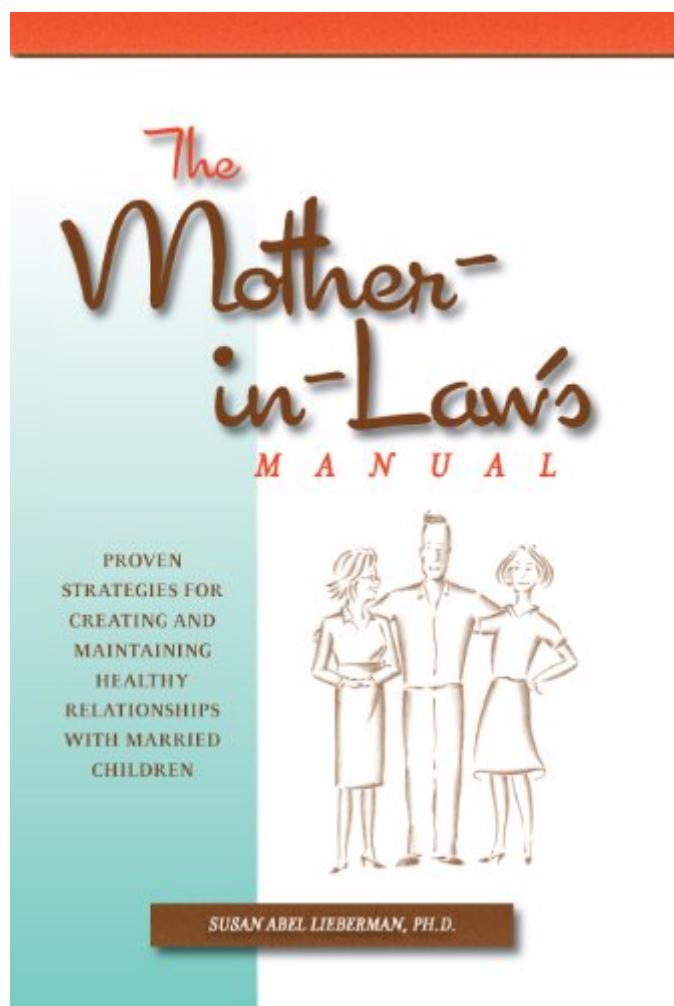


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# The Mother-in-Law's Manual: Proven Strategies For Creating And Maintaining Healthy Relationships With Married Children



## **Synopsis**

When her boys married, Susan Lieberman had no idea that there was an entire new learning curve waiting just around the corner. She had expected parenting to be demanding, but it never occurred to her to think her sons marrying would bring its own challenges. Where was Dr. Spock on this stage of development? Now in *The Mother-In-Law's Challenge* Lieberman uses the same strategy she found so helpful when her children were growing up—talking to other women going through the same experiences. She invites women everywhere to join in the conversation. It begins with women's expectations before their children marry and ends with hopes about how their children will behave when their mothers are really old. It deals with all facets of the in-law relationship, including how to handle difficult family members, how to discuss what seems like impending disaster and how to approach babies having babies. There is, Lieberman says, complete consensus that mothers-in-law simply must "Keep your mouth shut." But that simple rule is not so simple. Mothers say, "I just want my children to be happy." But, in fact, they also want to be happy, to feel loved by their children and their families, and to be part of their lives with easy and respectful communications. "Is that too much to ask?" Women who join the coffee klatch with Susan Lieberman will finally find the wisdom on the last stage of parenting that Dr. Spock never thought to provide.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Wish I had known about this book 11 years ago, before I messed things up with my daughter-in-laws. Now I wish I could purchase them and give each girl one so that they would know that I did not do it on purpose, but out of ignorance, but the hard copy of the book is not in print anymore. I purchased the digital copy and listened to it on my Kindle while commuting. Recommended for anyone nearing the end of rearing their children, there is a lot of good advice for parenting grown children as well as in-lawing.

This book is wonderful and I have read three on this subject. The author is funny, smart and insightful. I kept dog earring the pages to go back and highlight. I think the issues are much more related to a sons marriage rather than a daughters. My dtr and I are very close and regardless of how I get along with my son in law that will never change. In contrast my relationship with my son and his child is greatly influenced by how my dtr in law and I get along. There was one part in the book about how when your child marries you are not a part of their unit but they are still in yours.....very insightful and helps to understand the discontent you can feel. I still wish my dtr in law would call me once in awhile, they live far away, but she does answer my emails promptly although I always write first. I am guilty of making my son feel guilty that they do not live close and I will work on that. The girls family usually come first and that can be hard on the boys parents. I will though try and keep my mouth shut, and I am guilty of saying "I think that's great" never thought of how that sounds to them. I can't say enough about this book. Thank you Susan Lieberman. I feel like with in law kids I want to love them unconditionally but I feel like you're only as good as the last time you saw them. I don't know that that will ever change but after reading this book I feel I can deal with it in a healthy way. I had to laugh about the "let it go" and using the husband as a sounding board, I'm so like that. But like the old adage says you catch more in laws with sugar than vinegar. Also the part about you feel like you lose if the kids go to the in laws house instead of yours, that is genius, this book helps you put a finger on the feelings and why you feel them. No one likes to lose but if you keep your mouth shut one day it will be your turn and they will be at your house. Some in law parents are a lot more competition than others. I have one grandpa who is very

possessive of "his" grand kids. All we can do is give it our best and know the grand kids will love us too. I am so glad in this day and age we can get this out in the open because except for very close friends it seems like a subject that most people don't like to talk about. I don't know why that is, maybe they feel they are "airing dirty laundry" at least we have these forums to chat anonymously. Grand kids make life worth living. Amen..The thing to me in a nutshell is with in laws,you all love the same people but you don't love each other. I find that very awkward. Plus I don't like the other family knowing my business just from hearing the kids talk.

I was in the midst of a big emotional upset over the "loss" of our oldest son to marriage. He had lived on and off with us until he was in his mid-thirties. He was my friend. We were always very close, he enjoyed long conversations and we shared the same sense of humor. I thought I was prepared for him getting married, but shortly found out I was far from it. Suddenly, he didn't need me anymore, and when we did talk it was not like we use to. I missed the old days. Ms. Liberman, was very sensitive to both sides, mother-in-law, son, daughter-in-law and also the reverse; daughter and son-in-law, and discussed some of the myths and explained how I could create a new relationship with my son and see his marriage as a positive thing in our family, not the negative. It was easy for me to take to heart her advice and she qualified it by sharing her own personal relationships with being a daughter-in-law and having a daughter-in-law. It's a quick read, and an excellent resource to return to. I have read it many times, and when I start to get upset about something, I go get it and read. I chose it after reading excellent reviews here on .

At first I was disappointed that the book did not place more blame on my daughter-in-law (lol) and reading this has certainly helped open my eyes to things I am unknowingly doing wrong with good intentions. It has helped me shift my perspective. Now to apply it in realtime....

An old high school friend kept quoting this book on Facebook, and I thought the bits were inspired. When my son announced his wedding, I scrambled to get it. I am the victim of extremely bad in-laws, both father and mother and one of the spouses. I don't want to ever inflict that kind of pain on a person that my sons love, not that I would intentionally do so. This book preps you for things that even the most thoughtful parent might mess up. It is funny and thought-provoking, but is a very easy read. I recommend it to any parent who wants to continue having a great relationship with their married children and the new members of the family. You won't be sorry you purchased this book. And moms, get the future father-in-law to read it too!

Reading this book is like sitting down one-one-one for coffee with Susan Lieberman. In her own distinctive voice, she shares her insights, discoveries and interview-based research. This manual results in a real how-to book for us Mother-in-Laws who have been playing it by ear, and not always successfully. Although not a family therapist, Dr. Lieberman could hang out her shingle. She has learned, the hard way, the difficulties of giving up your son to the love of his life and just how that affects your role and your future. Most importantly, Susan helps us come to terms with the fact that despite our best efforts, we may not always succeed in building the relationship we'd like with our own daughters-in-law. But the priceless information she passes on in this book gives us a usable template. She answers the question, "How can she not love me?" from her own experience and opens our own eyes to how to adjust to multiple in-law scenarios

Thankfully there were far more suggestions than just keep quiet. Part of being a successful mother-in-law seems to need figuring out the communication needs of your daughter-in-law.

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