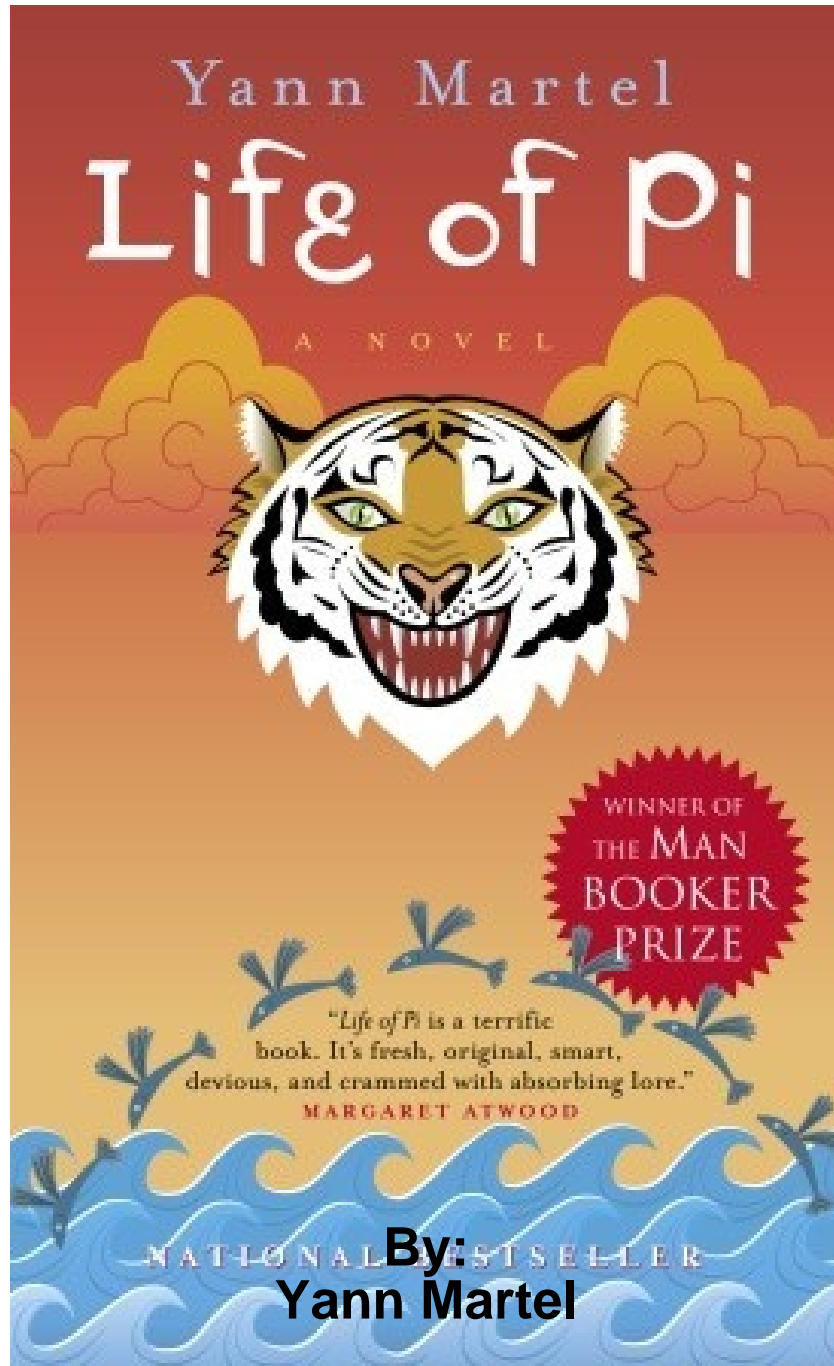


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What people Say:

Eva

It is not so much that The Life of Pi, is particularly moving (although it is). It isn't even so much that it is written with language that is both delicate and sturdy all at once (which it is, as well). And it's certainly not that Yann Martel's vision filled passages are so precise that you begin to feel the salt water on your skin (even though they are). It is that, like Bohjalian and Byatt and all of the great Houdinis of the literary world, in the last few moments of your journey "after yo

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And in those last few chapters, you suddenly realize that the moral has changed as well.

You feel Martel's words lingering, suggesting, and you find yourself wondering whether you are his atheist who takes the deathbed leap of faith "hoping for white light and love? Or the agnostic who, in trying to stay true to his reasonable self, explains the mysteries of life and death in only scientific terms, lacking imagination to the end, and, essentially, missing the better story?

There is no use in trying to provide a brief synopsis for this ravishing tale of a young boy from India left adrift in the Pacific in a lifeboat with a tiger who used to reside in his father's zoo in Pondicherry. There is no use because once you finish the book you might decide that this was not, indeed, what the book was about at all. There is no use because, depending on your philosophical bent, the book will mean something very different to your best friend than it will to you. There is no use because it is nearly impossible to describe what makes this book so grand.

Read this book. Not because it is an exceptional piece of literary talent. It is, of course. But there are many good authors and many good books. While uncommon, they are not endangered. Read this book because in recent memory - aside from Jose Saramago's arresting Blindness "there have been no stories which make such grand statements with such few elements. As Pi says in his story "Life on a lifeboat isn't much of a life. It is like an end game in chess, a game with few pieces. The elements couldn't be more simple, nor the stakes higher." It is the same with Martel's undulating fable of a book about a boy in a boat with a tiger. A simple story with potentially life altering consequences for its readers.

As Martel writes, "The world isn't just the way it is. It is how we understand it, no? And in

understanding something, we bring something to it, no?" Like Schroedinger's cat in the box, the way this book is understood, the way it is perceived affects what it is. There has been some talk that this book will make itâ€™s readers believe in god. I think itâ€™s a question of perspective. To behold this gem of a novel as an adventure of man against the elements (the âœdry, yeastless factualityâ€• of what actually happened) is certainly one way to go about it. But to understand this piece to be something indescribable, something godlike, is by far the greater leap of faith.

Oh, but worth the leap, if the reader is like that atheist, willing to see the better story.

Jason

LITTLE INDIAN BOY GOES ON WEIRD BOAT RIDE WITH MEAN CAT.

Trevor

I found a lot of this book incredibly tedious. I tend to avoid the winners of the Man / Booker â€“ they

make me a little depressed. The only Carey I haven't liked won the Booker (

), I really didn't like the little bit of

I read and I never finished

despite really liking Banville's writing. So, being told a book is a winner of the Booker tends to be a mark against it from the start, unfortunately.

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I'm going to have to assume you have read this book, as if I don't I won't be able to say anything about it at all. Apparently, when Yann Martel wrote this he was feeling a bit down and this was his way of plucking himself up. Well, good on him. That's just great. I was a little annoyed when I found out that the person the book is dedicated to had also written a story about a man in a boat with a wild cat and had considered suing for plagiarism.

Mary

It's not that it was bad, it's just that I wish the tiger had eaten him so the story wouldn't exist.

I read half of it, and felt really impatient the whole time, skipping whole pages, and then I realized that I didn't have to keep going, which is as spiritual a moment as I could hope to get from this book.

Kirstine

I was

surprised by this book. Let me tell you why (it's a funny story):

On the Danish cover it says "Pi's Liv" (Pi's Life), but I hadn't noticed the apostrophe, so I thought it said "Pis Liv" (Piss Life) and I thought that was an interesting title at least, so perhaps I should give it a go. So I did. And... what I read was not at all what I had expected (I thought it was a book about a boy in the Indian slums or something). It actually wasn't until I looked up the book in English I rea

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When I first read it I also thought it was based on a true story. I'm not sure why I thought that, I must have misread something (I vaguely recall thinking the prologue was instead an introduction). It was a sad (and ehm, slightly humiliating) day when I discovered the truth lay elsewhere. I guess your romantic beliefs must die someday, and that was the day for me.

See, it's easier to believe in the world and be optimistic about it, when you also believe that world capable of containing a boy and a tiger co-existing on a lifeboat for 7 months and

The truth is this book probably changed my life, not in any grand, extraordinary way. But with the small things, the small observations. Like how he was afraid to run out of paper, to document his days in the lifeboat, and instead he ran out of ink. Like how he chose to embrace three religions, not just one.