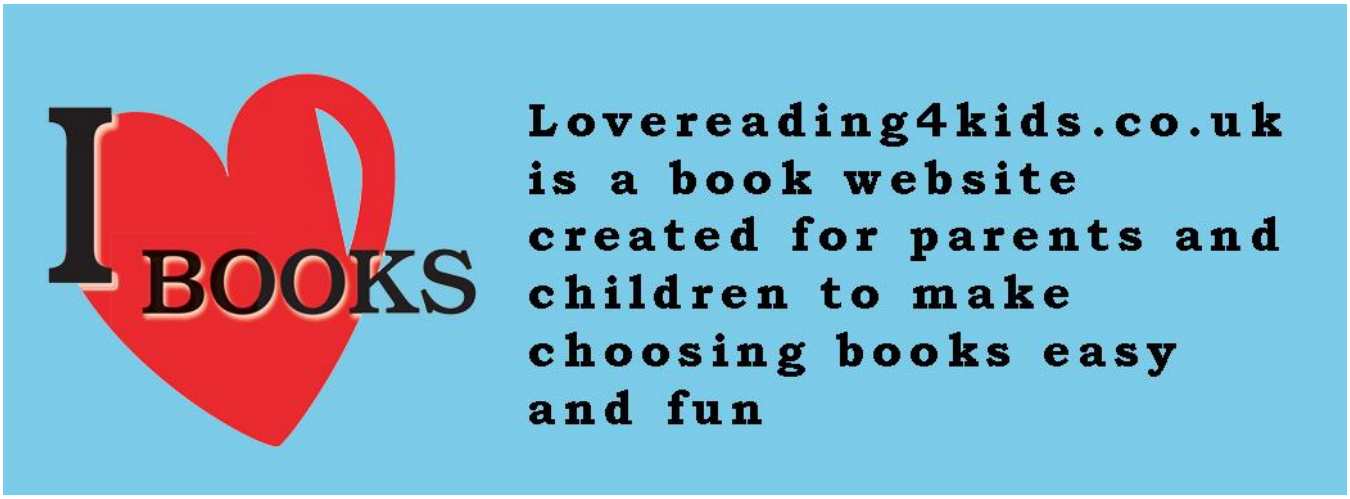


Opening extract from

The Story of Space

Written by

Catherine Barr & Steve Williams

Illustrated by

Amy Husband

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For my girls Hannah and Iola, reaching for the stars - CB

To Mum and Dad, with love - SW

For my son Sebastian - my shining star in the sky - AH



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The Story of SPACE

A first book about our universe



Catherine Barr and **Steve Williams**
Illustrated by **Amy Husband**

Frances Lincoln
Children's Books



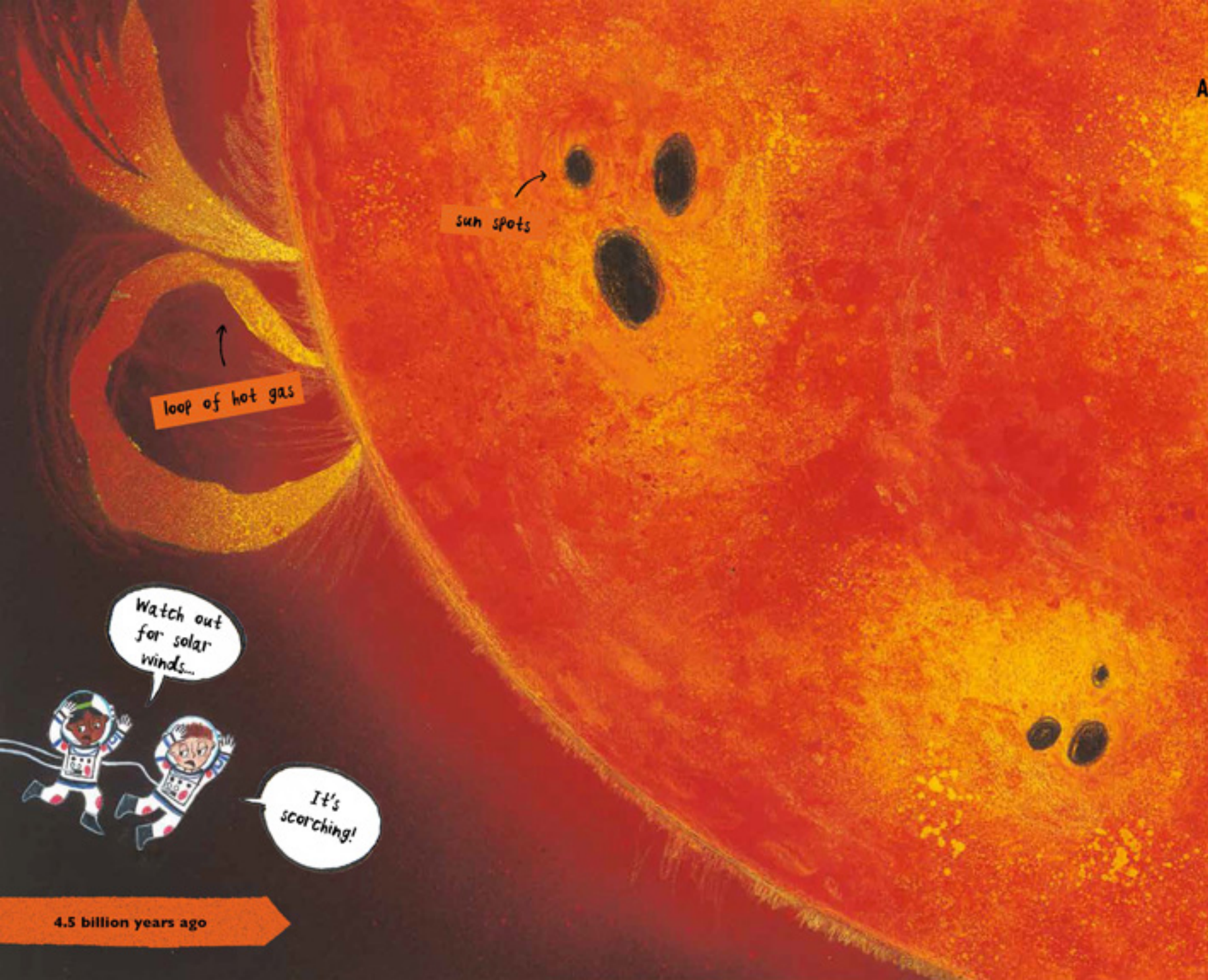
In these swirling clouds of colour, the first stars were born. Clusters of new stars formed millions of galaxies, sparkling silently.

Until light from these stars shot across space, only a faint glow from the Big Bang lit the blackness.

This blisteringly hot blast began to cool.

Bits from the blast formed tiny things called atoms, which made gas and dust. The gas twisted and clumped, getting hotter and hotter until it burned and shone.

13.8–13.1 billion years ago

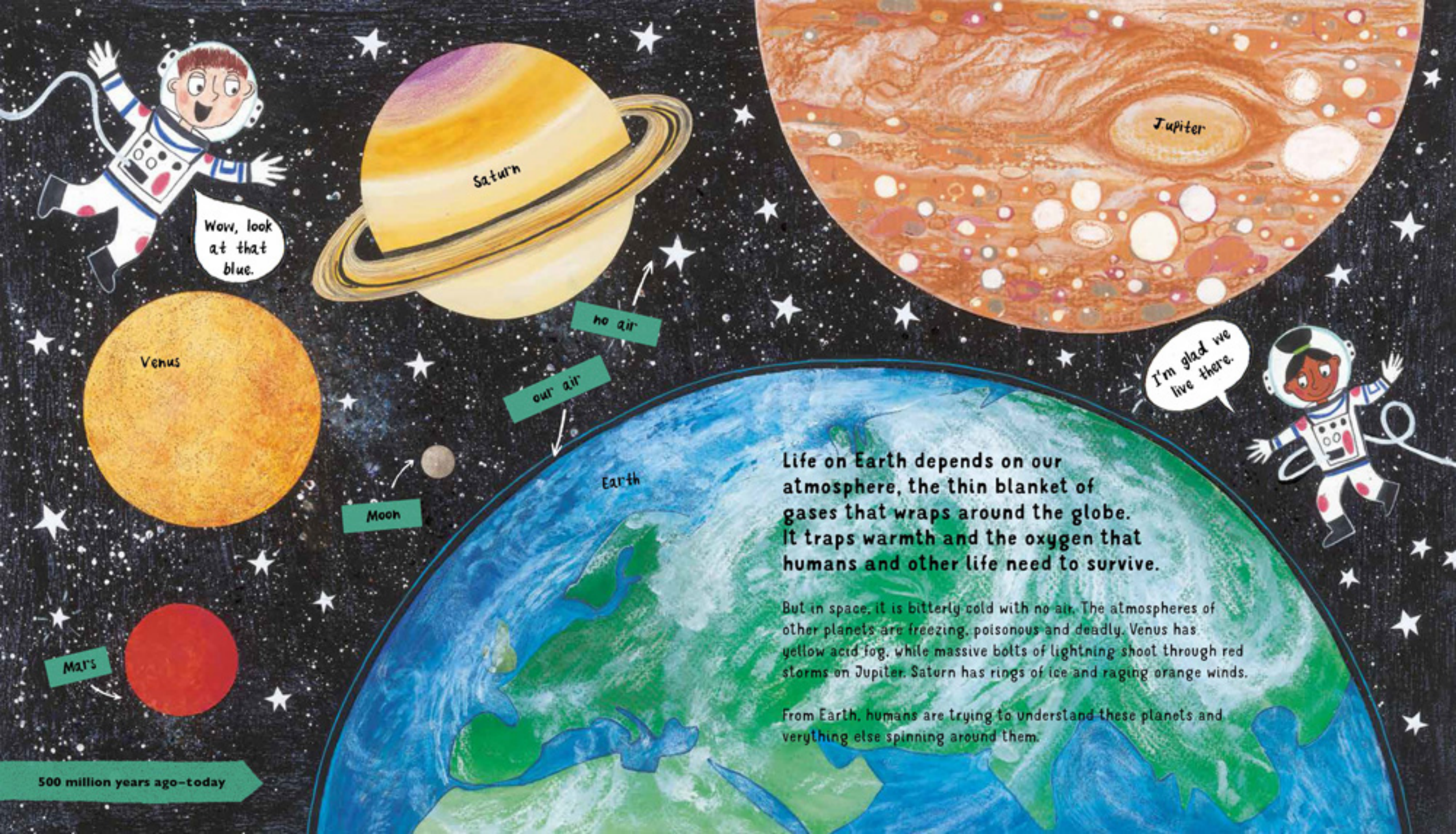


A very long time after the Big Bang, a bright yellow star, our Sun, was born.
This burning ball of gas is so huge that over a million Earths would fit inside it.

The Sun is incredibly hot, with a fiery furnace in its core. Cooler black spots shift across its surface. A fierce solar wind loops and flows outwards towards deep space.

Our Sun is just one of billions of stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way.

4.5 billion years ago



Life on Earth depends on our atmosphere, the thin blanket of gases that wraps around the globe. It traps warmth and the oxygen that humans and other life need to survive.

But in space, it is bitterly cold with no air. The atmospheres of other planets are freezing, poisonous and deadly. Venus has yellow acid fog, while massive bolts of lightning shoot through red storms on Jupiter. Saturn has rings of ice and raging orange winds.

From Earth, humans are trying to understand these planets and verything else spinning around them.