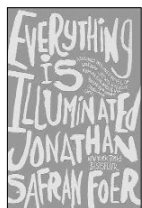


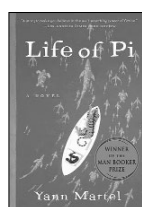
# Book Sense 76

## INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLER RECOMMENDATIONS

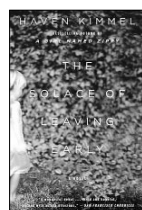
The Top Ten recommendations from the Summer Paperback Book Sense 76, as voted by independent booksellers



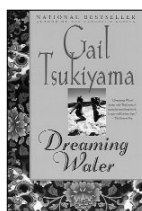
**1. EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED: A Novel, by Jonathan Safran Foer** (Perennial, \$13.95, 0060529709) “This book’s riches (and they are many) lie in its astonishing range of humor and horror, an awareness of past and present, and a presence that takes very certain words to say. Say them Foer does: daringly, hauntingly, and deeply.”—**Rick Simonson, Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA**



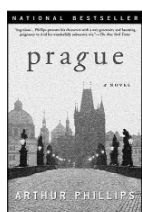
**3. LIFE OF PI: A Novel, by Yann Martel** (Harvest, \$14, 0156027321) “Martel weaves a brilliant tale that is part adventure story and part spiritual quest; the portion that deals with Pi and a Bengal tiger adrift on the ocean in a lifeboat together is everything you might imagine and more.”—**Stephen Grutzmacher, Passtimes Books, Sister Bay, WI**



**5. THE SOLACE OF LEAVING EARLY: A Novel, by Haven Kimmel** (Anchor, \$13, 1400033349) “This novel is terrific. I love these characters for having absorbed literature and philosophy, and then remembering it as they tried to make sense of their lives and the lives of others.”—**Diane Leslie, Dutton's Books, Brentwood, CA**



**7. DREAMING WATER: A Novel, by Gail Tsukiyama** (Griffin, \$12.95, 0312316089) “I loved Tsukiyama’s previous books, and although *Dreaming Water* is very different in content—taking place in the U.S.—it features the same sensitive portrayal of women’s relationships.”—**Jean Martin, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cleveland, OH**



**9. PRAGUE: A Novel, by Arthur Phillips** (Random House, \$13.95, 0375759778) “The setting is Budapest in the '90s, when locals thought far more was happening in Prague. The bars and cafés salute the Jazz Age, catering to a generation in search of riches, the past, and a culture to call their own, but not ready to face the truth. I loved this book.”—**Barbara Theroux, Fact & Fiction, Missoula, MT**

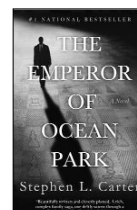
**2. THE DIVE FROM CLAUSEN'S PIER: A Novel, by Ann Packer** (Vintage, \$14, 0375727132) “When Carrie Bell’s boyfriend breaks his neck and is paralyzed, she is faced with having to decide what it is she owes to those she loves. The writing is wonderful, and at the book’s close I felt an unexpected satisfaction and pleasure with the heroine’s decisions.”—**Leslie Reiner, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL**



**4. RUNNING WITH SCISSORS: A Memoir, by Augusten Burroughs** (Picador, \$14, 031242227X) “This book is like a hybrid offspring of the writings of Derrick Jensen and David Sedaris, as the author’s story is both insightful and humorous.”—**Lin Orndorf, Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, Asheville, NC**



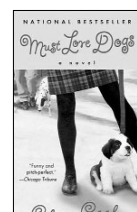
**6. THE EMPEROR OF OCEAN PARK: A Novel, by Stephen L. Carter** (Vintage, \$14, 0375712925) “This fantastic literary mystery is the perfect substitute for *War and Peace* this summer. The main character’s challenge to solve the puzzle left behind by his dead father keeps the pages turning, and the descriptions of the characters and their complicated relationships are fascinating.”—**Terry Lucas, Open Book, Westhampton Beach, NY**



**8. INTO THE FOREST: A Novel, by Edna O'Brien** (Mariner, \$13, 0618339655) “A disturbing look into the tortured soul of a man who is haunted by his past. Those haunts drive him deeper into an inner evil that he cannot release himself from. You are drawn into this book until the very last page.”—**Joy Winslow, Danner's Books, Muncie, IN**



**10. MUST LOVE DOGS: A Novel, by Claire Cook** (Onyx Books, \$6.99, 0451410947) “A recently divorced preschool teacher is reentering the dating scene at the behest of her large, Irish-Catholic family, who try to set her up with someone...anyone. Zany, colorful characters and a plot with a Murphy’s Law kind of inevitability make this a great, fun read.”—**Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI**



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