



Einstein in Love: (A Scientific Romance)

Dennis Overbye

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As Dennis Overbye explains in the introduction to *Einstein in Love*, his first book since the National Book Critics Circle and Los Angeles Times Book Award nominee *Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos*, his primary goal is to separate the man "Albert" from the myth "Einstein", to restore humanity and individuality and shaded nuance to a man who has become the most monolithic figure in the scientific pantheon. *Einstein in Love* is the first of the many biographies of the great scientist to focus exclusively on his life during the first two decades of the twentieth century, the period of the greatest intellectual catchup in modern history. The "love" in the title of this book has a double meaning, referring not only to young Albert's exhilarating infatuation with his discoveries of the vistas of a new physics in general relativity, but also his ecstatic, cerebral, and tormented relationship with his first wife, Mileva Maric. While Mileva has always been a controversial figure in the Einstein legend - some commentators have gone as far as awarding her equal credit for the discovery of relativity - no book has treated her as fully and as sympathetically as Overbye's. The Einsteins were the first modern couple, and for the nearly twenty years of their marriage they were as often colleagues as they were emotional adversaries.

Drawing upon hundreds of Einstein's published and unpublished letters, Overbye presents the greatest of scientific romances in a vivid new light, told with novelistic detail and narrative drive. The story of young Einstein is the story of the young man who actually did the revolutionary work that made the old man famous, a young man whose demeanor is more that of James Dean than Albert Schweitzer, a teenager in love, a draft dodger, bohemian, poet, violinist, and whirlwind who left personal, political, and professional chaos in his wake.

Einstein in Love brings that man to life as never before, as well as a large cast of the greatest scientific minds in Europe, as told by one of today's most respected science journalists.

Einstein in Love: (A Scientific Romance) Details

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Author : Dennis Overbye

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From Reader Review Einstein in Love: (A Scientific Romance) for online ebook

Sierra says

Pretty heavy on the science, good look into (different aspects of) the life of the genius.

???? says

extrem delighful

Tom says

I loved Overbye's *Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos*, was expecting great things from this, but it left me rather flat.

Hildeberto says

Very boring biography of Einstein focused on his relationships. At least, I got to know a lot of details about how his women helped him with math :)

Sarah Wolfe says

A lot more physics than love, after all. If you're looking for an overview of Einstein's life and work--including all the major physicists of the time--and just a smidgen of personal life, here it is. Rather misleading title and jacket description, but still a well-done biography of a great but flawed man.

John says

biography,nonfiction,science

Frank Kearns says

I love this book! Full disclosure: the author, Dennis Overbye, is a friend of mine from a long time ago. This book explores Einsteins's life, but what I find fascinating is the exploration of the science along with the life, and the personal interaction between the two. I got a lot out of reading about the intellectual context: his

peers, his rivals, and their personal interaction.

Einstein is revealed as an alive, and flawed, person. His treatment of the various women in his life is not what one would call exemplary. Still, anyone who is interested in Einstein in particular, or interested in general in the world of scientists as human beings, should enjoy this book.

I also recommend Overbye's other book, "Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos."

Janice says

I enjoyed this one, although some of the science/math information was WAY over my head. Einstein was a very interesting person when you look past the major impact he had on academia.

Anna says

I started, but never finished this book. It's actually quite dense, and requires more concentration than you'd imagine. I suppose I should have anticipated that in a book about Einstein, but this is supposed to be about his *life* rather than his *work*...with a man like Einstein, those two things are intertwined so inextricably, you have to address them simultaneously. I liked the parts I did read, but since it obviously couldn't hold my attention, 3 stars. I'll give it another try eventually.

Satyajeet says

0.5 star for the title

0.5 star for the content

1 star for the spine to write a book about Einstein!

The only good thing about this book was its compelling title. I picked it up because of that, even after bad reviews, and boy was it disappointing.

Long story short, I did not like this book. I realized this midway, so I started speed-reading it. Every once in a while, the author's voice becomes so loud (and narrow), the focal point gets lost. ?I reckon maybe the reason behind this, was the subject person of the book - Einstein. It must be very hard to write about him. I mean writing a book about Einstein's 'work' is understandably hard, but here author tried writing both about his 'work' and 'personal' life simultaneously.

A *misfit's* failed relationships with everyone and other drama surrounding it, just like it happened with Steve Jobs' personal life, explained some of his theories briefly in a simplified version, and add a few contradictory opinions on a *conspiracy*, add some more so-called 'facts' that were never proven, and you have this book.

Trixie B says

I like romance, biographies, and Einstein, and I am not feeling this book. I'm tempted to stop reading it, but I have to truly loathe a book before I put it down unfinished. It's not that this is terrible, it's just not particularly

dynamic; The information is conveyed in a very rote fashion, and the author makes no attempt to create tension, even where the "plot" would allow for it. I'm hoping there's a better biography on Einstein out there - if you know of one, please recommend it.

Don says

This well written biography deals primarily with Einstein's youth and young adulthood and served as a nice companion piece to Marie Benedict's work of historical fiction, *THE OTHER EINSTEIN*. I will admit that my mind wandered a bit while I was reading, but I think that has more to do with me than with this book; if you follow my reviews, you will know that this is the third book I've read on the subject since 2019 began. So now I'm on to other things.

Shenanigan says

Ten years ago at the AAAS, Dennis Overbye, author of the classic *Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos*, found himself on a rainy Sunday afternoon in an auditorium watching a handful of historians and physicists arguing about whether Einstein's first wife Mileva had actually invented relativity. This was an eye opener to him, to put it mildly. He was astounded that there could be any mystery about either the origin of relativity or about Einstein's life. He had just assumed that he was so famous and so recent that everything that could be known about him was known.

What followed was a 10-year investigation in which Overbye immersed himself in Einstein's life and wrote his recently published book, *Einstein In Love*.

"Romantically speaking, Einstein always felt — and always told his girlfriends — that Paradise was just around the corner," he says, "but as soon as he got there, it started looking a little shabby and something better appeared. I've known a lot of people like Albert in my time. During this project I have felt lots of shocks of recognition. I feel like I got to know Albert as a person, and I have more respect for him as a physicist than I did when I started, simply because I have more a sense of what he actually did — and how hard it was — than before. If he was around now, I'd love to buy him a beer but I don't know if I'd introduce him to my sister."

Teresa says

Don't be fooled by the title, or even the leaf description: The book is more significant for it's overview of the major players in theoretical physics during Einstein's young life. But, that doesn't mean you won't be slightly disillusioned for having read it; it's disappointing, if expected, to learn how selfish and, in the end, vaguely unseemly Einstein was.

Mo says

I enjoyed this book... Einstein has always fascinated me and to see the relationship he had with his soul mate and first wife, was an interesting treat.
