The remaining core of the giant collapses and becomes a white dwarf.

Two normal stars are in a binary pair.

The aging companion star starts swelling, spilling gas onto the white dwarf.

The more massive star becomes a giant...

...which spills gas onto the secondary star, causing it to expand and become engulfed.

The secondary, lighter star and the core of the giant star spiral-in within a common envelope.

The common envelope is ejected, while the separation between the core and the secondary star decreases.

The more massive star becomes a giant...

The white dwarf's mass increases until it reaches a critical mass and explodes...

The remaining core of the giant collapses and becomes a white dwarf.

...causing the companion star to be ejected away.

The secondary, lighter star and the core of the giant star spiral-in within a common envelope.

The common envelope is ejected, while the separation between the core and the secondary star decreases.

The remaining core of the giant collapses and becomes a white dwarf.

...causing the companion star to be ejected away.