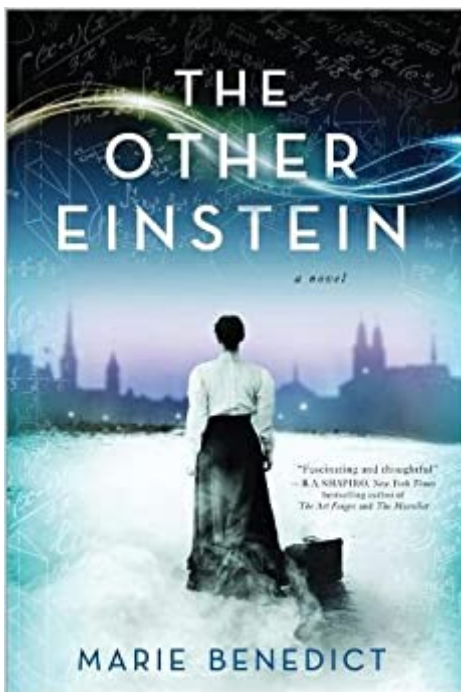


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# The Other Einstein: A Novel



## Synopsis

One of PopSugar's "25 Books You're Going to Curl Up with this Fall." "The Other Einstein takes you into Mileva's heart, mind, and study as she tries to forge a place for herself in a scientific world dominated by men." - Bustle In the tradition of *The Paris Wife* and *Mrs. Poe*, *The Other Einstein* offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. It is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight. Mitza Maric has always been a little different from other girls. Most twenty-year-olds are wives by now, not studying physics at an elite Zurich university with only male students trying to outdo her clever calculations. But Mitza is smart enough to know that, for her, math is an easier path than marriage. And then fellow student Albert Einstein takes an interest in her, and the world turns sideways. Theirs becomes a partnership of the mind and of the heart, but there might not be room for more than one genius in a marriage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Beautifully written...a finely drawn portrait of a woman in love with the wrong man." - Jillian Cantor, author of *Margot* and *The Hours Count* "A crusading scientist undone by love....revealing, enlightening." - Nuala O'Connor, author of *Miss Emily* "In her compelling novel... Benedict makes a strong case that the brilliant woman behind [Albert Einstein] was integral to his success, and creates a rich historical portrait in the process." - *Publishers Weekly* "Benedict's debut novel carefully traces Mileva's life-from studious schoolgirl to bereaved mother-with attention paid to the conflicts between

personal goals and social conventions. An intriguing... reimagining of one of the strongest intellectual partnerships of the 19th century." - Kirkus "Many will enjoy Benedict's feminist views and be fascinated by the life of an almost unknown woman." - RT Book Reviews, 4 Stars "...INTIMATE and IMMERSIVE historical novel....Prepare to be moved by this provocative history of a woman whose experiences will resonate with today's readers." " - Library Journal, Editors' Fall Picks "The Other Einstein takes you into Mileva's heart, mind, and study as she tries to forge a place for herself in a scientific world dominated by men. " - Bustle "...an ENGAGING and THOUGHT PROVOKING fictional telling of the poignant story of an overshadowed woman scientist." - Booklist "Superb...the haunting story of Einstein's brilliant first wife who was lost in his shadow." - Sue Monk Kidd, NYT bestselling author of *The Invention of Wings*, *The Secret Life of Bees*, and *The Mermaid Chair* --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Marie Benedict is a lawyer with more than ten years' experience as a litigator at two of the country's premier law firms and for Fortune 500 companies.

Not a great deal is known about Mileva Mari's scientific contributions, since her husband, Albert Einstein, was careful to relegate her to the shadows. At twenty, the Serbian-born Mileva (known to her family and close associates as Mitza), attended the Polytechnic Institute in Zurich, where she excelled. She also befriended other young ladies who were determined to become professionals in their fields. Everything changed, however, when Mitza fell under the spell of her classmate, Albert Einstein. "The Other Einstein" is Marie Benedict's fictional portrayal of the relationship between Mitza and Albert. At first, the two valued and admired one another; Mitza especially enjoyed the high-level intellectual discussions she had with Albert and his inner circle. Unfortunately, many obstacles kept the pair apart, including Albert's inability to find steady employment; parental disapproval; and Albert's self-centeredness and reluctance to make a commitment. The story is told from Mitza's perspective, and most readers will identify with the heroine's anguish at having been teased by classmates because of her pronounced limp; her desire to please her father, who pushed her to study for an advanced physics degree; and, when Albert ultimately convinced her to put him first, her frustration at sacrificing her own fulfillment to further her husband's ambitions. Although Benedict bases this poignant novel on extensive research, she admits that her narrative is largely speculative; it is NOT history or biography. Still, the author effectively recreates the atmosphere in Switzerland, Serbia, and Germany during the late 1800s and early 1900s—a time of class-consciousness and snobbery; sexism; anti-Semitism; strict standards regarding proper

behavior between courting couples; and exciting breakthroughs in various disciplines. Mitza's plight infuriates us, not just because she may have been denied credit for her ideas, but also because she tried, in vain, to be a proper wife to an egotistical and childlike husband. "The Other Einstein" is a heartrending account of a brilliant woman who wanted to do her duty, but instead sacrificed her soul.

Although this is a fictional account of actual events, I found it quite illuminating. I didn't know Einstein's first wife had such an impact on his discoveries or hers. It also depicts a time in history where women were expected to know their place and defer to their husbands. In that sense, this is definitely a piece of historical fiction...a very enlightening one at that.

This shows a side of Albert Einstein most people would never know or understand. I thought the book was well written and the author makes A. Einstein into a "real" person, not the wild-haired persona that most people recognize. He was a man with a heart; he had love to share but it took time for him to figure out where the scientist ended and the man began. Good read.

It's as if the pyramids were inverted, flicked from their butts. Excuse the levity but the idol has been pulled down by the strings of 'unrelativity'. I am pleasantly surprised that the first Ms. Einstein was the super physicist herself and the muse of Relativity and math genius, notwithstanding the part fiction, part authentic biography of the couple. Honestly, I couldn't put it down, I just have to read it through. Thoroughly enjoyable, I'd suggest everyone to grab this book and enter the world of science and human relations.

Attention readers: this book is NOT about Albert Einstein. This, however, is the captivating story of Mileva *Mitza* Maric, a brilliant mathematician and physicist that happened to fall in love with Albert Einstein. The purpose of this book is not to diminish Einstein's work (although it will demystify the legend he's become), but to shed some light into the life of a woman that for years have been only a footnote in Einstein's biography. The book attempts fill in the gaps of history with a series of *what ifs*, especially since letters between Mitza and Einstein were discovered in the 1980's raising questions about the extent of Mitza's involvement in Einstein's work. I think what makes this book so relatable to women in the 21st century is that we're still making tough decisions between family and career, and living with the consequences of our choices and actions (and almost always

second-guessing them).

Excellent book, thought it was well written and a very interesting subject particularly regarding the struggles of women in science. This is the other side of the story. The author has written a great afterword regarding her weaving of fact with fiction.

I found the book interesting, as it was told from the voice of the woman who became Einstein's first wife. We see Einstein as a charming, brilliant young man who has the courage to befriend a woman at the time when few women were educated, much less attended university. In "fact-checking" I found that it was possible that most of the actions in the book actually took place. I would have liked to find out what happened after Einstein left her for another woman. Yes, I would read it again.

Wonderful book. I couldn't put it down. Beautiful language from the period. Written to make you see the countryside and each new place they visited. I felt like I was experiencing her excitement and pain.

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