*Two Dollar Radio Guide to Naming Your Baby*, by Travis Hoewischer rev. by Sterling Bratton

Two Dollar Radio

*Two Dollar Radio Guide to Naming Your Baby* is a humorous guidebook. The author tells us a list of names you should not give your potential child to and why. Travis Hoewischer lives in Columbus, Ohio and graduated from the Ohio State University with a bachelors, communication, and film studies. This is his first book. Before that, he spent 20 years as a journalist, standup comedian, and non-profit leader. He is currently a director of development at Gladden Community House.

The majority of the book is literally just a list of bad names, according to the author, in alphabetical order, and the reasons why the reader should not pick these names. But he writes the reasons more like poking fun at the names. For example, this is what he wrote for Kermit: “It ain’t easy having assholes for parents. This is what he says about the name, Tobin, “I just can't see anyone ever running through an airport, passionately yelling, 'TOBIN, I LOVE YOU! DON'T GO BACK TO PHOENIX!', so, why don't you want your child to experience real love?" At first, I thought it would just be uncommon, silly sounding names like Casper, Alpha, and TeeJay, which are on this list, but he also lists common names like Toby which don’t sound too bad of names to name a child. Like, for Chloe, he put, “What do you think Chloe is going to dress as for Halloween this year? Same as every year: a liability.” Maybe I’m just not getting most of these jokes, but I don’t understand why he thinks those names should be avoided. However, he did mention that it was just a little roasting, so this book probably shouldn’t be taken seriously. I’m just glad I did not see my name on that list, but don’t be surprised if you see yours.

In between a few lettered names, there would be a chapter that would relate to the main guide, but with a twist, including what celebrity you should not name your child after, nicknames to give your child if you already gave him a bad name, and cautious names, like WYD. These sections made the book more interesting to read.

Assuming you will not be offended if your name is on that list, *Two Dollar Radio Guide to Naming Your Baby* will be a fun and humorous read, especially for the people who want children to really think about what decent names to give them.