ANDREW ROBINSON is the author of more than twenty-five books covering both science and the arts, six of which are biographies. They include The Last Man Who Knew Everything (a biography of polymath Thomas Young), Genius: A Very Short Introduction and Einstein: A Hundred Years of Relativity, which was described by the astronomer and writer Patrick Moore as ‘by far the best book about Einstein that I have ever come across’ in BBC Sky at Night. He is also a regular contributor to magazines and newspapers, including The Lancet, Nature and Science.

The first account of how Britain gave sanctuary to Einstein – initially by inspiring his teenage passion for physics, then by providing refuge from the Nazis.

In autumn 1933, Albert Einstein was living secretly under armed guard in an isolated holiday hut in rural England. There, he toiled peacefully at mathematics while occasionally stepping out for walks or to play his violin. But now had Einstein come to abandon his Britain home and go on the run?

In this ground-breaking narrative, Andrew Robinson tells the story of the world’s greatest scientist and Britain, showing why it was the perfect refuge for Einstein from rumoured assassination by Nazi agents.

Einstein’s affinity for Britain began long before his residency there. The three scientists he most admired – Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday and James Clerk Maxwell – were all British. Young Einstein’s passion for their work had sparked his scientific development around 1900. British astronomers had confirmed his general theory of relativity, making him internationally famous in 1919. Soon he was welcomed by the British people, who helped him campaign against Nazi anti-Semitism. He even intended to become a British citizen in 1933.

So why did Einstein then leave Britain for America, never to return to Europe?