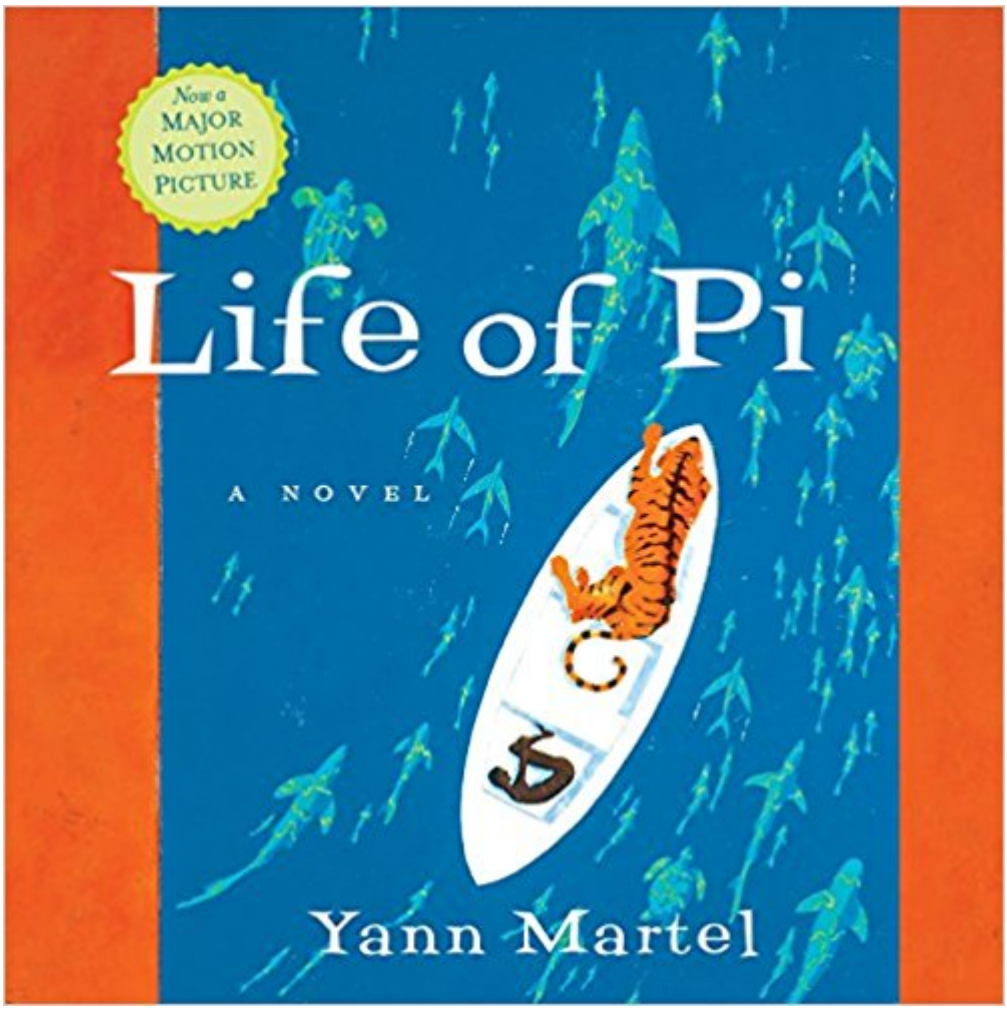
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Life Of Pi



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Synopsis

Martel’s novel tells the story of PiÃ¢â ¬â •short for PiscineÃ¢â ¬â •an unusual boy raised in a zoo in India. Pi’s father decides to move the family to live in Canada and sell the animals to the great zoos of America. The ship taking them across the Pacific sinks and Pi finds himself the sole human survivor on a lifeboat with a hyena, an orangutan, a zebra with a broken leg and Bengal tiger called Richard Parker. Life of Pi brings together many themes including religion, zoology, fear, and sheer tenacity. This is a funny, wise, and highly original look at what it means to be human.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yann Martel’s imaginative and unforgettable Life of Pi is a magical reading experience, an endless blue expanse of storytelling about adventure, survival, and ultimately, faith. The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting "religions the way a dog attracts fleas." Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and their menagerie and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker ("His head was the size and color of the lifebuoy, with teeth"). It sounds like a colorful setup, but these wild beasts don’t burst into song as if co-starring in an anthropomorphized Disney feature. After much gore and infighting, Pi and Richard Parker remain the boat’s sole passengers, drifting for 227 days through shark-infested waters while fighting hunger, the elements, and an overactive imagination. In rich, hallucinatory passages, Pi recounts the harrowing journey as the days blur

together, elegantly cataloging the endless passage of time and his struggles to survive: "It is pointless to say that this or that night was the worst of my life. I have so many bad nights to choose from that I've made none the champion." An award winner in Canada, Life of Pi, Yann Martel's second novel, should prove to be a breakout book in the U.S. At one point in his journey, Pi recounts, "My greatest wish--other than salvation--was to have a book. A long book with a never-ending story. One that I could read again and again, with new eyes and fresh understanding each time." It's safe to say that the fabulous, fablelike Life of Pi is such a book. --Brad Thomas Parsons

A fabulous romp through an imagination by turns ecstatic, cunning, despairing and resilient, this novel is an impressive achievement "a story that will make you believe in God," as one character says. The peripatetic Pi (ne the much-taunted Piscine) Patel spends a beguiling boyhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper. Growing up beside the wild beasts, Pi gathers an encyclopedic knowledge of the animal world. His curious mind also makes the leap from his native Hinduism to Christianity and Islam, all three of which he practices with joyous abandon. In his 16th year, Pi sets sail with his family and some of their menagerie to start a new life in Canada. Halfway to Midway Island, the ship sinks into the Pacific, leaving Pi stranded on a life raft with a hyena, an orangutan, an injured zebra and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. After the beast dispatches the others, Pi is left to survive for 227 days with his large feline companion on the 26-foot-long raft, using all his knowledge, wits and faith to keep himself alive. The scenes flow together effortlessly, and the sharp observations of the young narrator keep the tale brisk and engaging. Martel's potentially unbelievable plot line soon demolishes the reader's defenses, cleverly set up by events of young Pi's life that almost naturally lead to his biggest ordeal. This richly patterned work, Martel's second novel, won Canada's 2001 Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. In it, Martel displays the clever voice and tremendous storytelling skills of an emerging master. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

I REALLY wanted to like this book. I tried, several times, to finish it. There were portions I liked. I tried listening to the audiobook, and found the narrator pleasant. However, to this day, I haven't finished the book. It just bored me overall. It's a shame, because there are many things from the book that I remember (factual things about tigers), and things that I liked about it.

Yann Martel has crafted a unique story mixed with magical realism that kept me glued to the pages.

Friends and family had told me they could not get past the opening chapters but I didn't find it troublesome. One has to understand that this is a framed story about Pi telling his story to an unnamed author. Highly recommended but prepare to let your imagination run freely.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel is about an Indian boy, Pi, who gets shipwrecked with a tiger. Of course there's more to it than that.Life of Pi takes place in 1970's India where we get the story of Pi growing up in a zoo. The book continues with Pi ending in a shipwreck and having to share a lifeboat with a tiger.The way Martel tells the story is very interesting. There's the parallel story of Martel himself going to visit an older Pi who tells the story that we are now reading. There's the occasional zoology lesson interspersed and an examination of faith. All this combined with the brutality of surviving in the Pacific Ocean. All of this is told through Pi, through Martel, through Pi which makes it quite a third hand telling.The ending is however genius as it completely flips the story on its head and you might have a revelation from it.Overall a great read, and be sure to catch the movie as well!

Yes, I've seen the movie. An incredible masterpiece, but once again, it cannot amount to or surpass the engaging tale of this novel The explicit attention to detail and information will have one truly believing that they're experiencing this journey with Pi. It's really hard to complete in words the adventure and amazement this book took me through. I would have to say with indefinite confidence that no other novel has left me speechless like this one. Would HIGHLY recommend.

As another reviewer stated, the first two chapters were rough to get through. I almost gave up. After trudging my way through into chapter 3, it started to pick up for me. By chapter 4 I was hooked, and finished the book within 2 days. The author gives a lot of background in those first few chapters, very similar to a James Michener book. (James Michener would spend several chapters writing about the geography of the setting of a story, before actually getting to the story). So this is a story of an incredible journey of a young man, from being shipwrecked with a ferocious tiger to landing on an island of carnivorous plants. Nicely written. I don't read fiction often, but this was a good one.

I finished this book several days ago (after devouring it over the period of a few days). It has been popular for several years, of course, so I had developed certain expectations, thinking it would be similar to certain survival tales read in childhood and overall heartwarming and inspiring. It was so different from that. The details were as delicious as the overall plot and at one point mid-book I actually stopped to google whether it was fiction or nonfiction. I don't want to spoil the best of it, so I

will say only that I s conclusion left me with deep questions, both about the author's intent and ways in which the story may be important in the interpretation of life's meaning by others and myself. I recommend this book to everyone.

I saw the movie quite awhile ago, but the book has always intrigued me. I am so glad I finally read it; it enlightened me with a number of ideas that I did not get from the movie. Pi's childhood revolved around the zoo in India where his father was the owner. When Pi ends up on a lifeboat with 4 different animals (a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, and a tiger named Richard Parker) he puts his knowledge to good use. The violence in the book is with the animals themselves and it is graphic, but that is the law of survival.Pi credits his religion, his faith in God as the thing that saved him. He actually practices 3 different religions, apparently with no difficulty Pi relies on his ingenuity for survival. He finds and used many things on the lifeboat to survive, i.e., he builds his own life raft (that he attaches to the lifeboat by rope) while afraid of sleeping with Richard Parker so close. Collecting rainwater, catching fish and turtles, and developing a relationship with Richard Parker, all demonstrate his uncanny abilities.The book is very well written; it is a pleasure to read. Pi narrates, but he is relating the story to a another person who actually writes the novel. I cannot give the book 5 stars; there is a section where apparently Pi is hallucinating and I struggled to read pages that made no sense to me. Pi does tell the reader in the beginning that anyone who reads and believes the book will strengthen their belief in God. Survival is possible, but not alone.

It probably deserves a 5, however, although the beginning chapters were necessary for the story, it was one of the few times I actually skipped pages. The rest of the book was very suspenseful and had me captivated. I did not see the movie, therefore had no pre-conception.

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