

DEAR, I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW...WE NAMED OUR SON AFTER AN OBSOLETE COMPUTER

By Bradley Walton

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**DEAR, I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW...
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COMPUTER**

A Ten Minute Comedic Duet

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SYNOPSIS: Paul and Sydney have just helped their youngest son move out, and Paul feels the time is right to make a confession...when he suggested the name “Adam” for their boy, he wasn’t thinking what his wife was thinking. After Paul fumbles through an awkward disclosure, Sydney hits the roof when she learns that she unknowingly named her son after an obsolete home computer from the 1980s.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 either; gender flexible)

PAUL/PAULETTE (m/f)..... Middle-aged; Never told his wife where he got the inspiration for their youngest son’s name. *(69 lines)*

SYDNEY/SID (m/f)..... Middle-aged; Paul’s wife, who has no clue about the secret Paul has been keeping from her for over twenty years. *(69 lines)*

CAST NOTE: It is fine to play Paul and Sydney as a same-sex couple, with appropriate minor dialogue changes.

TIME: Takes place in the year 2025.

SETTING: Living room furniture is optional; the play may be performed on a bare stage.

AUTHOR NOTES

I never actually owned an Adam computer, but I did have the ColecoVision video game system put out by the same company. My main reason for buying the ColecoVision was because Coleco had announced that they would be making a home version of my favorite arcade game, *Dragon's Lair*. But when they finally released the game...it was for the Adam. I was pretty frustrated at the time, but all's well that ends well: Now I can play *Dragon's Lair* on my iPod whenever I want, and it's *much* closer to the arcade game than the Adam version. Also, it may be worth mentioning here that my daughter, Rachel, was named after one of the X-Men.

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AT RISE: PAUL and SYDNEY, relaxing together in their living room. They have just helped their youngest son move out, and are dressed accordingly.

PAUL: Well, Sydney, that's it. We just helped Adam move into his own apartment. We're officially empty nesters.

SYDNEY: I never thought this day would actually come.

PAUL: Now we get to rest for a while until some grandkids come along.

SYDNEY: I hope it's not too much of a wait.

PAUL: (*Chuckling.*) Me, neither.

SYDNEY: It's hard to believe...all three of our boys being grown up.

PAUL: Does it make you feel old?

SYDNEY: No. But it does make me feel very middle aged.

PAUL: Sydney, there's something I need to tell you.

SYDNEY: What?

PAUL: I was never going to bring this up because I thought it might upset you, but it's been gnawing at me for years and I want to get it out in the open.

SYDNEY: Paul, you're scaring me.

PAUL: It's not that bad. (*Beat.*) At least, I don't think is.

SYDNEY: Will you please stop beating around the bush and just say it?

PAUL: Well, do you remember when we picked Adam's name?

SYDNEY: Sure.

PAUL: Do you remember how it was my suggestion?

SYDNEY: Of course I do. It was a wonderful idea, naming our child after the first man in the story of creation.

PAUL: When I brought it up, that wasn't really what I was thinking.

SYDNEY: What do you mean? Were you thinking of a different Adam?

PAUL: Yes, I was.

SYDNEY: Please tell me it wasn't Adam Sandler.

PAUL: You can relax. We did not name our son after Adam Sandler.

SYDNEY: As long as it wasn't Adam Sandler. (*Beat.*) It wasn't Adam West?

PAUL: Batman on TV in the 1960's? No. We did not name our son after Adam West.

SYDNEY: Then who was it?

PAUL: It wasn't exactly a "who."

SYDNEY: Paul, you're really, *really* scaring me now. It wasn't your neighbor's dog or something weird like that, was it?

PAUL: No. Nothing weird. At least, not like that.

SYDNEY: So it *was* something weird?

PAUL: Weird is subjective.

SYDNEY: (*Distraught.*) Oh, heaven help me, we named our youngest child after something weird.

PAUL: Try to understand...it's something dear to my heart.

SYDNEY: (*Starting to cry.*) My husband holds something *weird* dear to his heart. (*Abruptly stops crying.*) Wait a minute. Do you hold me dear to your heart?

PAUL: Of course I do.

SYDNEY: Do you think I'm weird?

PAUL: I didn't say that.

SYDNEY: You implied it.

PAUL: No, you inferred it.

SYDNEY: I inferred what you implied.

PAUL: You are not weird. I am perfectly capable of holding dear to my heart things that aren't weird. And even this...it's really not that weird.

SYDNEY: (*Threateningly.*) Paul...what did we name our son after?

PAUL: The Adam home computer system.

SYDNEY: I have no idea what that is.

PAUL: It was put out by Coleco in 1983. It came as an all-in-one bundle that included the computer, Data Pack drives that were like high-speed cassette drives, and a printer. And it was compatible with games from the ColecoVision video game console.

SYDNEY: I don't care about any of that!

PAUL: But you just said you didn't know what it was.

SYDNEY: That doesn't mean I actually care! (*In disbelief.*) You named our son after a home computer system?

PAUL: Right. It was the first home computer my family owned. It was an important part of my childhood.

SYDNEY: (*It's really sinking in now.*) You named our son after an *obsolete* home computer system!!

PAUL: It's not like we named him "Amiga."

SYDNEY: What kind of a man names his son after a computer?

PAUL: I'd like to think...a man with a sense of history.

SYDNEY: History?

PAUL: Computers are everywhere now. Pretty much everybody owns one. Your phone? That's a computer that you carry around in your pocket. The home computers of the 1980s...they were the forerunners of everything we have today. They're important. They're history.

SYDNEY: I grew up in a house with a Commodore 64, but you didn't hear me wanting to name my child "Commodore," did you?

PAUL: The Commodore 64 was exceptionally successful. People remember it. By the time our son was born, the Adam had become a forgotten part of home computer history, and I wanted to do my part to immortalize it.

SYDNEY: By naming our son after it?

PAUL: (*Weakly.*) Yeah.

SYDNEY: Do you realize how many people there are named "Adam?"

PAUL: A lot?

SYDNEY: Yes! A lot! And do you think them having that name makes anybody think of this Adam computer system?

PAUL: Probably not.

SYDNEY: So why should our son be any different?

PAUL: His name makes *me* think of the Adam computer.

SYDNEY: Making yourself the only person who's in on a joke is not the same as immortalizing something!

PAUL: It wasn't a joke.

SYDNEY: How long was this thing on the market?

PAUL: About two years.

SYDNEY: Did it spawn later generations of related computers?

PAUL: No.

SYDNEY: So it wasn't successful?

PAUL: Not really, no.

SYDNEY: So it's not enough that you named our child after an obsolete home computer system—you named our child after a *failed* obsolete home computer system!

PAUL: Well, *I* thought it was a nice computer at the time.

SYDNEY: If you were going to name our son after a computer, why couldn't you have suggested we call him "Mac?"

PAUL: My family didn't own a Mac. And anyway, Macs are still around. People don't need to be reminded of their place in computer history.

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