



*MUM by Will Fuller*

That bit was blindingly obvious. But how was UM going to find the Machine that had invented UM? MUM couldn't be in the universe that UM had invented, so It must be somewhere else. Was that *really* why UM had invented death? So UM Itself could die, and go and look for Its MUM?

Basically, there only two ways UM could die: It could compact the universe into a pinhead and disappear through the impossibility-barrier, or It could go and sit under a tree somewhere and wait for life to tear It to pieces.

UM didn't really fancy either of those. But then UM thought some more – if MUM had invented UM, then who had invented MUM? Was Creation going to end up packed to the gills with M-to-the-power-infinity UM-Making Machines?

The answer, when it came to UM, was once again Blindingly Obvious. It was why UM had invented the universe in the first place.

It was life itself, which had invented UM.