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.”


_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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