

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

CAPTION: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM - OCTOBER 29, 1911

People are streaming in and out of an ELEGANT OLD HOTEL. Albert approaches the entrance, unnoticed in the crowd. A sign above the hotel reads METRO POLE. A REPORTER is interviewing MARIE CURRIE and a group of distinguished men.

REPORTER

Madam Curie, now that you have won the Nobel Prize, will you give up your work and retire to a life of well-deserved leisure?

She sees Albert and glances at him curiously.

MADAME CURIE

Retire? Only death retires the true scientist.

ALBERT'S POV: The group enters the hotel, flash bulbs popping, the press recording the entrances of the stars.

Albert walks the edge of the red carpet gauntlet, unnoticed.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Albert is at the counter as the CLERK rummages through papers, more interested in the retinue at the front.

CLERK

Einstern was that?

ALBERT

Einstein. Albert Einstein.

The clerk grudgingly finds his paperwork.

CLERK

Did you know that those people are famous scientists? Apparently they are the smartest people in the world. Wonder what that would be like? But I guess blokes like me and you will never know, eh?

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Madame Curie and men stand talking, below a sign that reads "SOLVAY CONFERENCE". Albert approaches.

ALBERT

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Albert Einstein, from the University of Prague.

Madame Curie smiles and offers her hand.

MADAME CURIE

It's a pleasure to meet you Herr Einstein. I am Madam Currie --

One of the men excitedly cuts her off in mid sentence.

MAN

Einstein! You are the fellow who argues that time is relative! Could you explain relativity to me, a poor chemist?

The group is focused on Albert. They wait for him to answer the challenge. Albert smiles at Madame Curie.

ALBERT

You see relativity is rather simple. Touch a hot stove for a minute, it will seem like an hour. But if you spend an hour with a beautiful woman --  
(bows to Madame Curie)  
-- it will seem like a minute.