



Life of Pi

By Martel, Yann.

Mariner. 1 Paperback(s), 2001. soft. Book Condition: New. (Winner of the 2002 Man Booker Prize). The inspiration for the multiple Oscar-winning film by Ang Lee, *Life of Pi* is Yann Martel's wildly popular allegory of survival and spirituality. Emigrating from India to Toronto with his family, teenaged Pi Patel finds himself the only human survivor after their Japanese cargo ship sinks. He shares his lifeboat with a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker, but soon there is only the tiger and Pi, whose cunning and intelligence allow him to coexist with Richard Parker until they reach Mexico 227 days later. When Pi reports his odyssey to the authorities, they coerce him to instead "tell the truth." His second story is much less fantastical but is it really more true? "Absurd, macabre, unreliable and sad, deeply sensual in its evoking of smells and sights, the whole trip and the narrator's insanely curious voice . suggests Joseph Conrad and Salman Rushdie hallucinating together over the meaning of *The Old Man and the Sea* and *Gulliver's Travels*." *Financial Times* 319.

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