

# Mother-in-law gets back what she gives



**abigail van buren**

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, when I first became a daughter-in-law, it was a good lesson in how NOT to be a mother-in-law. So when our son became engaged, I told his chosen one I considered her "in-law" status only a legality, that I felt I was gaining a daughter, and that wives should always come before mothers.

only when asked and kept still when we saw them do something we thought was a mistake.

When our son had to travel out of town for additional job training, Dad and I moved into their home at their request. We had a great time with our grandchildren and made it possible for our son and his wife to have uninterrupted time for each other.

I am now a widow in my 90s and

live in a lovely apartment my son and his wife built onto their home. They visit and help me whenever I need them.

When we drive places, I have always insisted on sitting in the back seat because I find it easier to get in and out of the car. (The kids often have things to discuss and I don't need to know everything.) Believe me, the back seat "ain't" all that bad!

My daughters live in Virginia and California and come to stay whenever my son and his wife want to get away. All of them keep me busy with my computer, getting my own meals, knitting and library books. My girls call daily - O California in the mornings and Virginia to say

good-night. The kids here in town are in and out several times a day. When I tell each one how blessed I feel, my son always says, "Mother, you reap what you sow." — GRATEFUL MOM/IN-LAW

DEAR GRATEFUL MOM/IN-LAW: In most relationships, your son is right. Love and respect are a two-way street. I receive so many letters about bad relationships that it's a pleasure to print one that details such an exemplary one.

And while we're on the subject, I'll reprint a favorite item that has appeared in my column before:

**TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A MOTHER-IN-LAW**

- Thou shalt love, honor and respect the new couple.
- Thou shalt allow them complete independence.
- Thou shalt speak only kindly and loyally about them.
- Thou shalt not find fault.
- Thou shalt not visit them too frequently, and never enter their home without knocking.
- Thou shalt not expect them to visit you too often.
- Thou shalt not give advice unless requested.
- Thou shalt not mention how much you look forward to grandchildren.
- Thou shalt respect their taste in home decorating, though it dif-

fers from your own.

— Thou shalt petition daily the Heavenly Father, in whose love they abide, for their happiness.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SATURDAY EVENING										APR. 5, 2003												
	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30	
2	PBS	Keeping Up	Red Green	Lawrence Welk Show	Masterpiece Theatre	"Daniel Deronda"	Concerto	Austin City Limits	"Patty Griffin/Bob Schneider"													
3	IND	(5:00) MLB Baseball	Florida Marlins at Atlanta Braves. From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)		★ ★ ★ "Out for Justice" (1991, Drama)	Seagal, William Forsythe, Jerry Orbach.	(PA) Steven Seagal.	★ ★ ★ "House Party" (1990) Christopher Reid.														
4	ABC	More Classic TV	Bloopers	Are You Hot? Search for Sexiest People	Are You Hot? Search for Sexiest People			News	Chris Matthews	Powerball-Millionaire	Ent. Tonight											
5	HBO	"A.I.: Artificial	(4:45) ★ ★ ★ "The Fifth Element" (1997)	Bruce Willis. A cabbie finds a woman who may save Earth from disaster. "PG-13"			★ ★ ★ "The Salton Sea" (2002) Val Kilmer. Premiere. (N) (R)				(4:45) Six Feet Under											
7	CBS	College Basketball	NCAA Tournament Semifinal -- Teams to Be Announced. From the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.				News	(N) (R)	(3:55) Drew Carey	(0:5) Drew Carey	(3:55) Drew Carey											
8	NBC	Making of Fear Factor	★ ★ ★ "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (1984, Adventure)	Harrison Ford, Kate Capshaw, Ke Huy Quan.			News		Saturday Night Live	Bernie Mac, Good Charlotte.	(N) (R)											
11	TVLND	Brady	Hap Days	Sanford	Gilligan	Griffith	Leave	I Love Lucy	Flying Nun	Kotter	Soap											
12	ESPN	Billiards: Trick		Figure Skating World Championships. (Taped)				Sportscenter (Live)			Baseball											
13	FOX	Cops (PA)	Cops (PA)	America's Most Wanted-Fights Back	Equal Justice			Mad TV OK Go. (N) (R)	Sexwars		Sexwars											
15	MAX	(5:30) ★ ★ ★ "A Walk to Remember" (2002) PG		(1:15) ★ ★ ★ "Heist" (2001)	Gene Hackman. A veteran thief is forced to perform one last robbery.		(1:15) ★ ★ ★ "Virtuosity" (1995, Science Fiction)	Denzel Washington, Kelly Lynch.	(R)													
16	TNN	★ "Death Wish II" (1982)	Charles Bronson.	Blind Date	Blind Date	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)											
17	DISN	Boy Meets World	Sister, Sister	Proud Family-Kim Possible	That's So Raven	Lizzie McGuire	★ ★ "Smart House" (1999, Comedy)	Ryan Merriman.			(3:55) That's So Raven											
18	LIFE	(5:00) "Buried Secrets"	"Liar, Liar" (1993, Drama)	Art Hindle.	Final Justice		★ ★ "Ladykillers" (2001)															
20	USA	(4:00) "The Firm" (1993)	Nashville Star	Nashville Star	Nashville Star	Law & Order	★ ★ ★ "Attila" (2001)															
21	SHOW	(4:30) "Big Night" (R)	★ "Down to Earth" (2001, Comedy)	Chris Rock. iTV. (N) (R)	★ ★ "Taking Care of Business" (1990, Comedy)	James Belushi. iTV. (N) (R)	★ ★ "Crossroads" (2002) Britney Spears.															
22	TMC	★ ★ ★ "What Women Want" (2000, Comedy)	Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt, Marisa Tomei.	(1:15) "Protection" (2001, Suspense)	Stephen Baldwin, Peter Gallagher, Katie Griffin.		★ "American Psycho 2" (2002) Mila Kunis.															
23	MTV	MTV Special		MTV Special																		
24	DISC	Beyond Human Endurance	Killer Asteroids	Extreme Engineering	American Chopper: The Series	Monster Garage "Delivery Truck"																
28	TNT	(4:15) "Unforgiven"	★ ★ ★ "Space Cowboys" (2000) Clint Eastwood.		"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"																	
30	FXSP	Gymnastics See This	Beyond the Glory	Boxing: Kirk Johnson vs. Lou Savarese	Rocky Mt. Last Word																	
32	FAM	★ ★ "Jack" (1996) Robin Williams.		"Till Dad Do Us Part" (2001) John Larroquette.	Jesse	Jesse																
33	NBC	Entertainment Tonight	Making of Fear Factor	★ ★ ★ "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" (1984, Adventure)	Harrison Ford, Kate Capshaw, Ke Huy Quan.		News		Saturday Night Live													
34	NICK	All That (N)	Awards	Amanda (N)	Skeeter	Cosby	Cosby	Wings	Wings	Cosby	Cosby											
36	A&E	Cold Case Files	Crossing Jordan "Four Fathers" (N)	Third Watch "Unfinished Business" (N)	Paparazzi Photographer Pursues Madonna.	Cold Case Files																
38	SCIFI	(5:00) "Route 666" (N)	"Cube 2: Hypercube" (2002) Kari Matchett.	★ ★ ★ "The Running Man" (1987) (N) (R)																		
39	TLC	Maternity Ward "Life Choices"	Trauma: Life in the ER "Speed Fever"	While You Were Out "Miami: NW 150 Street"	Trading Spaces "New York: Half Hollow Turn"	Trading Spaces "Miami: Ten Court" (N)																
40	FX	M*A*S*H	★ ★ ★ "Lethal Weapon 2" (1989, Drama)	Mel Gibson.	★ ★ ★ "Ransom" (1996, Suspense)	Mel Gibson.																
45	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "Kiss Me Goodbye" (1982)		(:01) Hour of Stars	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (1952)																	
49	EITV	Spice Girls: The Kiss	Anna	Anna	Saturday Night Live (N)	On E!	Howard S.	Howard S.														
51	TRAV	Hollywood-Star	Movie Lover's Road Trip	Movie Lover's Road Trip	Hollywood-Star	Movie Lover's Road Trip																
53	WB	(5:00) ★ ★ "Batman" (1966) Adam West.	★ ★ "She-Devil" (1989, Comedy)	Meryl Streep, Roseanne Barr, Ed Begley Jr.	News (N)		★ ★ "Executive Power" (1997)															
54	ESPN2	NHL Hockey: Rangers at Canadiens	NHRA	NHRA Drag Racing: Qualifying	NBA 2Night	NBA																
58	HIST	★ ★ ★ "Battle of the Bulge" (1965, Adventure)	Henry Fonda, Robert Shaw.	Hell's Battlefield	★ ★ ★ "Battle of the Bulge" (1965)																	
59	HLTH	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Workout	Bodies	Health Specials (N)	Doctors Diaries (N)	Workout	Bodies													
60	UNIV	Sábado Gigante		P. Impacto	Noticiero	Otro Rollo																
62	HGTV	Decorating	Decorating	Designing	Mission	Designers' Design	Decorating	Decorating	Designing	Mission												
99	WGN	Fresh Pr.	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Chicago Bulls.		News	★ ★ "The Punisher" (1990) (N)																

SUNDAY EVENING										APR. 6, 2003												
	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30	
2	PBS	(5:00) Frontline	"China in the Red" (N)	Masterpiece Theatre "The Jury" (N) (Part 1 of 4)	Now With Bill Moyers (N)	Mystery! "Second Sight" (N) (DVS)																
3	IND	★ ★ ★ "Bad Boys" (1995, Drama)	Lawrence, Will Smith, Tea Leoni. Premiere.	★ ★ ★ "Bad Boys" (1995, Drama)	Lawrence, Will Smith, Tea Leoni.																	
4	ABC	(5:00) ★ ★ "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" (2001)		Alias "Double Agent" (N)	Dragnet "Redemption" (N)	News	(3:55) Seinfeld	(0:5) Paid Program	Diamond	Adventures												
5	HBO	(5:30) ★ ★ "Buddy" (1997) Rene Russo. PG		★ ★ "Sweet November" (2001, Romance)	Keanu Reeves, Charlize Theron. (N) (R)																	
7	CBS	My Big Fat Greek Life	Becker (N)	★ ★ "The Whole Nine Yards" (2000)	Bruce Willis, Matthew Perry. Premiere. (N) (DVS)	News	(N) (R)	(3:55) News	(0:5) Outer Limits "Final Exam" (N) (R)													
8	NBC	American Dreams "The Carpetbaggers" (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Legion" (N)	Katie Couric: The Central Park Jogger	News	Inside Edition	(0:5) Ebert & Roeper	(3:55) Paid Program														
11	TVLND	Brady	Hap Days	Sanford	Griffith	Legends	ET in TV Land (N)	Flying Nun	MacGyver "Serenity" (N)													
12	ESPN	Wm. Basketball	Women's College Basketball: NCAA Tourn. Semi.																			
13	FOX	Simpsons (DVS)	Oliver Beene (N)	Malcolm in the Middle	Pitts (N) (R)	Stargate SG-1 "Wormhole X-Treme" (N)	Outer Limits A student claims to have a bomb.	Fall Guy "I Now Pronounce You Dead"														
15	MAX	(5:45) ★ ★ ★ "The Chase" (1994) PG-13		(1:15) ★ ★ ★ "Speed" (1994, Suspense)	Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper.	(1:15) ★ ★ "Summer Catch" (2001, Comedy-Drama)	Freddie Prinze Jr. (N) (R)															
16	TNN	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Star Trek: Next Gener.	WWE Heat	Stamball (N)	Real TV (N)	Real TV (N)															
17	DISN	Boy Meets World	Sister, Sister	Proud Family-Kim Possible	That's So Raven	Lizzie McGuire	★ ★ "Quints" (2000, Comedy)	Kimberly (N) (R)	(3:55) Lizzie McGuire													
18	LIFE	(5:00) "Forever Love"	Division (N)	Strong Medicine	Any Day Now	For the People																
20	USA	★ "Anaconda" (1997) Jennifer Lopez. Premiere.		Dead Zone "Zion" (N)	Law & Order	Dead Zone "Zion" (N)																
21	SHOW	★ "Soul Survivors" (2001) Melissa Joan Platt. iTV. (N) (R)		★ "Rock My World" (2002, Comedy)	Peter On'Toole, Joan Plowright. iTV. (N) (R)		★ "Domestic Disturbance" (2001) John Travolta. PG-13															
22	TMC	(4:35) "Billy Elliot" (N)	★ ★ ★ "Two Ninas" (1999) Cara Buono, Amanda Peet.				★ ★ "Get Over It" (2001) Kirsten Dunst, Ben Foster.															
23	MTV	MTV Special		Real World	Real World	Sorority	Sorority	Frat Life	Frat Life													
24	DISC	Secrets of the Great Wall	When Dinosaurs Roamed America				Chased by Dinosaurs (N)	Walking With Prehistoric Beasts Tail														
28	TNT	★ ★ ★ "Space Cowboys" (2000) Clint Eastwood.		★ ★ ★ "Heartbreak Ridge" (1986) Clint Eastwood.																		
30	FXSP	NBA Basketball	See This	Beyond the Glory (N)	Best Damn Sports Show	Rocky Mt.	See This	Church	Feed													
32	FAM	★ ★ ★ "Phenomenon" (1996, Drama)	John Travolta, Kyra Sedgwick.		Who? Who? Who?																	
33	NBC	Dateline (N)	American Dreams "The Carpetbaggers" (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Legion" (N)	Katie Couric: The Central Park Jogger	News	(4:5) She Spies															
34	NICK	Garcia	Nick News	Kids Say	Kids Say	Cosby	Cosby	Wings	Wings	Cosby	Cosby											
36	A&E	Biography "Ozzie & Harriet: The Adventures of America's Favorite Family" (N)		Biography "Barbara Eden and Elizabeth Montgomery" (N)																		