

Some years ago, while living in Alaska as a musician, I found myself asking a simple question: What if a band followed the Iditarod Trail, performing in villages during the race? That question stayed with me until it eventually became my feature screenplay, **THE IDITAROD BAND**.

Benjy Tucker quits his thriving rock band to care for his dying grandfather and loses two precious years of his youth. After his grandfather's death, he moves to Alaska in search of a fresh start. There he meets a struggling young journalist and an eclectic collection of free-spirited Alaskans and comes up with an audacious plan to take a band along the Iditarod Trail. This improbable idea gives each of them a new chance to pursue hopes about their lives they had thought were dead and buried.

At its heart, **THE IDITAROD BAND** is a story about grief and possibility. Benjy is simultaneously caretaker, dreamer, musician, reluctant leader, and a young man trying to find meaning again after his life has lost its bearings. The comedy grows naturally from his fish-out-of-water presence in Alaska, his increasingly ambitious undertaking, and the quirky people who become part of it. The more serious moments of loss, disappointment, friendship, and change remind us of the private struggles that so often shrivel dreams into surrender. My hope is that the funny and painful moments strengthen rather than interrupt one another.

Although entirely fictional, Benjy was inspired in part by my own experiences as a musician in Alaska, while Ana Nilson and several of the story's other key characters were inspired by people I knew there. Their humor, resilience, generosity, and humanity helped shape both the characters and the world of the story.

If you have a strong interest in character-driven features where comedy and drama work together, **THE IDITAROD BAND** might be a strong fit for what you're seeking. Thank you for considering it.