BABYCRAFT

I've been thinking about this for quite some time. Josh, I said to my other half, I'd like us to have a baby. I'd really like one. What do you say?

Josh didn't say no. Instead he suggested we go along to Babycraft and just have a browse.

So here we are.

What colour are you thinking? I asked him.

White, same as us, he said.

No, I was thinking more of your hair colour. How about one with red hair?

Josh smiled. If you like.

Do we want a boy or a girl – or an "it"? An "it" might be fun I say. They can decide for themselves when they're old enough what gender they'd like to be.

I've always fancied a boy myself, Josh said. I know it's not pc to say so, but I'd enjoy kicking a ball around with him.

Girls can kick a ball too, I responded crossly.

Josh smiled.

Let's just take a look on what's on offer, he said, before we make a decision.

We strolled along the aisles.

Not a new born I said. Josh agreed. Too much work.

How about one that's already toilet trained?

Great idea.

I like the look of this one, he said excitedly. It's got blue eyes just like yours.

The baby on display stared back at me.

It doesn’t look very friendly, I said. Let’s find one that’s smiling.

After a while, all the babies started to look alike. Some of them were crying which was very off putting.

We don’t want one that cries, I said.

Don’t all babies cry?

Yeah, but we’d look really silly if we bought one that’s already crying. Let’s look for one that’s asleep.

Then we won’t be able to tell the colour of its eyes.

You’re right Josh. But it’s more important not to have a crying baby right from the start. How about we look at some of the older ones on display? I think they cry less when they’re a bit older.

We wandered down more aisles. You could see which babies were popular because they had a crowd around them, cooing and aahing.

Maybe we should go for one of the less popular ones, Josh suggested. They’re probably cheaper.

I’m not so keen, I said. It’s not like shopping for electrical goods. You can’t send them back if they’re faulty.

I was getting tired. We’d walked right round the store and hadn’t seen anything we liked.

How about we leave it for the time being? I suggested. They’ll probably have a sale in the new year. We might be more in the mood then.

Josh agreed and we made our way home.

It hadn’t taken that long for me to discover that I didn’t really want a baby half as much as I had thought.

Plenty of time for one another day, Josh said.