

Image: Hubble captures a cannibal galaxy

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Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, D. Leonard

This remarkable spiral galaxy, known as NGC 4651, may look serene and peaceful as it swirls in the vast, silent emptiness of space, but don't be fooled—it keeps a violent secret. It is believed that this galaxy consumed another smaller galaxy to become the large and beautiful spiral that we observe today.

Although only a telescope like the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope,

which captured this image, could give us a picture this clear, NGC 4651 can also be observed with an [amateur telescope](#)—so if you have a [telescope](#) at home and a star-gazing eye, look out for this glittering carnivorous spiral.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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