

APPENDICES

Synopsis of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*

This novel revolves around Christopher Boone, a fifteen-year-old boy who has an Asperger syndrome yet excels in Mathematics. Christopher lives with his father since his mother moves away. However, his father tells him that his mother has died of heart attack. The story begins when Christopher finds the dead body of Wellington, a big poodle of his neighbor Mrs. Shears. He later decides to track down who has killed Wellington and puts it into a journal.

Despite his father's strong disapproval of his decision to track down the killer, Christopher insists on doing so. On investigating one of his neighbors, Mrs. Alexander, he is informed about the affairs that his mother has had with Mr. Shears. One day, his father finds his journal and keeps it. Christopher, who is persistent in continuing his spy, looks for his journal in his father's closet where he also finds letters addressed to him from his mother, who is actually still alive.

In an attempt to explain his lie about his wife's death, Christopher's father reveals that he has actually killed Wellington because he is upset with Mrs. Shears.

Shocked and scared, Christopher decides to run away to his mother in London before both of them finally return to Swindon, where Christopher takes his almost delayed A-level Mathematics examination and gets the perfect score. His relationship with his father also gets better after his father apologizes to him and buys him a little poodle which he later names Sandy. In the end, he lives with his mother in the same city, separated from his father.

Synopsis of *Eye Contact*

One afternoon, Adam, a nine-year-old autistic boy, is reported missing during school hours. A few hours later, the police find him with a fellow student in the woods behind the school. It is a surprising fact since Cara, his mother, knows that Adam does not have friends as he has never talked about any friends before. The student Adam is with is Amelia Best, but she is found dead on the location. Adam, who surely becomes the key of the investigation in locating the murderer, has pulled himself back because he is shocked.

The murder involves Kevin, a man in Cara's past who turns out to be Adam's father. He is suspected of the murder since it is proven that he is in the woods when the kids are missing.

Cara agrees when Adam's school teachers suggest getting him an older company from school, Morgan, to be Adam's aid as Morgan's punishment for his criminal action. Surprisingly, Morgan copes with Adam very well. Adam speaks his first words when he meets Morgan after having kept silent since the murder day.

Morgan, who is obsessed to find out who the murderer is, lists the people of whom he is suspicious. One of them is Chris, his friend. Even though he is not the murderer, Chris is involved in the murder.

That afternoon, Chris takes his friend, Hare, to the woods to take some revenge because he is often bullied by Hare. Chris hides his knife in the woods and unfortunately it is found by Amelia. At that time, Amelia and Adam are in the woods waiting for Kevin, who is actually Adam's father. Hare, who suddenly loses his temper, stabs Amelia with the knife.

Finally, Hare is arrested while Cara re-builds her relationship with Kevin.

Biography of Mark Haddon

Mark Haddon is an English author, poet, painter, illustrator, and cartoonist. He was born in Northampton on 26 September 1962. He took various jobs dealing with children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

Gilbert's Gobstopper, his first children book, was published in 1987, followed by many other children books such as the *Agent Z* and *Baby Dinosaurs* series. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* was published in 2003 and has gained a huge success. With a child with Asperger syndrome as the protagonist who is trying to solve a mystery, this novel has won more than seventeen prestigious awards, including British Book Awards Book of the Year (2003), Whitbread Novel Award (2003), and Guardian Children's Fiction Prize (2003). This book has sold for more than 10 million copies.

Haddon also published his book of poetry *The Talking Horse and the Sad Girl and the Village Under the Sea*, which has been put into the short-list of Arvon Foundation International Poetry Competition. His latest novel, *A Spot of Bother* (2006), was nominated for the 2006 Costa Novel Award. Mark Haddon has also written plays for Radio Four and won two BAFTAs for *Microsoap*, a children's television drama.

Mark Haddon now teaches creative writing for the Arvon Foundation and Oxford University. He lives in Oxford with his wife Dr. Sos Eltis and their two sons.

(Holcombe, "Inside a Curious Mind")

Biography of Cammie McGovern

Cammie McGovern is an American author. She was born on 8 September 1963. She studied at Kenyon College and took her MFA degree at the University of Michigan. She was awarded a creative writing fellowship at Stanford University.

McGovern's first novel, *The Art of Seeing*, was first published in 2002 and given many good reviews for its story about a rivalry in a sisterhood, which also reflects the life of celebrities in Hollywood. Her second novel, *Eye Contact*, has also grabbed much attention and praises of many readers with its murder story involving an eight-year-old boy with autism. With this novel, Cammie McGovern has succeeded to portray a memorable mother-son relationship in a thriller story. *Neighborhood Watch*, her latest novel, was published in June 2010.

McGovern has received many prizes for her short stories such as Nelson Algren Award for Short Fiction. Her short stories have appeared in many magazines including *Glamour*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Redbook*, and *Seventeen*. She has also read her stories on the BBC Radio World Short Stories Series and featured in Noble's Discover Great New Writers Series.

Cammie McGovern is one of the founders of Whole Children, a resource center that runs after-school classes and programs for children with special needs. She now lives in Springfield, Massachusetts, with her husband and three children, the eldest of whom is autistic like the hero of her novel entitled *Eye Contact*.

(Mahoney, "Meet Cammie")