

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

Having read the two novels and analysed the inner conflicts and social conflicts in Mark Haddon's A Spot of Bother and Kim Edwards' The Memory Keeper's Daughter, I find some similarities and differences of the novels.

One of the similarities lies in the fact that both families lack communication among them. They keep everything by themselves without communicating their thoughts to one another.

Another similarity lies in the family social background. They come from a middle-class family in Western countries. In Western countries, people have freedom and responsibility. George and David are regarded as indifferent husbands while Jean and Norah are unfaithful wives.

Another similarity is that the victims of the conflicts are the children. George's and David's ignorance has caused Jean and Norah to have affairs but they have a choice in their lives. Their children feel that the parents do not set a good example for them.

The most prominent similarity of the two novels is the fact that both tell about shattered families who have so many problems. The family members also have their own problems that lead to many conflicts. In each of the two novels, the protagonist's wife is involved in a love affair and abandons the children.

In spite of the similarities, there are some differences. One of them is how the protagonists react to their inner conflicts. In A Spot of Bother, George is an indifferent husband but in The Memory Keeper's Daughter, David cares about his wife very much. When they have to face their inner conflicts, they react differently. George, who is indifferent to his wife, tells her that he has a lesion and he is afraid of dying. David, who cares about his wife, remains silent about the baby and does not show his sadness to his wife.

Another difference is their fear which affects them. George's fear of his surroundings makes him force himself to hide his wife's affair even he feels jealous. He is afraid that other people will consider him a weak person. David's fear of his past life leads him to treat his Down daughter wrongly. His wrong decision later makes him regretful. As a result, he keeps a distance from his family. David does not seem to care about his family any more.

The other difference is the ending. George reunites with his family. This happens because George realizes that he is old now and he needs his family to be with him. His wife and his children also forgive him for his indifference. This happens because George finally decides to communicate his thoughts with his family. However, David prefers not to live with his family any more. He even dies before he reveals his secret to his family. He does not reveal the secret because he is afraid that he will lose his family.

In conclusion, I find so many inner conflicts and social conflicts in the two novels. I also find a similarity that in the two novels the families are shattered, which causes so many inner conflicts and social conflicts among the family members. The fathers keep their thoughts by themselves, their wives have affairs with other men, and abandoned children are the indication of a shattered family. Nevertheless, the effects on their children are quite different. The children are ignored by their parents and they face the condition differently. In A Spot of Bother, one of the children becomes a homosexual and the other a doubtful wife. In The Memory Keeper's Daughter, Paul escapes to music whereas Phoebe does not even know her biological family. The other difference is the ending of the story. George reunites with his wife after he explains everything to her, but David dies before he reveals his secret to his family.

After analysing the two novels, I conclude that in a shattered family, there are so many conflicts. These conflicts are caused by lack of communication among the family members. If a family is harmonious, every conflict can be resolved and nobody has to suffer or become the victim.