

# **Nametown: The Girl Who Lost Her Name**

**by Alan C. Elliott**

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In Nametown, people's names are very important. Everyone's name not only tells who they are, it also tells what they do. When you enter Nametown, you see a big sign that says "Welcome to Nametown." It was put up by the local sign maker named Bill Board.

The mayor of Nametown is Polly Tician. The policeman who is always trying to catch speeding cars is named Ray Darr and the local diner is owned by Chuck Wagon.

Most of the time, Nametown is a quiet and peaceful place to live, but today something very strange happened. A girl was walking down Name Street holding her head. She almost walked into a big hole being repaired in the street.

"Watch out!" shouted Jack Hammer just in time to prevent her from falling. Then he asked her, "What is your name?"

"My name? I can't remember," said the girl.

Several other people saw what was happening, and they gathered around.

"Did you hear? She can't remember her name," declared Ann Nounce. "How ter-

rible!”

“A girl with a lost name walking through Nametown! This will make headlines!” yelled Ed Itor as he rushed back to the newspaper to write up the story.

A man in an ice cream truck looked at the girl with sadness. “It gives me cold chills,” said Pop Cycle coolly.

“How bad does your head hurt?” asked Ed Ache, “Can we get you some medicine to take for it?”

Just then, the town doctor, whom everyone called Aunt Asceptic, examined the bump on her head. “If you told us what you were doing when you bumped your head, perhaps we could help you find your name,” suggested the doctor.

“I remember seeing a bird fall out of a tree,” said the girl. “I picked it up and climbed up the tree to put it back in its nest when I lost my footing. I fell to the ground, tore my dress on a bush, and bumped my head.”

“Maybe your name is Mary Gold since you have such a kind heart,” suggested Ann Swer, the local librarian.

“I don’t think that’s my name,” said the girl.

“Could your name be Poly Ester since you tore your dress?” asked Lee Sure the tailor.

“No, that’s not right either.”

“How about Rose Bush, since you fell into a bush?” questioned Al Aska.

“That’s not it either.” Then the girl began to cry, “How will I ever find my name again?”

“Now! Now! We’ll help you find your name,” comforted Ann Gel as she put her arm around the girl.

Just then the bank president, Bill Fold, stepped forward. He spoke in a loud deep voice and called on the people of Nametown to help the girl find her name and of-

ferred a reward of ten dollars. “It is obvious that she is a fine young lady who would try to help a small bird return to its nest. Just as she helped the bird, we should help her.”

“Think hard,” encouraged Will Power, “What name means that you care for helpless birds? Does it have to do with giving help? Caring for others? Doing something nice? Lending a hand?”

“Wait! What did you say?” asked Mark Down, the owner of the discount store.

“I said that she helps others by lending a hand.”

“That’s it!” yelled the girl. “That’s my name! It’s Linda Hand!”

“Hooray!” shouted the crowd.

“It makes me so happy, I feel like eating,” said Sally Vate.

Finally, everything was back to normal in Nametown. Poly Tician thanked all of the citizens for helping Linda Hand find her name. Chuck Wagon invited Linda to a free lunch at his diner. And Bill Fold gave the ten dollar reward to Will Power.

“It just makes me want to sing,” crooned Mel O’Dee.

— The End —

See if you can find people in this Nametown story whose names sound like the following words:

**Alaska** – A state in the United States

**Angel** – A messenger from heaven who helps people when they are in trouble.

**Announce** – To tell publicly, to make something known.

**Answer** – A response to a question.

**Antiseptic** – Preventing infection from germs. To keep clean.

**Billboard** – A large outside sign, usually located on the side of the road.

**Billfold** – A flat folding case, usually leather, used to carry money.

**Chuck Wagon** – A wagon used as a kitchen by cowboys on cattle trails in the old west.

**Editor** – A person who operates a newspaper or some other kind of publication.

**Headache** – A continuous pain in the head.

**Jackhammer** – A large mechanical hammer used to break up concrete.

**Leisure** – Resting or comfortable. Years ago “Leisure Suits” were made out of polyester.

**Lend a hand** – To help someone.

**Marigold** – A type of flower.

**Markdown** – To lower the price of a product in a store.

**Melody** – A musical tune.

**Politician** – A person who runs for a political office.

**Polyester** – A type of fabric.

**Popsicle** – A frozen dessert.

**Radar** – A device used by the police that can determine the speed of an oncoming car.

**Salivate** – To anticipate eating and increase the saliva in your mouth.

**Willpower** – The desire to make something happen.

