



BOLSCHI

A poem by Albert Einstein



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BOLSCHI

Sehr gemischt sind die Gefühle
Wenn du aus dem Stadtgewühle
Rettest wacker dich heraus
Schleichest morgens in dies Haus.

Nach dem Klingeln *bim bim bim*
Geht es dir zunächst nicht schlimm.
Freundlich öffnet die Walküre
Dass sie dich zur Walstatt führe.

Heiter stets und ohne Sorgen
Sagt dir Bolschi guten Morgen
Man indes nun spintisiert
Was er wohl im Schilde führt?

Heldenhaft ist dein Gefühl
Sitzt du dann auf jenem Stuhl
Motor schnurrt und Bohrer steckt
Und du bist fortan Objekt.

Lieulich lächelnd und behänd
Reicht sie ihm das Instrument
Was dann folgt, das fühlt ein jeder
Mir sträubt sich die Tintenfeder.

-

Kommst du abends in dies Haus
Da sieht es ganz anders aus
Tiefer Junggesellenfrieden
Wie er wen'gen nur beschieden.

Bolschi strahlt und wie gebannt
Trittst du ein ins Zauberland.
Schnell ist jeder Gram vergessen
Frohe Reden, feines Essen.

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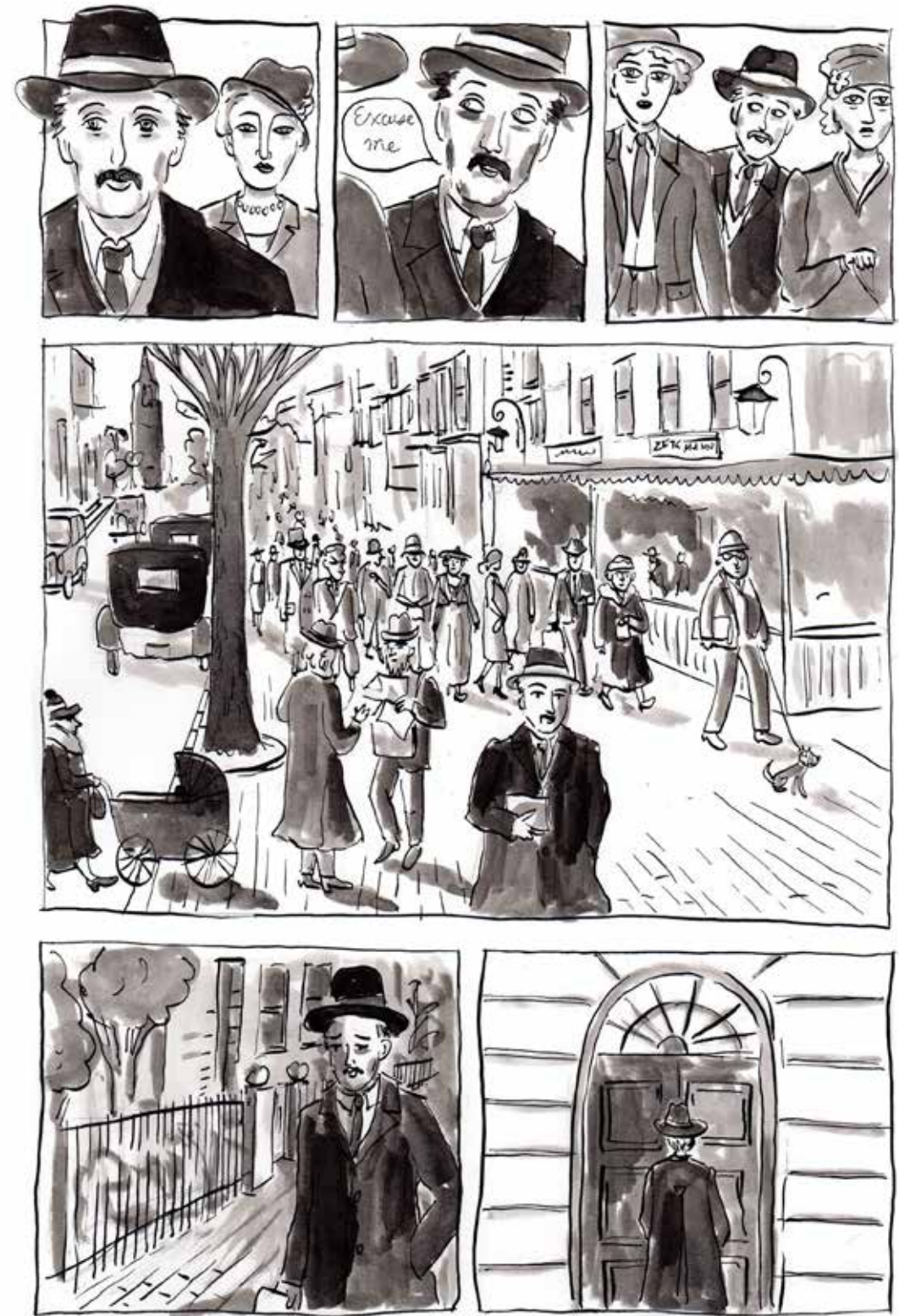
Ist dann damit man zu End
Gehts an das Experiment
Man enträtselt denkt euch nur!
das Geheimnis der Natur.

Doch das Söhnchen unterdessen
Träumer noch vom Abendessen
Und erlaubt mit Toleranz
Uns den ganzen Mummenschanz.

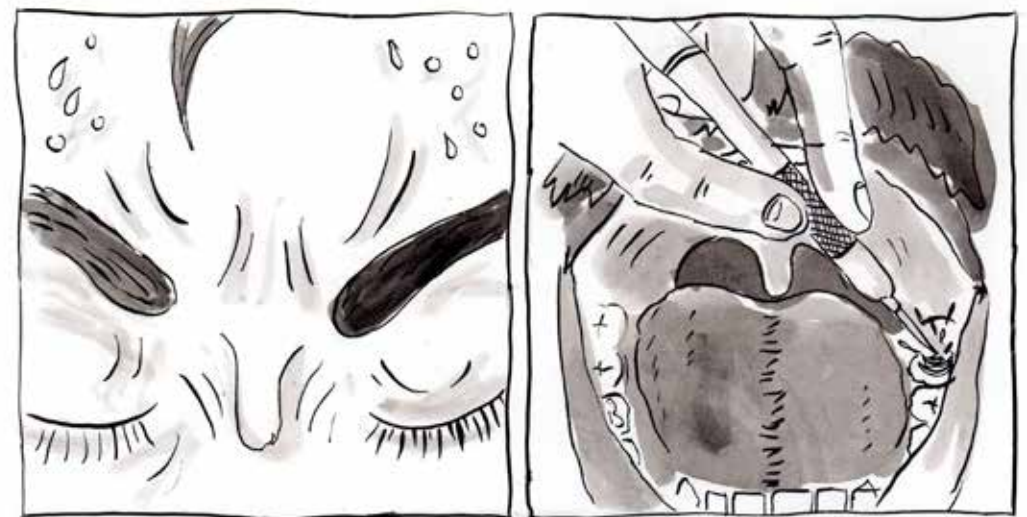
Rüstet man sich dann zum Gehen
Solltet ihr das Söhnchen sehen!
Es rumoret wie verrückt
Und sein Papa ist entzückt.

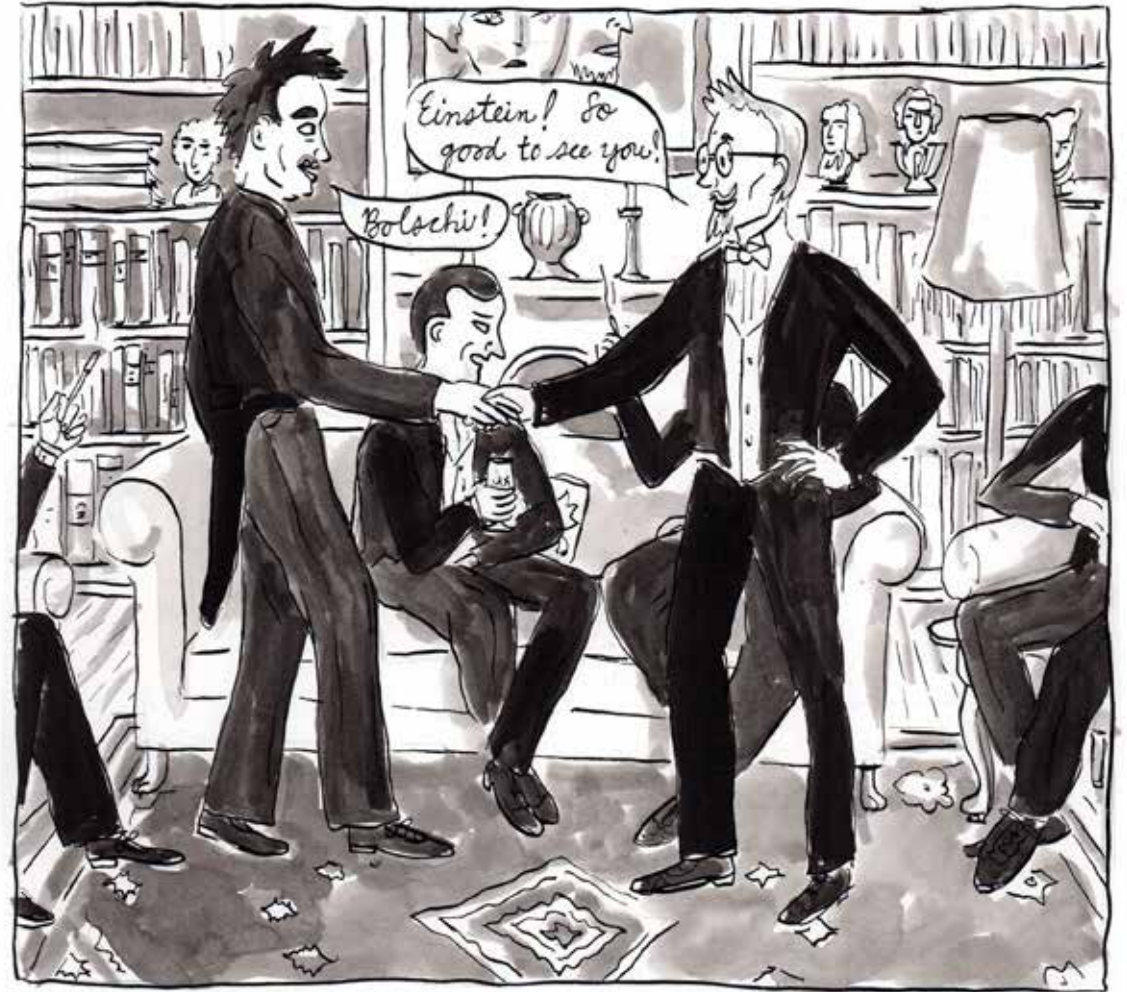
Heut, das weiß ich ganz gewiss
Hat vor Bolschi niemand Schiss
Feiern tut der Freunde Runde
Die vertraute Geisterstunde.

Bei dem Knax der Lebensuhr
Freut sich jede Kreatur
Also Freunde wunderbar
Soll es sein in jedem Jahr.

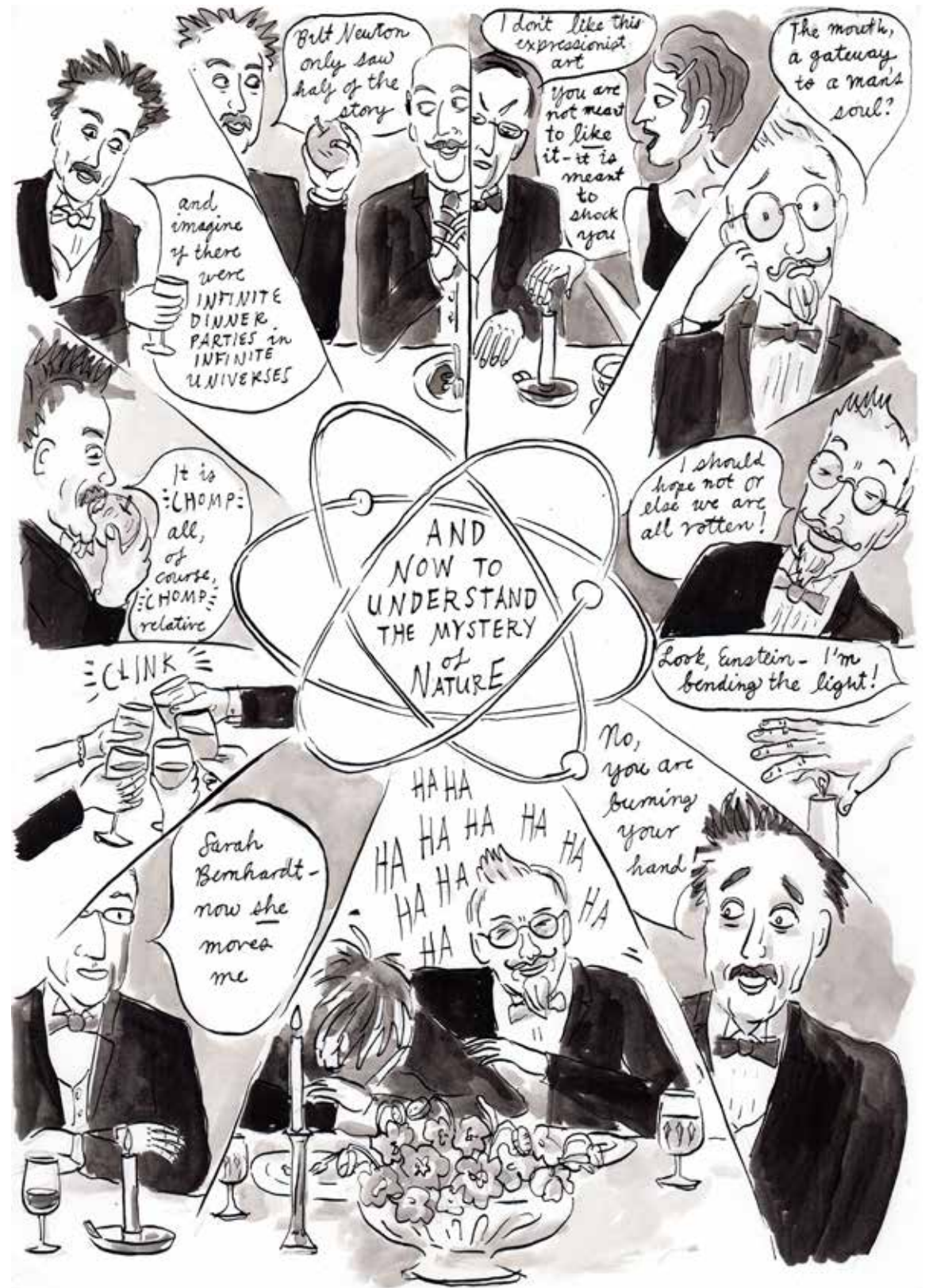








If you come in the evening...



Today I know with absolute

certainty that no one is afraid

of Bolschi

In the ticking of Life's clock

Every creature takes pleasure

So, friends, in every year

Life should be wonderful



BOLSCHI

for Josef Grünberg (a Russian orthodontist and art collector in Albert Einstein's circle of friends, nicknamed Bolschi for his sympathies with the revolutionary cause), probably 1920, New Year's Eve

How very mixed are the feelings
when you emerge from the city reeling
to creep oh far braver than a mouse
during daylight into this house.

After ringing ding ding ding
what next transpires is not too grim:
the friendly valkyrie informs, so polite,
that she'll escort you to the bloodbath with delight.

Ever the chirpy stress-free fellow,
Bolschi greets you with his happy hello
but all the while you're wondering darkly,
what's really going on in that mentality?

Oh what a winner you are as you
sit yourself in his chair, hero too.
Equipment buzzes, the nurse injects,
there's no way for you to now object.

With benevolent beam and agile thumb
she passes him tools of titanium.
The next event does shivers send
and the barbs of my quill are standing on end.

When you arrive at this house in the evening
it's all so different, inviting, receiving.
Such utmost comfort as we all do crave
is conferred on only the luckiest mancave.

Bolschi grins and as if spellbound
you enter into some kind of playground.
How quickly you forget your agony
in fine food and loquacious vivacity.

If you get through all the nibbling,
you may then progress to quibbling
and in a single evening's conversation
solve the entire universe's equation.

But all the while, a hungry little son
is waiting for the palaver to be done,
putting up with you dream spinners
and patiently thinking of his dinner.

When you all start making moves to go,
oh the faces the small child does show!
He makes more noise than the bachelors
and his Papa goes into raptures.

Today I know for sure and certain
Bolschi don't scare shit out of no one.
Us boys keep partying, we never cower,
right on through the witching hour.

Every creature celebrates
as life's bell chimes and animates.
Hey guys, everything is going to be amazing!
Enter each new year with both guns blazing!

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Albert Einstein is widely regarded as the pre-eminent theoretical physicist of the first half of the 20th century. In the public mind he is most typically associated with Relativity (both Special and General) and with the formula $E=mc^2$. Within the physics community these are recognized to be only part of his contributions. Einstein also worked on the foundations of quantum physics (photo-electric effect), the atomic theory of fluids (giving an estimate of Avogadro's number, and so estimating the size of atoms), and wrote some of the first articles applying the quantum theory to what is now called condensed matter physics (the Einstein model of heat capacity). Einstein's scientific legacy continues in modern ongoing attempts to merge quantum physics with general relativity. Even though his famous equation $E=mc^2$ explains and underpins both nuclear power and nuclear weapons, Einstein fully understood the devastation that would ensue from their use and strongly opposed their deployment. The seriousness of his scientific work and its consequences was also accompanied by artistic creativity, humour, and playfulness. So he was at once super-human and yet utterly human.

Matt Visser, FRSNZ, Professor of Mathematics,
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This project demonstrates that translation can never be reduced to a word-for-word equation, to the automatable transfer of a single meaning. Einstein of all people would have enjoyed this multimodal, humorous account of an experience we all dread: relative as time is, time at the dentist's never passes quickly enough... So we can picture Einstein in the waiting room leafing through these pictures and words and opening his mouth: not so much to get ready for the dentist's work but to stick his tongue out in cheeky and cheerful defiance. Another act of translation, after all!

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Wai-te-ata Press and the **Goethe-Institut
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University of Jerusalem**.

Albert Einstein did not much like going to the dentist, but he very much enjoyed his dentist's hospitality