

Baby Names
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INT: BABY NAMING CENTRE, AMERICA - DAY

Here is large, open room with a row of empty seats at the back. In the front is the seated BABY NAMER (70) in a suit and with a clipboard. Close up and facing him are a seated MUM and DAD, both 35 and sensibly dressed. The BN claps with enthusiasm.

BABY NAMER

Good morning, you two! So why are you here? What do you want to call your baby?

DAD

Tarquin sounds good to us two...

The BABY NAMER narrows his eyes.

BABY NAMER

(inquisitively)

So you only want your child to be semi-antisocial?

The MUM and DAD lean back in offence.

DAD

What's that supposed to mean?

BABY NAMER

You didn't know?

DAD

Didn't know what?

BABY NAMER

The rarer the baby name, the more aggressive the child.

The MUM makes a fist.

MUM

What are you on about?

BABY NAMER

We had a couple come in here a few minutes ago who threw a chair at the wall for no reason whatsoever. They called their daughter 'Lightbulb'.

MUM

But what were the couple's names?

BABY NAMER

Doesn't matter. Like father, like son.

DAD

Ok. But that was surely a one off...

An ANGRY MAN (30) wearing a shirt with 'KILL!!!!' on it enters the room and an ANGRY WIFE (30) follows him, carrying a sword. They sit at the back.

ANGRY MAN

(to his wife)

I can't wait to call our daughter
Crystal Space Cruiser 53...

ANGRY WIFE

Best name, ever!

The BABY NAMER whispers and tries not to make eye contact with the newcomers.

BABY NAMER

(to the mum)

Hear that? What a loon...

MUM

(also whispering)

Pure coincidence.

A PSYCHO MAN (30) carrying a shotgun enters the room and his PSYCHO WIFE (30), carrying a bazooka follows him. They sit next to the ANGRY MAN and ANGRY WIFE and twiddle their thumbs. The PSYCHO WIFE starts a conversation with the ANGRY WIFE.

PSYCHO WIFE

(cheerfully)

We're calling OUR child 'Sun Blade
Wielder and Protector of the Gods'...

The PSYCHO WIFE puts her hands on her hips with pride, nudging those by her.

ANGRY WIFE

Oooh, very nice. Our child name is a
bit less out-there, though. We're just
calling it Crystal Space Cruiser 53.

PSYCHO WIFE

A wise choice. You don't want to
attract negative attention.

ANGRY WIFE

Right...

The BABY NAMER looks down and continues whispering.

BABY NAMER

See? I told you so.

DAD
I had no idea...

This time, a LUNATIC (25) in army clothing skips into the room whilst juggling three grenades. His MENTAL WIFE (25) follows him, dressed as a goldfish. Once all grenades are caught, they sit next to the PSYCHO MAN and PSYCHO WIFE. The LUNATIC shouts to the PSYCHO MAN.

LUNATIC
WE'RE CALLING OUR SON 'BEN'!!!

The MUM whispers to the BABY NAMER.

MUM
See? What's so weird about THAT name?

LUNATIC
(still to the psycho
man)
IT'S SHORT FOR 'BENEVOLENT TSAR OF THE
MOON-HOPPING ZOMBIES'!!!!

The MUM and DAD rub their eyes in disbelief and sigh.

DAD
(to the mum)
How does 'Mike' sound to you?

The BABY NAMER nods in agreement.