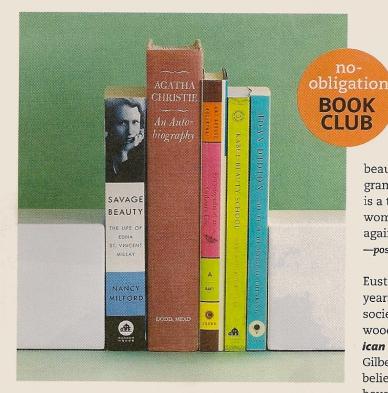
REALSIMPLE

LIFE MADE EASIER



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 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

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