

SCIENCE expert Emily Priscilla Sidonie Grossman will be familiar to viewers of Sky's *Duck Quacks Don't Echo* and ITV's *The Alan Titchmarsh Show*.

The 41-year-old Londoner, whose partner is Kimwei McCarthy, is the daughter of Susan Grossman and Ashley Grossman, both of London.

Her sisters are Savannah, Sophie, Annabel, Camilla, Cordelia and Lily. Emily read natural sciences at

Queens' College Cambridge, specialising in molecular biology and genetics, gained a PhD for cancer research at the University of Manchester, and has a postgraduate diploma in Musical Theatre from The Guildford School of Acting.

Emily works as a freelance science broadcaster, author, public speaker and communication skills trainer.

She has also been a professional actress and singer and a maths and science teacher.

Her latest book, *Brain-Fizzing Facts: Awesome Science Questions Answered*, was published yesterday by Bloomsbury Children's Books (£6.99).



**1. Nickname?**  
Dr Em.

**2. Best and worst things about your job?**  
I love being my own boss, creating and choosing my own projects, and the fact that every day is different. The lack of structure and the fact that I often have to set my own deadlines means it's sometimes hard to motivate myself to get going in the morning!

# MY LIFE IN 20-ish QUESTIONS

## EMILY GROSSMAN



**3. Favourite musician?**  
The Killers.

**4. Favourite film?**  
*Love Actually* – I know it's cheesy but it gets me every time.

**5. Optimist or pessimist?**  
Optimist.

**6. Last happiest moment?**  
To celebrate my 40th birthday, last summer I organised a three-day festival for all my friends and family. Some of my friends offered talks or workshops, while others helped organise silly games, live music, yummy food and dancing.

It was such a great team effort and it was so wonderful to have all of my favourite people in the same place at the same time, doing the things that I most love.

**7. Last time you cried?**  
A few days ago. No idea what about. I'm a highly-emotional person, so I cry often – whether it's because I'm happy, sad, overwhelmed or frustrated.

**8. Last book you read?**  
*Testosterone Rex*, by Cordelia Fine.

**9. Last film you saw?**  
*Cloud Atlas*.

**10. Favourite TV show?**  
I loved *The Bridge* – the original Scandinavian version. Saga Norén is my all-time favourite TV character. I also loved *Fleabag*. Phoebe Waller-Bridge is a comedy genius.

**11. Favourite holiday destination?**  
Thailand or anywhere in South East Asia. But I try not to fly these days.

**12. Favourite dish?**  
My grandma's chicken soup with matzo balls – which my family and I like to call 'bobbles'.

**13. What would be the title of your autobiography?**  
*Say Yes, Panic Later*.

**14. What is your most treasured possession?**  
A small white toy cat, called Snowy. She looks after me when I'm sad or lonely.

**15. Of what are you most proud?**  
My TEDx talk 'Why Science Needs People Who Cry', on the value of emotion in science and society. I wrote it in response to the torrent of misogynistic and sexist abuse on social media that I received in response to saying in a TV news interview that it's ok for female scientists to cry.

**16. Most embarrassing moment?**  
A few years ago I verified a fact on *Duck Quacks Don't Echo* about left-handed people dying nine years younger than right-handed people, but it turned out not to be true. The study that the fact was based on relied on a statistical error that had tricked even the experts.

A statistician watched the show and contacted me afterwards to alert me to the error. I was so mortified that I asked him to help me investigate this further and he ended up inviting me to give a talk on statistical fallacies at the Royal Statistical Society!

**17. What do you do in your spare time?**  
Get out into nature or listen to live music – preferably at the same time!

**18. How would you like to be remembered?**  
As someone who brought clarity to others, who helped them to be the best they could be, and who made them smile.

**19. Something people might not be aware of about you.**  
My partner is non-binary – assigned female at birth.

**20. What does being Jewish mean to you?**  
I see Judaism as a set of traditions that

are important in holding families together and in honouring the experiences of our ancestors. For me, Jewish values are about being a good person, and living with kindness and integrity.

**21. Sum up your career in three words.**  
Exciting, varied, challenging.

**22. What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given?**  
"Don't let anyone ever tell you that you can't." And my two favourite inspiring quotes are: "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" and "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain".

emilygrossman.co.uk