

EXT. TOWN CENTER OF ULM, GERMANY - DAY

CAPTION: ULM, SOUTHERN GERMANY - 1883

An active street filled with horse drawn carts and people on a cold day. HERMANN EINSTEIN, 26, walks past City Hall, past a synagogue, and enters a large apartment building.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Albert, 4, lays sick in bed. PAULINE EINSTEIN, 25, sits worried in a chair, Albert's sister MAJA, 2, is on her lap. Hermann hovers next to her. A DOCTOR finishes an exam.

DOCTOR

It is just a fever. He will be fine in a couple of days. Now, you mentioned earlier that he is not like other children? In what way?

PAULINE

Well, we see other children his age talking quite a bit, and he rarely talks. We are worried that something is, ah - wrong with him.

Looking directly at the doctor, Albert shrugs and nods in agreement. The doctor gets out a tongue depressor.

DOCTOR

Well, lets' take a look, now Albert open wide and say aah -

ALBERT

Aaahhh -

DOCTOR

Hmm, he is capable of speech. Albert, can you speak to me?

Albert looks at him again, and then nods his head, yes.

DOCTOR

(chuckles)
Well, his hearing is fine. Albert will you say something?

Closing his eyes, Albert mouths the words first, then slowly answers.

ALBERT

Yes. (pause) I have nothing to report at this time.

The surprised Einstein's burst into relieved smiles.

DOCTOR

Don't worry. He might be a little slower than other children, but he is a ... typically normal boy.

The doctor collects his bags and leaves. Hermann sits on the edge of the bed, reaching into his pocket.

HERMANN

Albert, I have a gift for you.
From Uncle Jacob.

Pulling out a COMPASS, Albert's eyes are wide open as he reaches out with his little hands for the prize.

HERMANN

That is a compass Albert. See the needle? No matter which way you move it, it always points north.

A COMPASS as Albert moves it around, the needle moving.

ALBERT

How does it work? Is there something invisible working on it?

HERMANN

Good, you can speak. The needle moves in the earth's magnetic field, so yes, something invisible is working on it.

Albert turns it upside down, looking. He takes it under the covers and it glows in the dark. He is fascinated.

ALBERT

I want to know how it works. It is like - a little miracle!

HERMANN

Yes, like a little... miracle.

Gently, Hermann tucks him in, Albert holding the compass.