

To a Mother-in-Law

Dear Mom,

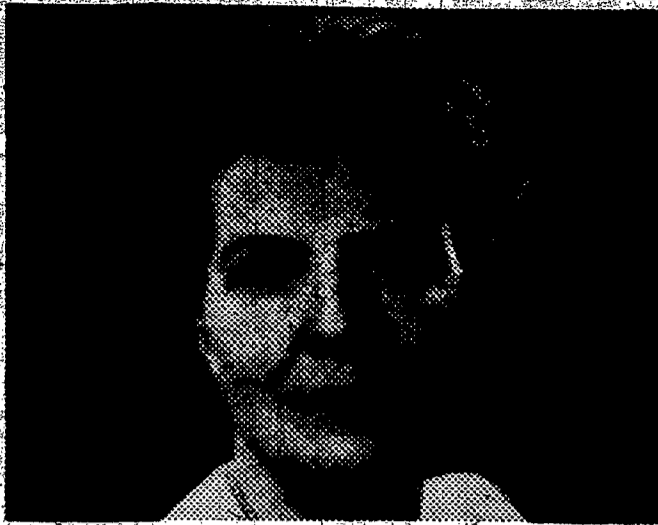
On the day I married your son I didn't know exactly what to call you. My own mother was at the celebration and as I looked at her I wondered if I could ever bring myself to giving you her title.

I thought about it quite a while before you and I came face to face that day. Should I call you Mrs. (as I had done for so long a time) or should I call you by your first name (which didn't seem at all proper) or should I call you one of the most precious words in my vocabulary.

I still hadn't decided at the moment you came and kissed me after the wedding Mass. But before I knew it the word came out and I meant it with all my heart — you were Mom.

What a silly thing to be thinking about on that day of all days. What else could I have called a person who has borne and loves the boy I chose to be my husband?

To many people the term mother-in-law is like the plague. All she has to say is "I think" and daughters-in-law start composing letters to Dear Abby. Really, Mom, it shouldn't be that way at all. For isn't it true that you are all that my husband is and more? For



it was you who ingrained in him the principles and ideals for which I love him.

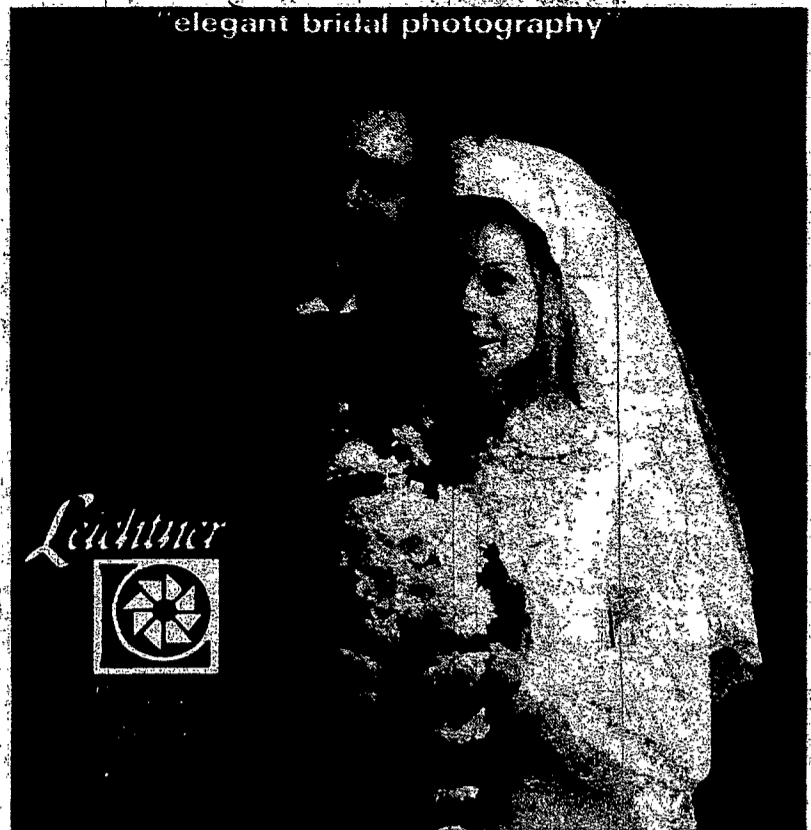
There are so many things I can learn from you but you must be patient. If my spaghetti sauce ever tastes like yours, I'll be the happiest homemaker in the world; and if I can ever become the wife your son deserves, you'll find I've been imitating your virtues because I already know how much he loves you.

I hope I always see you as I do now — for your wisdom and understanding, I pray that I never become so narrow-minded as to call your wisdom and un-

derstanding "advice," for advice is always hard to swallow.

I don't envy your role as mother-in-law; it is a difficult, often thankless one. Yet when my turn comes to play this part, I will ask only that I can open my heart to my son-in-law or daughter-in-law just as you have opened yours to me.

With love always,
Daughter-in-Law



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