




everything is made of atoms, you are and so is this book
the centres of atoms are made of neutrons and protons
atoms from a metal called uranium are special
we have called them mighty atoms, this story tells you why



the mighty atom!

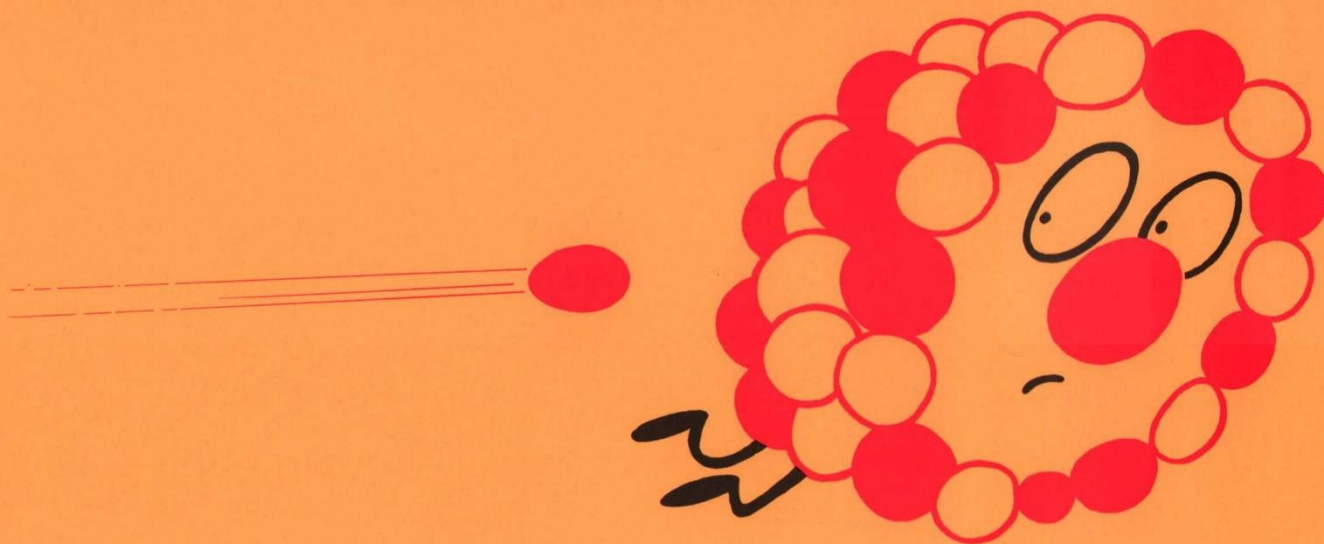
atoms  are small



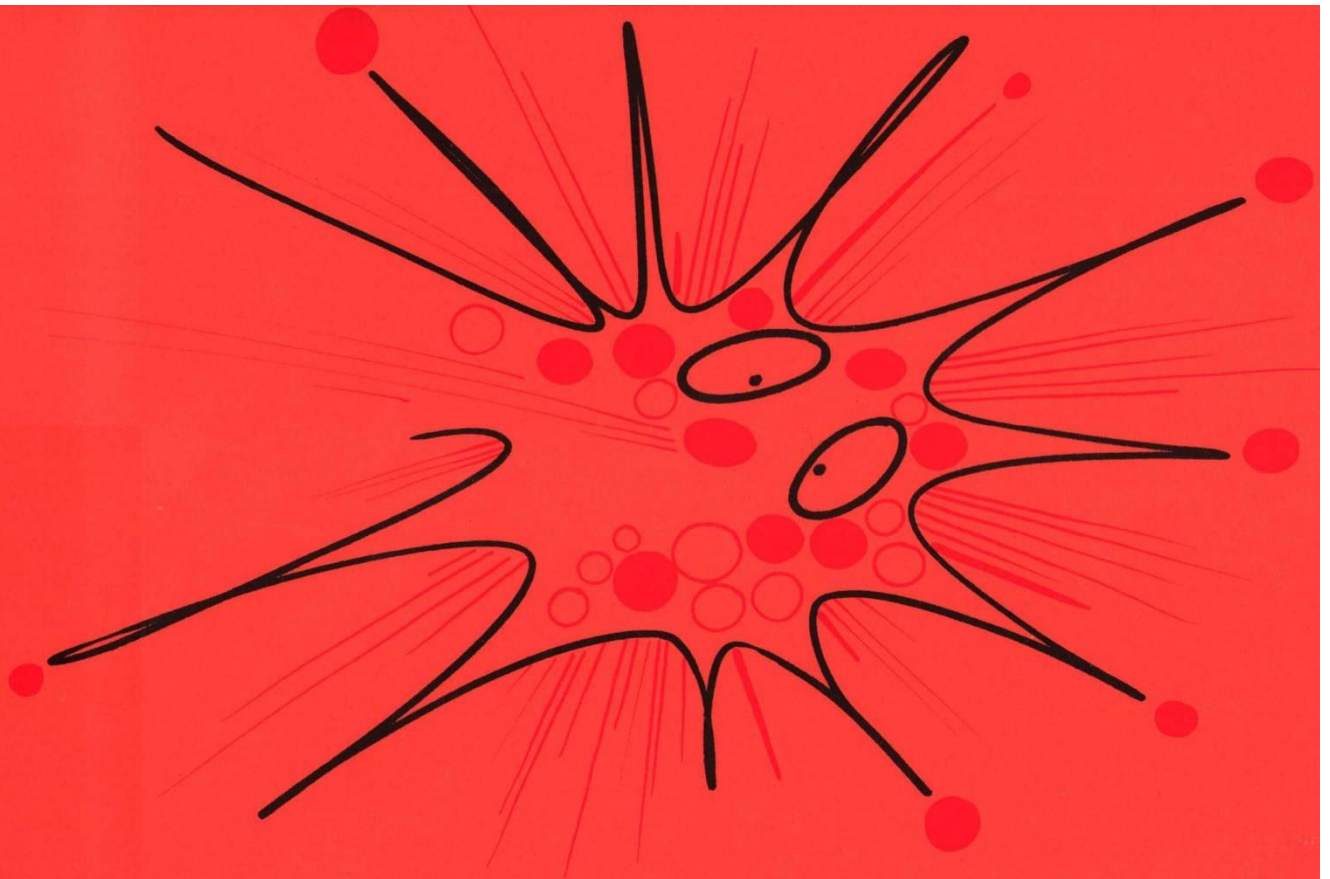
It would take over one million atoms to cover this dot.
Protons  and Neutrons  are even smaller.



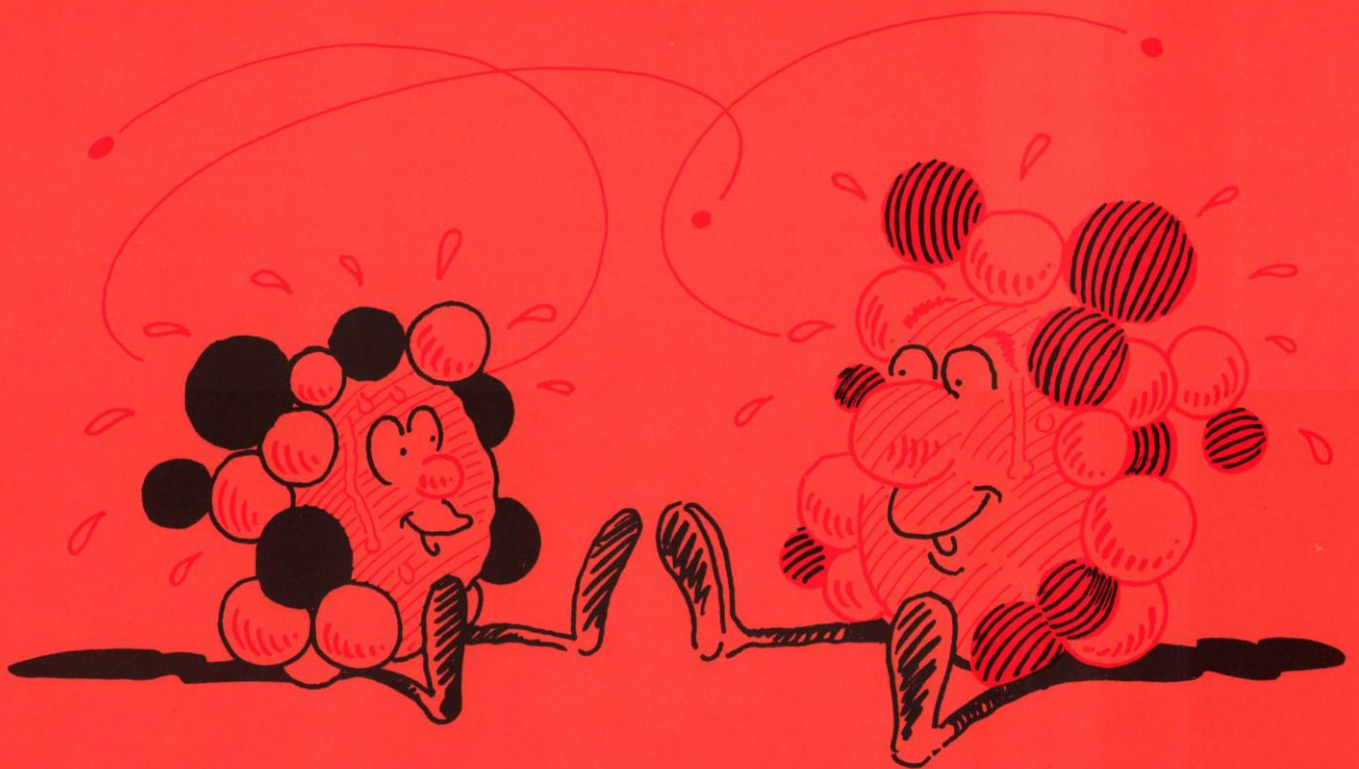
One day a uranium atom was minding his own business in a scientist's experiment when he heard the sound of something coming towards him at high speed!



It was a stray neutron.
"Gosh! It's going to collide with me," cried the atom.



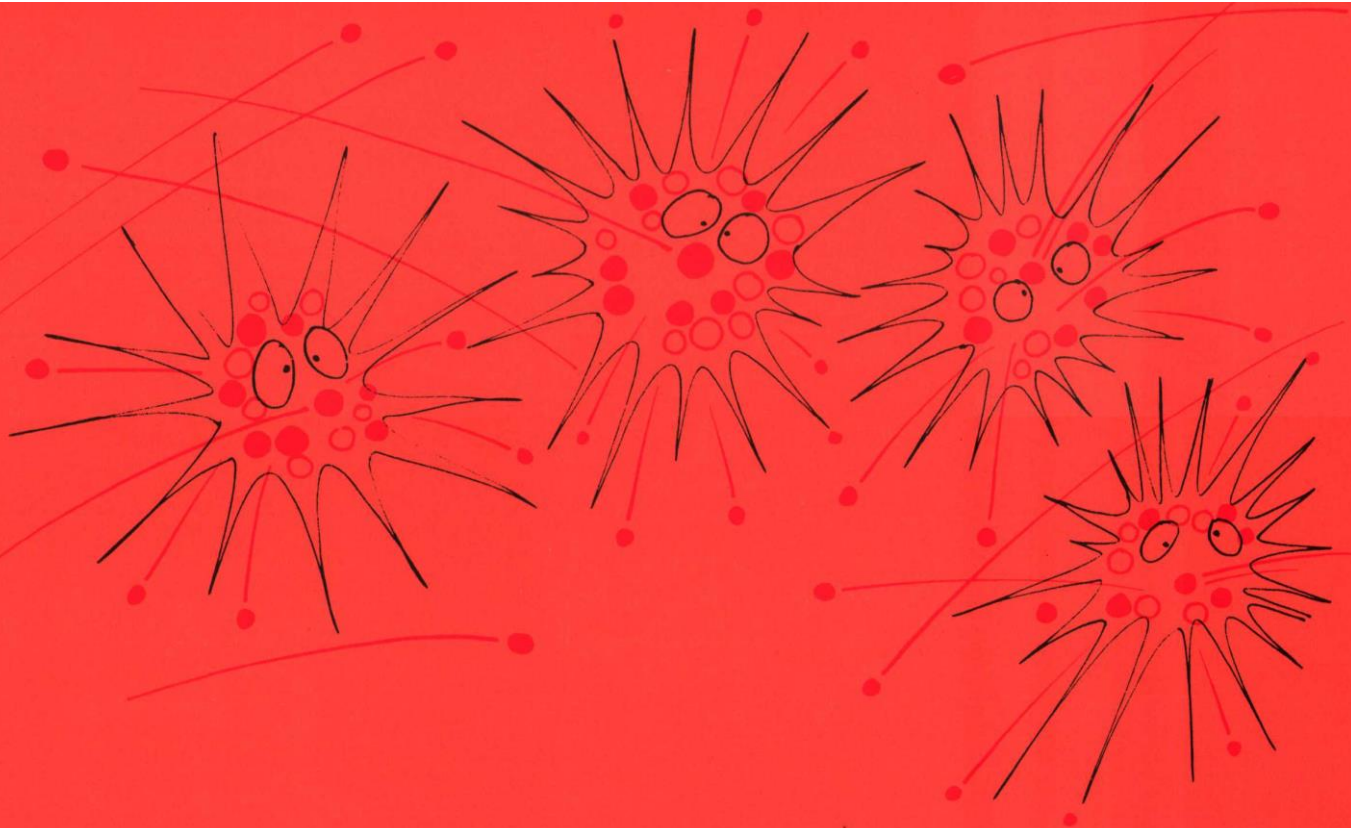
There was no escape. The neutron banged into him with a terrific crash and a blast of **heat**.



"You look different," said the new atom. "So do you," said the other new atom. "That neutron split the uranium atom and left the two of us!" Cor, isn't it **hot**?"



"That was fun - will it happen again?"
"No, not to us, but those uranium atoms had better look out!"



The neutrons collided with the uranium atoms and split them too, releasing more neutrons, making it **hotter** and **hotter** and **hotter**.

And that's how it happened
over fifty years ago
scientists discovered that by splitting
uranium atoms
large amounts of heat
are produced

