**The Legend of Fred**

**By Jim Bredt**

As the sun spreads its light over Liverless, Pete the scientist broods in his kitchen over a cup of coffee. I wish I could sleep the night before a big nuclear test.

Those tests are so short that I worry if we can trust our results.

Not only can I not publish anything, but I'm not even considered a real scientist because I can never talk about anything I do. As far as the scientific community is concerned, I might as well be out in the desert throwing rocks at the moon.

And the data is so heavily laden with security restrictions that it will never make any contribution to science; let alone providing anything useful to humanity.

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Later, Joe the Rat arrives at Liverless Labs.

Joe believes this to be a training mission in his new job as a C.I.A. double agent. He is soon to discover his role in a conflict which spans three universes.

Also arriving at Liverless are Tim, Liz, and Pete.

They're meeting again.

Wendy, my best friend, is getting married.

I'm with you, Wendy.

...Okay, okay, but the best I can do is get her on a guided tour.

As fate would have it, Liz is put in the same guided tour with Al, Chuck, and Joe the Rat.

Elizabeth! What a surprise! What are you doing here?

Look out! It's going to break through.

It is just at this moment the dimensional vortex nucleated four episodes ago goes out of control and starts to swallow up the vacuum chamber in which it was created. The stainless steel shell is peeled apart proton by proton. Soon the chamber perforates and air from Liverless screams into the cosmic wormhole.

Meanwhile, Tim watches in the control room as the final countdown is read off for a nuclear detonation.

And far away, a huge fireball pounds a new hole in a thickly pockmarked desert.