

Why the family history of the daughter or son-in-law matters

Your child's spouse may be an important cause of your estrangement. If they felt over-controlled by their own parents, there's a good chance they're going to view you as being overly controlling. If they felt rejected, devalued and abandoned by their parents they may view you in that way, over-react to something you do or say, and convince your child that you, as a parent, are much more critical and rejecting than that child realizes.

If estranged from their own parents, they're much more likely to push your child in that direction. When your kid marries somebody they're not only marrying that particular person; They're also marrying the psychology of that person and the family relationships that have been built up over the years in that person's unconscious.

They're also marrying that person's relationship to other people and the world. They're marrying their sensitivities, vulnerabilities, and the ways that they're immature, unresolved, undeveloped, problematic or even unfortunately, as many of you know, psychologically disturbed. The more that parents and grandparents understand this, the better they're able to navigate the often treacherous terrain of having to deal with somebody who sometimes has a knife to your kid's throat, saying, "Choose between your parents or me. You don't get to have both."