



Beyond Jennifer & Jason, Madison & Montana: What to Name Your Baby Now

Linda Rosenkrantz, Pamela Redmond Satran

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Quoted everywhere from *Parenting* to *The Wall Street Journal*, with more than a million copies of their books in print, bestselling authors Linda Rosenkrantz and Pamela Redmond Satran are the baby-name experts. In this fresh and expanded new edition of "the best baby-naming book ever written" (*The News Journal*), they offer irresistible lists of names you won't find anywhere else, along with their trademark wit and insight on the most important questions---and answers---for expectant parents:

Style: What's hot and what's cool---including Honest Names, Spiritual Names, Kreeatif Names, The Two-Syllable Solution, Word Names, The Exotics, and a Girl Named Boy

Popularity: The most popular names in America and around the world, and what celebrities are naming their babies

Image: What's really in a name, and why Briyana spells trouble

Sex: What's it like for a girl to grow up with a traditionally feminine name like Abigail or Blossom; a no-frills name like Alice or Jane; or a unisex name like Dylan or Dakota? And are there any decidedly masculine names left for boys?

Tradition: A concise history of American baby naming, plus inspired ways to reflect your own cultural heritage

Family: Whose name is it, anyway? And other vital considerations

Beyond Jennifer & Jason, Madison & Montana: What to Name Your Baby Now Details

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Baby Now Linda Rosenkrantz , Pamela Redmond Satran

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Erika Nelson says

I've been reading every baby naming book I can find lately, and I found this one to be abnormally useful and insightful. It doesn't just give endless lists of names and definitions, but it includes lots of information about how people perceive names, how people of different backgrounds and education levels name their children, and information that really gave me a good idea of how people would react to the names I'm considering slapping onto my children. It's a little outdated, which is unfortunate, but still useful. It didn't add anything to the list though, so it's not THAT useful.

Anna (Bananas) says

All the names are blurring together. I may have to name her Hey You.

Crystal says

This is one of the best, most helpful baby name books I've ever read. While it doesn't include meanings for the names, what it does instead is break up names into various categories. For example, most popular names in the US on a certain year. So if you want to give your kid a trendy/ popular name, you can pick one from that list. If you want to protect your child from being one of 50 of the same name in their classes, then don't pick any of those names. There's breakdown by most popular in other countries, names that are so out they're in, celebrity baby names, popular names of different eras, etc. and interspersed between all the lists are articles varying in length, discussing different aspects of the issues of choosing a name for your child. It's nice to have a well-thought out and organized source for baby names, not just another alphabetical list of names with origins and meanings. The authors have some other books out, that are more category-specific (Irish, British, and Jewish names, among others), and I am eager to read them, based on this book. Definitely a good investment for any prospective parents, and useful for those writing stories as well, as well as being just plain fun and interesting.

Christina says

I LOVE baby name books, and I think that the "Beyond Jennifer and Jason" books are the best. What makes them different is the format. This isn't a dictionary of baby names, it's a series of lists: top baby names in other countries, ethnic names, no-nonsense names, etc. There are helpful lists of unusual substitutions for ultra-popular names, too, and there's an index in the back so that you can see which lists your favorite names fall on.

I had the original edition in junior high and I read it so much that I could really put my finger on what was the same and what was different in this newest edition. I really enjoyed the new sections about the history of American and African-American naming traditions, and also the paragraphs about the origins and meanings of 60 classic names. I wish there had been more added to the "Family" section; it was almost identical to the

1988 edition.

Of course I don't agree with every name on every list, nor every opinionated tidbit in the commentary. I think this is a useful reference, though, and it also contains some interesting (and light) perspectives on the sociology of names.

Julie says

I first read this in my teens, in its inaugural edition, when it was known simply as Beyond Jennifer and Jason. (Actually, I first read an excerpt from it in Glamour magazine when it was a "forthcoming book", and bought it as soon as it was first printed.) It was then, and in its current edition still is the definitive name book, as far as I'm concerned. The authors not only provide entertaining reading, but give prospective parents food for thought as they consider names for their child-to-be. Their suggestions and critiques informed my decisions when I named my own daughter. HIGHLY recommended, whether or not you are naming a child!

Julie Decker says

This baby-naming book features not just lists of names but rather a fun romp through the images attached to many names. They'll give you names that feel classic, or names that were popular in a certain era, or names with Biblical roots, or a range of names from feminissa to macho. They tell you what the stars and celebrities are doing with their baby names. They tell you what names are too associated with another image to make practical sense for current use. And they give you ideas on how to consider special situations like sibling names. All in all it's a very practical guide to naming a child--giving perspectives some parents may not have thought of. (And as a bonus, a writer can use it for some help in naming characters!)

Rosa says

"The world is a very different place today than it was when we undertook the last update of this book in the late 1990s. We've gone from boom times to bust, a nation at peace to one at war, from a country embracing the wider world to one that's become both more xenophobic and patriotic."

How weird is it that a baby-naming book should have the best summation of the changes 9/11 and the "War on Terror" had on our country?

Nicole Huetter says

We already had a name picked out but still a super interesting read (and fun to see where our name and others we considered popped up!)

Krystal says

As far as baby names books go, this one is by far the best one I've read. Mostly because it actually gives you something to read besides just an alphabetical list of baby names and what they mean. These authors take a look at current naming styles, tell you what trends have been going on, tell you which names are starting to become over used, etc. The pull name ideas from lots of different places, and give you other places to look to find even more names. They give you lots of different ways to find the names you're looking for. Plus it was pretty interesting to learn where names came from, the different naming trends throughout history and why American baby names are what they are. So if you are searching for a great baby name, I would recommend this book.

Carolee says

Donated it once I was done naming my 2 kids - I didn't want anything popular, trendy, or so unusual that they'd be alienated. It was important that their names have meanings (preferably Celtic) and be easy to spell and pronounce. When I chose 'Aislynn' I had never heard of her name before, and neither had a lot of other people. It means a vision or a dream. When I put it together with her middle name Elyse (a variation of Elizabeth) it means: A vision or a dream consecrated by God. Indeed.

Carolyn says

I started reading these books about 15 or so years ago when I was expecting my first child, and they are by far the best baby name books ever written. The way the authors categorize names into lists: "On the way out..." "Always in..." "Never In Again" "movie star names" etc. are hilarious, so true, and very creative. What is more, they are right on the mark. If you've ever heard a name, such as Melissa, and immediately without even thinking, thought a word such as "bossy," then these books are for you. These books have stuck with me and will forever influence the way I view names and the naming of babies. A very interesting read just for the fun of it.

Heather says

I've never had to name a child yet I'm fascinated by the origin, meaning, and history of names. I found the original 'Beyond Jennifer and Jason' at a used book store a few years ago and enjoyed it immensely. I love this newer version too. Did you know that Alice and Evelyn were originally boys names? Did you know that Betta is one of the nicknames for Elizabeth? Did you know that a boy born midvoyage on the Mayflower was named Oceanus? This book is full of fun name facts. Names are also divided into categories like Royal Names, Place Names, Postvirtue Names, Profession Names, Regional Names, Classics, Creative Names etc so you can see what kind of name appeals to you. A fun and quick read for me and one for prospective parents to look at more closely.

Kaethe says

1994

1998

2001

The only really useful baby name book I ever saw. Now I suppose you can find more and more pertinent info on the interwebs, but before I ever reproduced this book taught me how I think about names, and how to choose them.

Library copy

Dori says

Even though I'm not about to have a baby, this book was recommended to me simply for being an interesting study of baby names. I went in thinking it was going to be all about perceptions (ie Elizabeth's are thought of as high class, while Bessies aren't), but it was a bit more convoluted than that, even. Rather than list names and their traditional meanings like a standard baby name book, this looks at different angles like style, family names, tradition, etc. It's basically 400 pages of names in list form, which can be pretty boring and repetitive. However, it's pretty exhaustive if you ARE looking for a name or to avoid a name. It gives a little history into what names have historically made the top 10 or 100 in America, but what interested me most was the inclusion of the common naming conventions of the first colonists and the history of African American naming conventions. Of the huge lists that make up most of the book, I enjoyed most the section that goes through common names in European countries and Israel. Welsh and Irish are so incredibly different from English, it's just fascinating.

What I didn't like about this book was the repetition and the judgement about naming children one way or the other, and especially how apparently siblings need to have harmonious names. I call bull on that one. At any rate, all baby name books should be taken with a grain of salt, and this one is no exception. For what it was worth, I enjoyed taking a peek into the world of modern parenthood and the anxiety it's possible to have well before you even conceive. Yay!

Seth Jenson says

Didn't read every single word of this book but I turned over every page and came up with a pretty good list of names. Meg and I have a lot of eliminating to do but at least we have a start now. My sister-in-law also let us borrow her copy of Cool Names For Babies, and so maybe we'll come up with a few more "cool" possibilities with that book. Then we need to give the old family tree a good shake. We want to find a name that's just right for our soon-to-be-born son. We don't want to end up something overly common or boring, but we don't want to go too trendy or weird either. Of course, we want something unique and special. We're on the hunt for the perfect name!
