



## Because I Said So

By Kate Moses  
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### Introduction

From the editors of Salon.com's Mothers Who Think, which led to the American Book Award-winning anthology *Mothers Who Think*, comes a new collection of essays by women, about women, for women. Elevating the discussion of motherhood above the level of tantrum control and potty training, the essays cover everything from the anguish of giving up custody after the divorce to the joys and heartaches of having one child with autism and one without.

### Questions

1. Which of the essays spoke to you the most and why? Did you disagree with any of the essays or have you had an opposite experience?
2. Do you find it hard to juggle family, work, and time for yourself? How do you (or don't you) do it? Do you feel that one or two areas of your life suffer for the sake of another?
3. Several of the essays deal with various cultural backgrounds and their importance in the authors' lives. Do you find that you draw strength from your cultural history? Do you try to make sure that your own children grow up with both knowledge of and pride in their family's history?
4. The Ayelet Waldman essay has received a lot of media attention, both negative and positive. How did her essay make you feel in terms of your own family?

### About the Authors

Camille Peri was a founding editor of the Mothers Who Think website at Salon.com and coeditor, with Kate Moses, of the American Book Award-winning anthology *Mother's Who Think: Tales of Real-Life Parenthood*. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and two sons.

Kate Moses is a former contributing writer for Salon.com and one of the founding editors of Salon's Mothers Who Think. She is also the author of *Wintering: A Novel of Sylvia Plath*, winner of the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize, as well as coeditor, with Camille Peri, of *Mothers Who Think: Tales of Real-Life Parenthood*. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and two children.