The truth about mothers-in-law

Although it’s men who tell _______ about them, mothers-in-law are usually less popular with their daughters-in-law than with their sons-in-law. A recent study of 49 _______ couples found that two-thirds of wives who were interviewed said that their mothers-in-law caused them “unhappiness and stress,” compared with 15 _______ of the husbands.

There are a _______ of reasons for this. First of all, there is the question of _______. A mother-in-law has already raised a family of her own, so she feels that she has a lot of _______ to pass on. In this situation, it is very difficult for her to _______. However, when a daughter-in-law is a new mother, she usually wants to find her own way of doing _______. She often interprets her mother-in-law’s advice as _______, which can cause a conflict.

Secondly, there is the case of the husband. Both women _______ for him, although each of them _______ him in a different way. On the one hand, he is the mother-in-law’s son, and she obviously wants the _______ for him. On the other hand, he is the wife’s partner, and she _______ him to support her. Both women can get very upset if they see the man taking sides, and this can cause a(n) _______.

However, mothers-in-law actually have a lot to offer, despite their _______ for causing trouble. They are generally excellent _______, and they don’t mind helping with the _______. As long as they have their own independent lives and help out only when needed, mothers-in-law play a very useful role in any family. The _______ thing is that they should not get too involved in their sons’ and daughters’ relationships so that _______ feels bad.