

# REAL SIMPLE

| LIFE MADE EASIER |



no-  
obligation  
**BOOK  
CLUB**

beautician-training program. **Kabul Beauty School** is a testament to one woman's ability to prevail against great odds.

—posted by Sandy

Eustace Conway was 17 years old when he escaped society to live in the woods. In **The Last American Man**, by Elizabeth Gilbert, she shares Conway's beliefs—that most of us have wasteful habits and void pursuits—which I found illuminating yet disheartening.

—posted by Tracy

**Savage Beauty**, by Nancy Milford, is about America's political and cultural tumult from 1900 to 1950 and the life of Edna St. Vincent Millay, the poet and antiwar activist who was right in the thick of it.

—posted by Amanda

## WE ASKED

## What is your favorite biography or memoir?

### YOU ANSWERED

In Amy Krouse Rosenthal's memoir, **Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life**, she muses/jokes/opines through subjects from A to Z, sharing minutiae (losing a single glove) and more substantial reflections (her love for her husband).

—posted by Anne

**An Autobiography**, by Agatha Christie, is as engrossing as one of her mysteries. You learn about her childhood, her marriages, and life during the World Wars. I especially loved reading the

descriptions of her many homes, from the decor to the extravagant dinner parties.

—posted by Melissa

### **The Year of Magical**

**Thinking**, by Joan Didion, takes place right after her husband of 40 years dies. Didion expertly describes this painful period when living is just going through the motions.

—posted by Tammy

In 2002 cosmetologist Deborah Rodriguez went to Afghanistan to volunteer as a nurse's aide. She surmounted vast cultural barriers to organize a

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