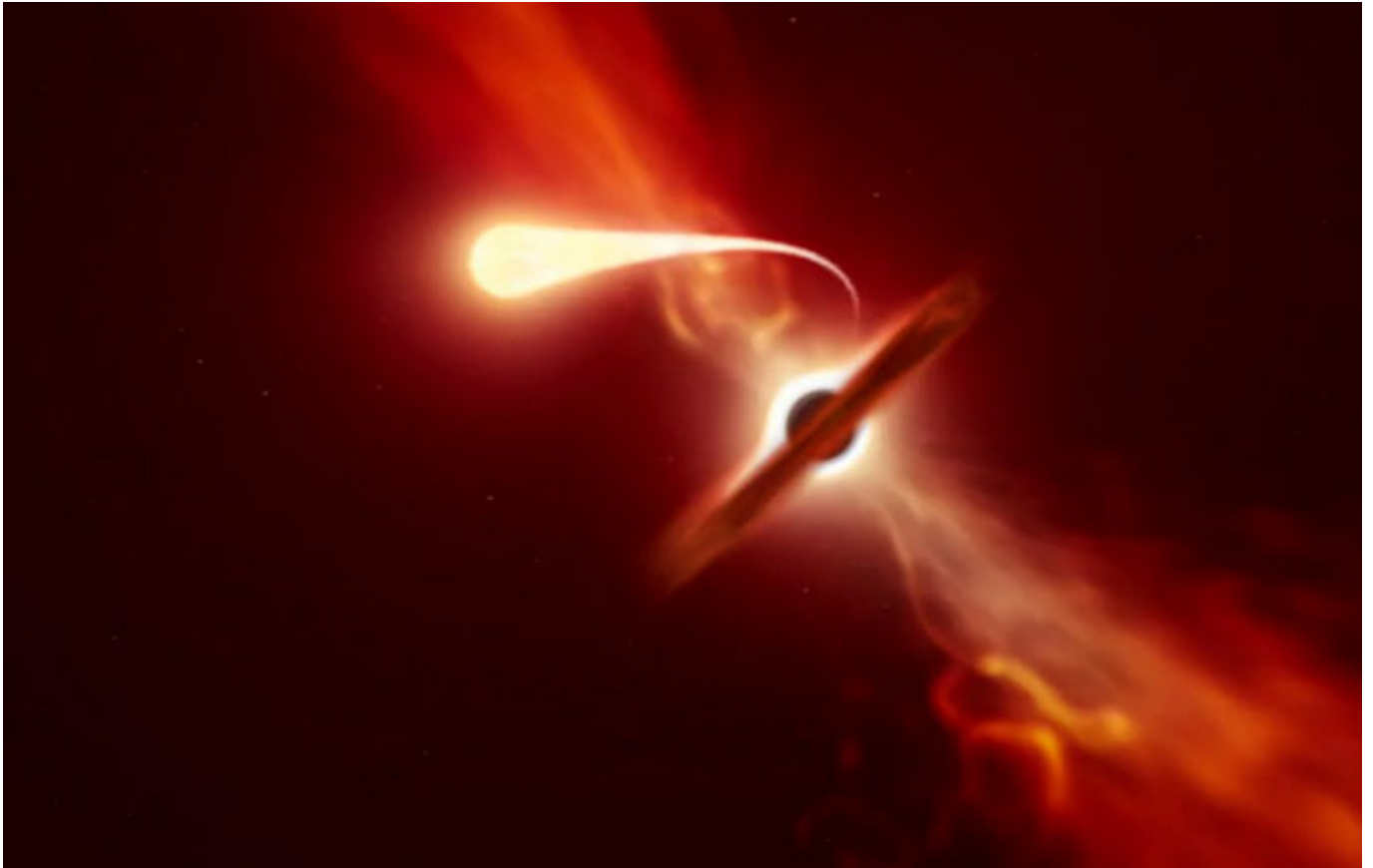


“ Astronomers caught a black hole slurping up a star like spaghetti”



When a star ventures a little too close to a black hole, the intense tidal forces suck into it like a giant noodle of star stuff in a cosmic (and much more chaotic) reenactment of that iconic scene in “Lady and the Tramp.” The black hole’s extreme gravitational pull shreds the star into thin strands of material—a process delightfully called “spaghettification.” When these noodle-like strips get sucked into the black hole, they release a powerful bright flare of energy.

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