

## November 2008

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On the cover: S&T illustrator Casey Reed envisions the moment when a shock wave breaks through a star's "surface," triggering a supernova that blows the star to kingdom come.

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## 26 X Rays Mark the Spot: A Newborn Supernova



For the first time ever, astronomers were able to catch a supernova in the act of exploding.

By Alicia Soderberg

# **Building Planets in Disks of Chaos**

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By Alycia J. Weinberger

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Looking back a hundred years, we can see that the 60-inch telescope atop California's Mount Wilson was the first great, modern reflector for the imaging age, the patriarch of today's giants.

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