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## The Difficulty Of My Name

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# The Difficulty of My Name

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Iridian Casárez

My name is *Iridian*\* not Iridian. It's pronounced in Spanish not in English.

"What does your name mean?"

"Isn't it an element?"

"Where is it from?"

My name has no meaning. It's just a name. No the element you're thinking of is Iridium. My parents are from Mexico, so it's from Mexico? Well, here's where they found my name:

My mom and dad were sitting on the couch watching television. They were watching one of those Sabado Gigante shows where they seek out new talent, or something of that sort, and a contestant named *Iridian* went on to perform, she was a singer. The name caught my parents attention and they loved it so much they decided to name me *Iridian*.

I love my name.

One thing that I don't like about my name is the fact that it's a name most people haven't seen before so they don't know how to pronounce it.

*Iridian* is what my parents named me, but because some people can't pronounce it, most of the time I go by Iridian.

It began when my mother was signing me up for school. She gave the paperwork with my full name and when the receptionist asked how to pronounce my name, my mother said, "*Iridian*". After countless attempts of trying to pronounce my name correctly, the receptionist came up with the English pronunciation of my name. Since then I have been Iridian.

From kindergarten all the way through my second year of college I have been Iridian. To friends, coworkers, classmates, teachers, staff members, and employers my name is Iridian. It's a lot simpler to introduce myself as Iridian than ***Iridian***. It's easier than going through the ten minutes it'll take for them to actually get it right before they then forget how to pronounce it within five minutes.

It wasn't until a few months ago that I realized that I changed the pronunciation of my name for the convenience of others. So now, I want to honor my parents' decision to name me ***Iridian***.

I try to introduce myself as ***Iridian*** a lot more now but people still can't pronounce it.

So far the only person who isn't in my family that pronounces my name correctly is my Chican@/Latin@ Lives professor.

(***Iridian***\* is italicized and bolded to emphasize its pronunciation in Spanish.)