

Who Was Albert Einstein?

- ☐ One of the most brilliant human beings who ever lived
- ☐ A scientist whose discoveries and theories led to TV . . . and the atom bomb
- ☐ A peace-loving guy with really crazy hair
- ☒ All of the above!

Find out more about the real Albert Einstein in this fun and exciting illustrated biography!

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listed inside. Read them all!

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Albert
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by Jess M. Brallier
illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker

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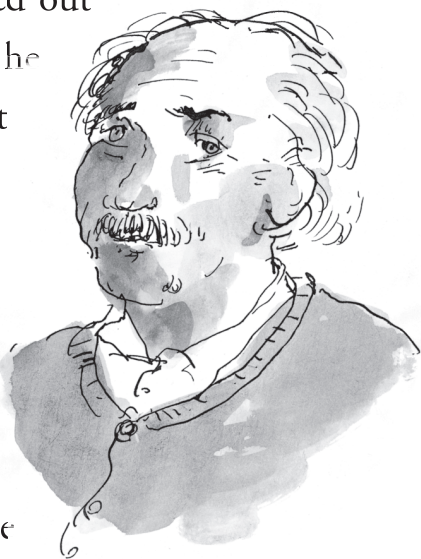
Who Was Albert Einstein?

“For an idea that does not at first seem insane, there is no hope.”

—Albert Einstein

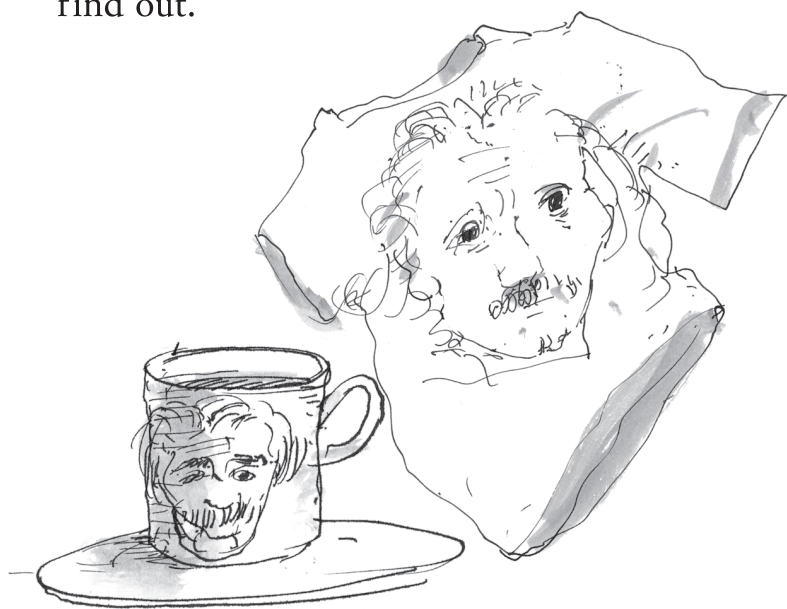
Did you know that Albert Einstein was a very poor student who got kicked out of school? Well, he was. Yet he was one of the most brilliant people that the world has ever known.

Did you know that Albert was a peace-loving person who hated war? Well, he was. Yet his work led to the creation of the most destructive bomb ever.



Did you know that Albert was shy and hated publicity and attention? Yet he was a media superstar. Even now, fifty years after his death, Hollywood still makes movies about him—and T-shirts, coffee mugs, and posters are decorated with pictures of his famous face.

Who was Albert Einstein? You are about to find out.



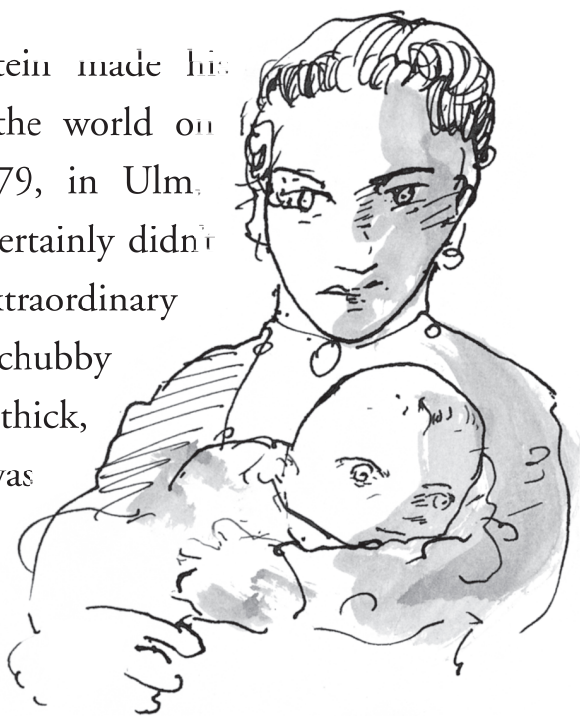
Chapter 1

Born to Think

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

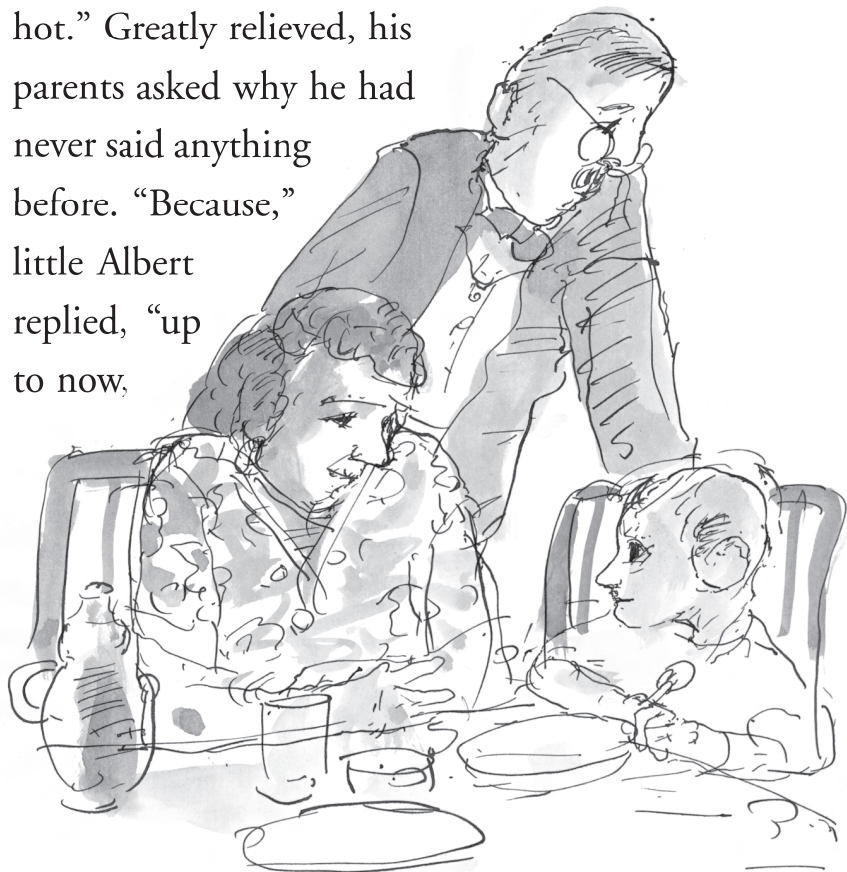
—Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein made his entrance into the world on March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany. He certainly didn't seem like an extraordinary child. He was chubby and pale with thick, black hair. He was so quiet and shy that his parents worried that



there was something wrong with him. They took Albert to doctors. “He doesn’t talk,” his parents explained. The doctors found nothing wrong.

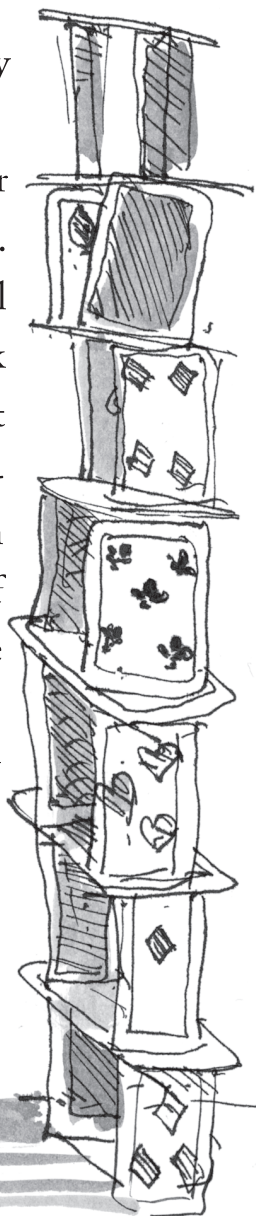
The story goes that Albert didn’t speak a word until he was three or four years old. Then suddenly, over supper one night, he said, “The soup is too hot.” Greatly relieved, his parents asked why he had never said anything before. “Because,” little Albert replied, “up to now,



everything has been fine.” Is this story true? There’s no proof.

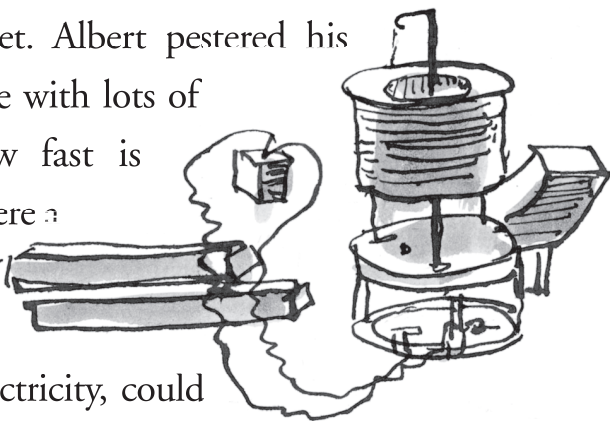
Most boys his age played soldier and other rough-and-tumble games. Not Albert. When Albert saw real soldiers marching with their blank faces, they frightened him. Albert preferred to stay by himself and day-dream. He enjoyed playing with blocks and building houses out of playing cards—some of them were fourteen stories high.

His parents continued to worry about their lonely and quiet son. They took him to more doctors. “Could there be something wrong with his brain?” his parents asked. Once again, doctors found nothing



wrong with the boy. It was just his nature. He was quiet. He was a thinker.

Albert's father and uncle had a business that sold batteries, generators, and wire. Electricity fascinated Albert. It was invisible, powerful, and dangerous. Electricity was like some mysterious secret. Albert pestered his father and uncle with lots of questions. How fast is electricity? Is there a way to see it? What's it made of? If there's electricity, could there be other strange and mysterious forces in the universe?



Albert enjoyed thinking about a world beyond the one that could be seen or explained. As he later said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

Albert was also fascinated by the compass that his father had given him. No matter what he did with the compass, its needle always pointed in the same direction: North. Albert turned the compass upside down and sideways. He used it in the dark. No



matter what, that needle always pointed in the same direction. Albert wondered why. His dad explained that the earth is like a big magnet that's always pulling on the compass's magnetic needle. Albert was amazed that some strange and powerful force was all around him. He could not see it or feel it. Yet it was there, making the compass needle move.

Albert had more to think about. School wasn't teaching him about the things that mattered to him. So at about age 10, Albert started to teach himself. He was going to read as much about science as he could.

The Magnetic Earth

Magnets have invisible forces. Every magnet has two ends—one called the “north pole” and one called the “south pole.” The north pole of any magnet is attracted to the south pole of any other magnet. Bring opposite poles close to each other and they stick together. But try to bring two like poles together—north and north, or south and south—you can’t!

The iron inside the earth creates magnetic forces. The earth itself has a north pole end (near the North Pole) and a south pole end (near the South Pole). A compass’s needle is magnetic. One end is attracted to the earth’s north pole and one to the earth’s south pole. There is an arrow on the end of the compass needle that always points north.

Albert also enjoyed playing the violin. Music calmed his active mind. He especially liked playing duets with his mother. She would accompany him

on the piano. One day,

while they were playing,

Albert suddenly realized that

music chords were

like patterns of

numbers. Musical rhythms

were like counting by threes,

fours, or eights. “Music’s just

like numbers,” he exclaimed

to his mother. (Albert was

thinking even when relaxing.)

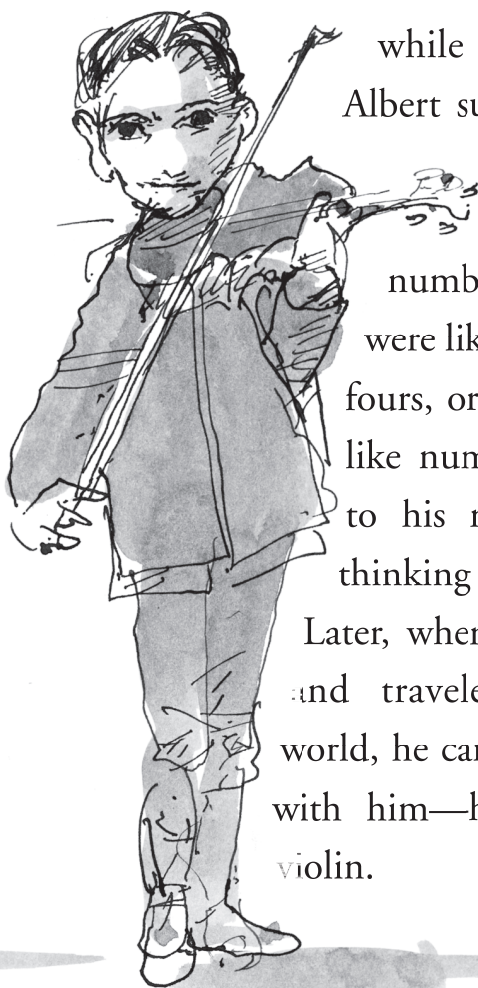
Later, when Albert was famous

and traveled all around the

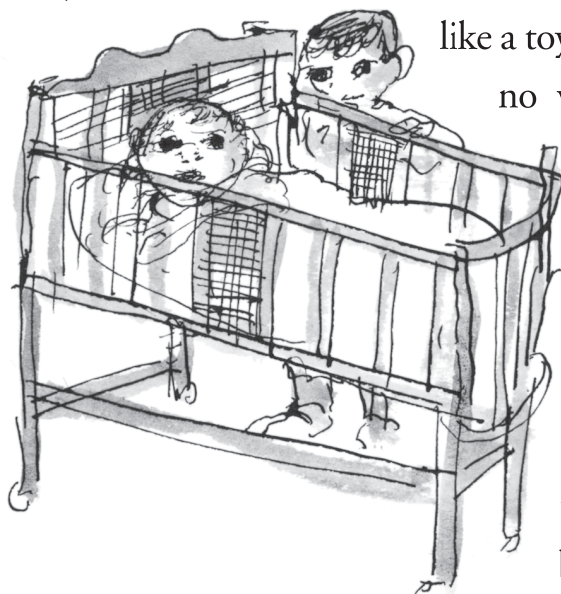
world, he carried only two things

with him—his suitcase and his

violin.



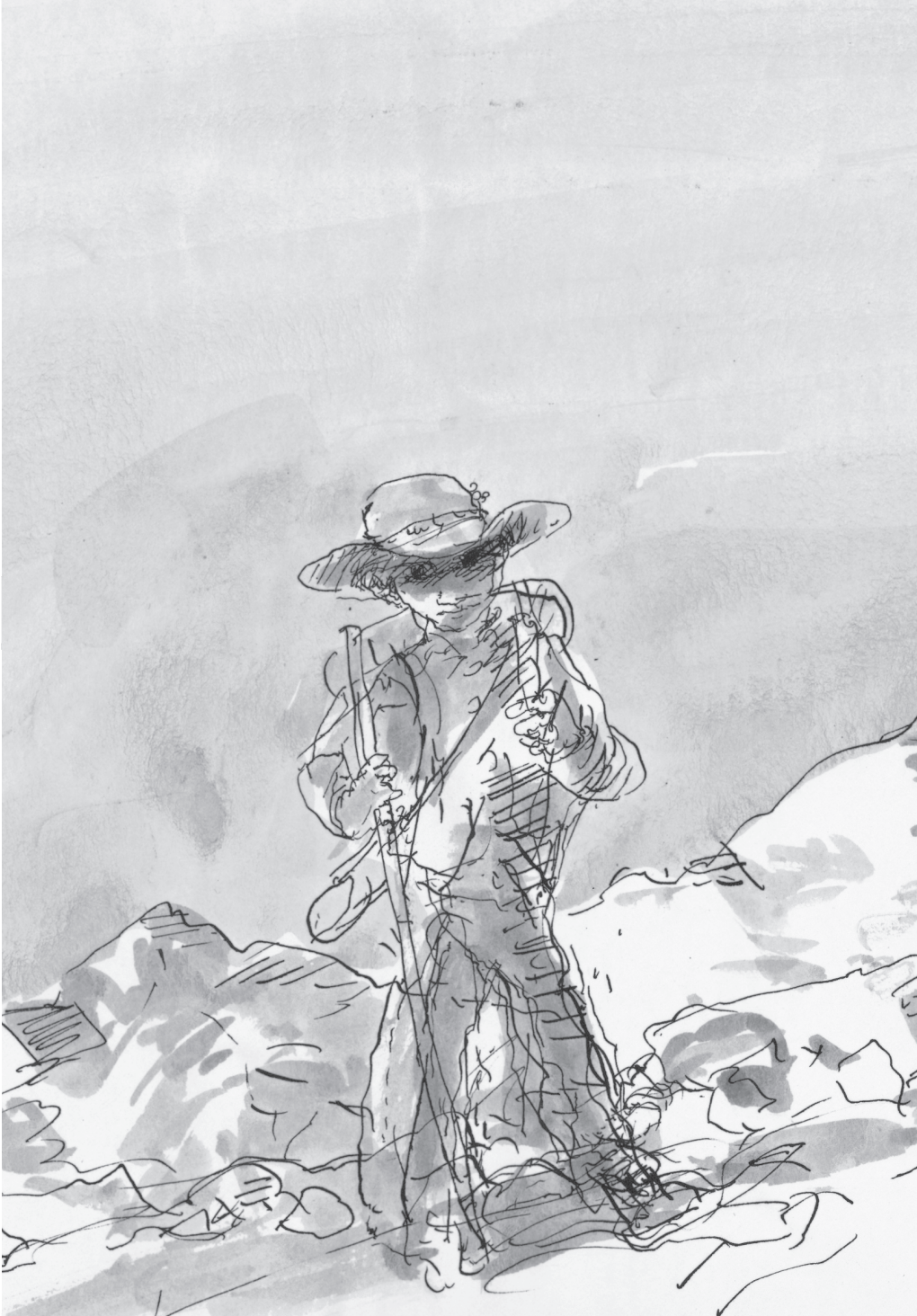
When Albert was a year old, his family moved to the city of Munich in Germany. There, his sister, Maja, was born. Albert expected a little sister to be



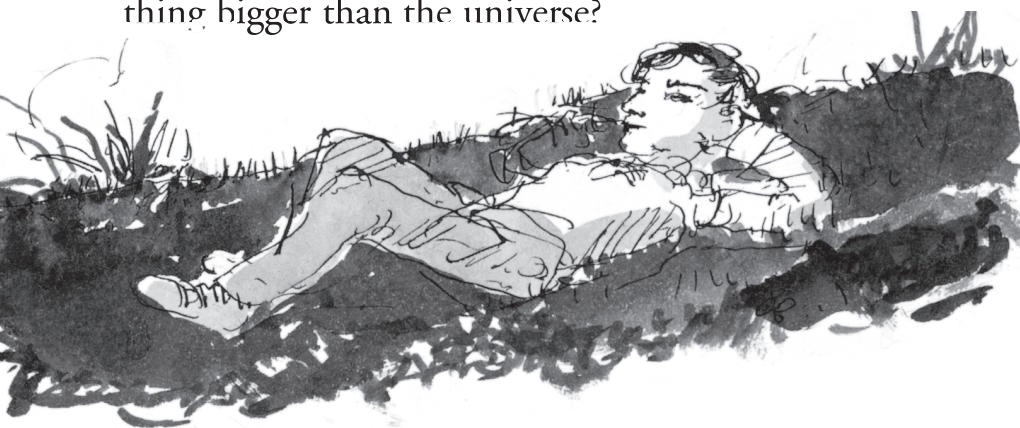
like a toy. But Maja had no wheels like his other toys.

“Where are its wheels?” he asked his parents, clearly disappointed with the new baby.

The wheel-less little girl, however, quickly became Albert’s best friend. As they grew older, Albert and Maja loved to take long walks and hikes. Often their cousins came with them. The higher the hill, the better Albert could think. On these thinking hikes, he used his compass and thought more about how mysterious the world



was. He would lie on his back in the grass, look at the sky, and think about space. Is anything farther away than space? How fast would somebody have to go to get there? How does light get all the way from those stars to your eyes? How far does space go on? Could you ride on a beam of light? Is anything bigger than the universe?



It was as if Albert had been born to think. His father and uncles helped guide his thinking. His sister and cousins encouraged his thinking hikes. Albert found books to help him think out math and science problems. And his mother introduced him to music, which engaged his mind in a way

that books could not. Just as some kids dream of becoming mechanics or veterinarians, Albert was destined to be a thinker.

