



1
00:00:00,010 --> 00:00:11,050
Music

2
00:00:11,070 --> 00:00:15,070
In 2008, Hubble astronomers

3
00:00:15,090 --> 00:00:19,110
announced the discovery of a new exoplanet, one

4
00:00:19,130 --> 00:00:23,180
orbiting the nearby star Fomalhaut. Dubbed

5
00:00:23,200 --> 00:00:27,200
"Fomalhaut b," the new world orbited inside a ring of dusty

6
00:00:27,220 --> 00:00:31,240
debris and was claimed as the first exoplanet directly observed in

7
00:00:31,260 --> 00:00:35,330
visible light. Recently,

8
00:00:35,350 --> 00:00:39,360
several teams of astronomers have questioned that Fomalhaut b is a

9
00:00:39,380 --> 00:00:43,400
planet at all. The most damaging study, in early

10
00:00:43,420 --> 00:00:47,460
2012, was the failure to detect the young planet's heat.

11
00:00:47,480 --> 00:00:51,480
Fomalhaut b.....was gone.

12
00:00:51,500 --> 00:00:56,540
Now, it's back.

13
00:00:56,560 --> 00:01:00,560

A new analysis of 2004 and

14
00:01:00,580 --> 00:01:04,610
2006 images taken by Hubble brings Fomalhaut b

15
00:01:04,630 --> 00:01:08,690
back to planetary status and suggests that it may be a rare type

16
00:01:08,710 --> 00:01:12,750
of exoplanet. The object seems to be moving at the right

17
00:01:12,770 --> 00:01:16,900
speed and direction to explain the ring's properties, including its

18
00:01:16,920 --> 00:01:21,080
position offset from the star. A dust cloud wouldn't survive

19
00:01:21,100 --> 00:01:25,160
long on its own, unless it was anchored to a planet. And the

20
00:01:25,180 --> 00:01:29,220
failure to detect Fomalhaut b in the infrared merely indicates

21
00:01:29,240 --> 00:01:33,240
that the planet is smaller than originally thought, less than twice

22
00:01:33,260 --> 00:01:37,280
Jupiter's mass. Another team used Hubble to observe the system

23
00:01:37,300 --> 00:01:41,360
again this year, and those results are expected to be published

24
00:01:41,380 --> 00:01:45,390
soon. So keep your children close, Fomalhaut b,

25
00:01:45,410 --> 00:01:49,460
the zombie planet, roams around its host

26

00:01:49,480 --> 00:01:53,530

star once more.