

A Few Memoirs, Biographies, Autobiographies and Writing Books in No  
Particular Order  
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- The Art of Travel* by Alain de Botton. A recent book by the author of the wonderful *The Consolations of Philosophy*. He combines and alternates his travels with classic travel literature.
- Climbing the Mango Trees: A Memoir of a Childhood* in India by Madhur Jaffrey, food writer, movie director and author.
- This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff. A memoir of growing up in the 50s that the *NY Times* says "So absolutely clear and hypnotic...that a reader wants to take it apart and find some simple way to describe why it works so beautifully."
- Country Boy Gone Soldiering* by George H. Waple III of Waples Mill, VA. A plainly written autobiography of a local man born in 1921.
- Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi. A story of an Iranian childhood told in graphic art (cartoons to the rest of us).
- The Best American Nonrequired Reading, 2004*, edited by Dave Eggers, a cult writer. A collection of pieces--"fiction, humor, essays, comics, journalism," from a variety of magazines such as the *Atlantic Monthly*. Book profits support scholarships for young students.
- The Book of Eulogies: A Collection of Memorial Tributes, Poetry, Essays, and Letters of Condolence* edited by writer Phyllis Theroux. Read this to see how you might sum up your life.
- Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott. A classic.
- Alice* by Calvin Trillin. I have mixed feelings about this--sometimes way too narcissistic.
- The Road to Oxiana* by Robert Byron, first published in 1937, describing his travels in the Middle East. Paul Fussell said, "What *Ulysses* is to the novel between the wars and what *The Waste Land* is to poetry, *The Road to Oxiana* is to the travel book."
- Strange Lands and Friendly People* by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, written in 1951 about his 1949 and 1950 travels as a private citizen, often with his young son, in Greece, Persia, Lebanon, Israel, India and elsewhere.

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