

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



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# Acknowledgements

*I thank thee, gentle Percy; and be sure  
I count myself in nothing else so happy  
As in a soul rememb'ring my good friends*

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Bullingbrook, RICHARD II, Scene 2.3, lines 46-48

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# Curriculum Vitae

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players

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Jaques, AS YOU LIKE IT, Scene 2.7, lines 142-143

Erik Visse was born in Zoetermeer on 2nd August 1989. In 2007 he obtained his secondary school gymnasium level diploma at Erasmus College Zoetermeer. Afterwards, he started studying physics at Leiden University. Here he was active in the Rino foundation, giving physics demonstrations at secondary schools. In his first year, he realized the joy that mathematics can bring and he decided to pursue a degree in mathematics to accompany the one in physics. Before he obtained both bachelor degrees in 2012, it had become apparent that mathematics surpassed his initial field of study in his level of interest. In 2014 he obtained his masters degree in mathematics, also in Leiden, having written a thesis in number theory under the supervision of Rachel Newton and David Holmes. Soon after, he started the PhD project that culminated in this thesis.

In recent years, Erik discovered the joy of theatre when he joined the student theatre society Cuculum, and afterwards the theatre society Solon in Utrecht. The works of Shakespeare in particular are of great interest to him.

In 2018, in the midst of finishing this PhD thesis, Erik got married to Chloe Martindale whom he had met through mathematics. He adopted her surname which now proudly and justly features on the cover of this thesis.