

The Ziegler Family  
by  
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INT. UNCLE JAMES'S DINING ROOM - DAY

UNCLE JAMES (60) with short gray hair and wearing a pink dress sits by a wooden table with numerous empty seats, facing a seated and suited, male NEWS REPORTER, with a notebook and pen on his lap. The lighting is good and more wooden furniture is all around.

UNCLE JAMES

It's good to meet you... to clear the air. I know there have been lots of rumours about me being like that pest James Ziegler.

NEWS REPORTER

It's good to meet you, too...

UNCLE JAMES

I know you're feeling awkward.

The REPORTER coughs.

NEWS REPORTER

What me? No... no...

UNCLE JAMES

It's the dress, isn't it?

NEWS REPORTER

Ok fine, it's not what I'm used to. I guess I am thinking to myself '... please dress normally...'

UNCLE JAMES

It's 2026, you know that. It's not the 1800s, things have changed.

NEWS REPORTER

Ok, I understand. Why are you called James, by the way? Is everyone in your family called James?

UNCLE JAMES

First up, it's a nice name and second, no. My children have very different names, would you like to meet them?

NEWS REPORTER

Sure.

UNCLE JAMES

Children??? Get in here!

A door opens to reveal a 20 year old MAN wearing a pink dress and two TEENAGE GIRLS dressed as firemen.

NEWS REPORTER  
More self-expression?

UNCLE JAMES  
The clothes you mean? Yes, self-expression! It's not mental illness.

NEWS REPORTER  
Is that what people have been saying?

UNCLE JAMES  
Oh, you have no idea.

NEWS REPORTER  
Would you like to introduce yourselves?

The YOUNG MAN is polite.

KILLIAN  
My name? It's Killian, sir.

NEWS REPORTER  
Killian, eh? That's an unusual name..

UNCLE JAMES  
Yes, at first I was considering calling him Moon Unit. Or Colonel Frog, but then I thought that would be TOO creative...

NEWS REPORTER  
A wise move.

UNCLE JAMES  
My daughters on the other hand are called Killben and Killdan.

The REPORTER backs away nervously.

NEWS REPORTER  
I've never heard those names before..

UNCLE JAMES  
Well, they're very common where I come from?

NEWS REPORTER  
And where is that?

UNCLE JAMES  
England.

NEWS REPORTER  
Was that a lie?

UNCLE JAMES  
No...

NEWS REPORTER  
Would you describe yourself as a  
hateful person, James?

UNCLE JAMES  
No...

The NEWS REPORTER adjusts his tie.

NEWS REPORTER  
Ok. Moving on...

KILLIAN  
(interrupting)  
Killian means 'little church'... It's  
nothing shady...

KILLBEN  
And my name means 'little Ben'. It  
sounds like a threat, but actually  
it's honour of Ben.

KILLDAN  
Killdan means 'kill Dan', though.

NEWS REPORTER  
Would I be right to assume everyone  
in your family hates Dan, James?

UNCLE JAMES  
He's a no good person. He keeps  
making people miss cool numbers, he's  
not wanted around here.

The REPORTER makes some notes.

UNCLE JAMES  
What are you writing?

NEWS REPORTER  
Just what I've heard, that's all.

UNCLE JAMES  
I'm just concerned as you asked if I  
was hateful...

NEWS REPORTER  
It's ok, would you like to tell me  
your middle names, you lot?

UNCLE JAMES  
 (seriously)  
 Don't.

The NEWS REPORTER frowns.

NEWS REPORTER  
 (more seriously)  
 Don't what?

KILLDAN  
 It's ok, dad.

NEWS REPORTER  
 What is?

KILLDAN  
 Our middle names... they're  
 palindromes...

NEWS REPORTER  
 I might have known.

UNCLE JAMES hits the table.

UNCLE JAMES  
 How DARE you take that tone in the  
 presence of this respectable family??

NEWS REPORTER  
 What are the palindromes, exactly?

KILLIAN  
 Fubbabbuf.

NEWS REPORTER  
 Fubbabbuf???

UNCLE JAMES  
 Don't get all high and mighty with  
 me, you're my guest!

NEWS REPORTER  
 I'm just surprised, that's all.

KILLBEN  
 Mine's Pinbobnip.

KILLDAN  
 Mine's Tupoput.

NEWS REPORTER  
 Do you hope those names catch on?

UNCLE JAMES  
I hope Killdan catches on...

NEWS REPORTER  
Because he makes you miss cool  
numbers?

UNCLE JAMES  
Right.

The REPORTER makes more notes.

UNCLE JAMES  
All good?

NEWS REPORTER  
Kinda, kinda... could be worse...

UNCLE JAMES  
Could be worse??

NEWS REPORTER  
What were you expecting, James?

UNCLE JAMES  
Respect! Praise! Admiration!

NEWS REPORTER  
Why?

UNCLE JAMES  
Because I deserve it!

NEWS REPORTER  
With all due respect...

UNCLE JAMES  
(interrupting)  
Thank you.

NEWS REPORTER  
With all due respect, you've done  
next to nothing to deserve  
admiration, you've just let your  
children stand! Aren't you going to  
offer them a seat?

UNCLE JAMES  
First you criticise me and now you  
want to weaken my children's legs???

NEWS REPORTER  
I'm sorry?

UNCLE JAMES

Oh you better be sorry. How about you offer them antibiotics when they don't even need them? Go on, weaken their immune system as well!

The REPORTER makes more notes.

UNCLE JAMES

Get out now!

NEWS REPORTER

Don't worry, I have all I need. Thank you.

The REPORTER leaves.