



# The Secret Life of the Periodic Table: Unlocking the Mysteries of All 118 Elements

*Dr. Ben Still*

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*The Secret Life of the Periodic Table* uncovers the fascinating stories behind the formulation of the table. It describes how and who discovered the 118 elements, and the competition and cooperation behind scientific advances. The character of the elements is brought to life in a bright and engaging way, making *The Secret Life of the Periodic Table* ideal for students and general readers. Spared the monotony of a school text, they can gain a basic understanding of the fundamentals of atomic science.

The book covers all 118 elements in 14 chapters. They are:

- A brief guide to atomic physics
- Igor Mendeleev, arguably the most important formulator of the table, and significant others
- Hydrogen
- Alkali metals
- Alkaline Earth metal
- Transition metals
- Post-transition metals
- Metalloids
- Other non-metals
- Halogens
- Noble gases
- Lanthanoids
- Actinoids
- Transuranium elements.

Each element description includes a fact box showing atomic number, atomic weight, radius, melting point, boiling point, density, and the year of its discovery and by whom. There are many sidebars, boxes and extended captions covering topics of interest, like Ernest Lawrence's 1931 cyclotron, early precursor to the 10-km radius Large Hydron Collider that he could not possibly have imagined.

There is also fascinating trivia about the elements. For example, phosphorus was first isolated by an alchemist's search for gold in urine and in the 1920s, there was a fad for lethal radium cocktails.

*The Secret Life of the Periodic Table* is accurate and entertaining, making it a helpful adjunct to student studies. General readers will find it an enjoyable trip into the world of chemistry and atomic science. It is an ideal purchase for science, middle school and general collections.

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