



We don't just love *The Mercy Rule: A Novel* because it's by our contributing editor Perri Klass. We love it because it's better than those madcap mom-lit books—but just as much fun to read. The story of a pediatrician-mom who looks after at-risk families is totally on the money about being a mom today (the struggles and the good stuff). (Houghton Mifflin)

Win it!

One hundred readers will each win *The Mercy Rule: A Novel* (a \$24 value). Go to Parenting.com/giveaways to enter and for official rules. See page 144 for more info.

16%

How much more relaxed men are the week before a vacation, compared to women

(No kidding: Who's doing all the packing?)



ADMIT IT!

What trait of yours do you hope your child doesn't inherit?

"My ability to eat an entire box of chocolate cookies and then wish I had more."
—Dee Willis, Jackson, TN

"Wide feet! It's a pain finding shoes that fit me."
—Ann Sackrider, Parenting staffer

"My stubborn nature. The bad thing is that at age one and a half, I think he already has some of it!"
—Mel Justinger, La Crosse, WI

"My potty mouth. The other day while I was driving, I

called the man who cut me off a 'dumb ass.' From the backseat, my daughter said, 'What?! We're out of gas?' I let her think that rather than admit I'd called some poor guy a bad name."
—Tonia King, Lake Stevens, WA

"I continue to second-guess myself even after I've made a choice. I hope my children can realize that when they have the best intentions, everything will turn out fine."
—Jill Hubbs, Auburn, WA

