

## APPENDICES

### Synopsis of A Spot of Bother

George Hall, a sixty-one-year old father, is enjoying his retirement and has a peaceful life until one day he finds a small spot of red skin on his hip. He goes to see the doctor and his doctor diagnoses it as eczema. However, George is quite sure that it is cancer and he thinks he is dying. To make things worse, George's family also seems to have so many problems.

George's wife, Jean, has an affair with David, who is George's old colleague. His daughter, Katie, is not sure whether she should marry Ray. His son, Jamie, has his own flat in London and he rarely goes home and he does not want to be in public. He does not want society to know about his homosexuality and he does not want to bring his boyfriend to Katie's wedding.

Being secretive to his own family, George tries to convince himself about the reality but he gives up to his own fear of a non-existent cancer, which finally has bad effects on himself and his family.

### **Synopsis of The Memory Keeper's Daughter**

Dr. David Henry has decided to bring his wife, Norah, to the hospital to bear their first child. However, even though David drives so carefully, the roads are too bumpy, and finally he decides to stop at his medical clinic. With David's nurse, Caroline, he can save their son, Paul. Norah unexpectedly bears a second child, a girl, Phoebe. David immediately recognizes the signs of Down syndrome in her.

David's painful memory of his past makes him decide to hide the truth about Phoebe from Norah. David tells Norah that their baby girl died at birth. Actually, he has given away the baby girl to Caroline, together with the address of a home to which he wants her to be taken care of. However, Caroline decides to keep and raise Phoebe as her own child.

As Paul grows up, Norah and David are no longer close to each other. Norah, who always thinks of her daughter, takes a job that becomes an all-consuming career; she also looks for intimacy from other men that keeps her away from her own husband. Disappointed with his father, Paul finds release through music. David, feeling guilty of keeping a secret, looks for solace through the lens of his camera, the "Memory Keeper," to make his life meaningful through the images he captures.

## **Biography of Mark Haddon**

Mark Haddon was born in Northampton in 1962. After graduating from Oxford University in 1981, he took English Literature at Edinburgh University for an MSc.

Haddon writes many books for children. Some of them are Gilbert's Gobstopper, the 'Agent Z' series, and the 'Baby Dinosaurs' series. He also writes several episodes for television projects, *Microsoap*. In 2003, he published his first novel, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time and it was successful. He published his first book of poetry, The Talking Horse and the Sad Girl and the Village Under the Sea in 2005. His second novel, A Spot of Bother, was published in 2006 and short-listed for the 2006 Costa Novel Award.

Haddon has won several prestigious awards, including two BAFTAs, a Royal Television Society Award, and the 2003 Whitbread Book of the Year.

## **Biography of Kim Edwards**

Kim Edwards was born in Skaneateles, New York. She graduated from Colgate University and the University of Iowa, for her MFA in Fiction and MA in Linguistics.

Kim Edwards writes stories, essays and novels. Her works are Sky Juice, Ploughshares, Zoetrope, The Paris Review, The Secrets of a Fire King, and The Memory Keeper's Daughter.

Kim Edwards has received Nelson Algren Award, National Magazine Award, Pushcart Prize, Whiting Writers' Award, National Endowment on the Arts, and 2005 Kentucky Literary Award.