moved from being a very active hunter to someone who has decided he will never hunt another living creature again. As he got older, he developed a fascination with dogs and was intrigued by dog sledding and started dabbling a bit in the sport. I will warn folks that there are some very descriptive passages about animals hunting other animals. While this is just part of nature and to be expected, if you are thinking of allowing a youngster to read this, you may want to glance at it before you do so. Some younger folks might be very upset by the events. The second half of the book is a day-by-day account chronically of his first Iditarod run. Each day is about 2 or 3 pages long and talks about what happened that day and what misadventures occurred.

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