



A Spot of Bother

By Mark Haddon

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A Spot of Bother is Mark Haddon's unforgettable follow-up to the internationally beloved bestseller *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. At sixty-one, George Hall is settling down to a comfortable retirement. When his tempestuous daughter, Katie, announces that she is getting married to the deeply inappropriate Ray, the Hall family is thrown into a tizzy. Unnoticed in the uproar, George discovers a sinister lesion on his hip, and quietly begins to lose his mind. As parents and children fall apart and come together, Haddon paints a disturbing yet amusing portrait of a dignified man trying to go insane politely.

A Washington Post Best Book of the Year

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A Spot of Bother By Mark Haddon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If the reader were to give a voice to Haddon's protagonist, it would sound just like Keating's. George is an introverted, mild-mannered 61-year-old newly retired Brit who wants to ignore the emotional undertow of his conventional, middle-class family. Without trying to act out the characters, Keating clearly delineates each: George's wife (who is having an affair), his daughter (who is about to embark on another disastrous marriage), her fiancé (whose cockney accent highlights class antagonisms) and his son (who fears bringing his male lover to the wedding). To avoid the family fracas, George focuses on his eczema—the "spot of bother" of the title—convinced that it is cancer and that he will die soon. Keating tries to establish a lighthearted tone, but Haddon's descriptions of the characters' misery, especially George's rapid descent into madness, are too graphic to be comical. Tone aside, Haddon writes well and Keating reads well, so many listeners will enjoy this contemporary British family portrait in which everyone will live relatively happily ever after—if only they can learn to communicate with one another. Simultaneous release with the Doubleday hardcover (Reviews, July 17).

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From [The New Yorker](#)

Haddon's acclaimed debut novel, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," brilliantly imagined the inner world of an autistic teen-ager. Here the hero is similarly uncommunicative and detached, this time because of a stiff upper lip. George, recently retired, thinks talking is "overrated" and greets the death of a friend with relief "that they would not be playing squash again." Obsessed with his own mortality, he barely registers the dramas around him: his wife is having an affair, his daughter is marrying a man she's not sure she loves, and his son is afraid to bring his boyfriend to the wedding. Haddon has a deft comic touch, but he pushes his characters too hard toward epiphanies, and in the end this antic farce is merely affable, without surprises.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Mark Haddon's first novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (HHHH Sept/Oct 2003), was a critical hit, a best seller, and a *Bookmarks* staff favorite; *A Spot of Bother* is a very different book, making the inevitable comparisons somewhat difficult. Critics agree that Haddon's style remains smooth, clever, and appealing, but they differ on the question of whether that's enough to overcome a somewhat predictable plot and an overly neat ending. The depictions of the Halls are accurate and humorous, and while Briticisms fly thick and fast, they add to the atmosphere and don't get too much in the way of American readers. Despite some shortcomings, *A Spot of Bother* is a charming, entertaining read.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joann Hamilton:

This A Spot of Bother book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book will be information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That A Spot of Bother without we

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