

# THE NANOFICTION INTERMISSION

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Let's take a little break from learning all those rules! Here are seven tiny tales from the fictional world that originally inspired these pyramids, back in 1987. These stories follow a very restrictive writing format we call Nanofiction: tales that are exactly 55 words long (not counting the title). Feeling creative? Try writing your own!



## THE 100,000 YEAR LEGACY

The festival featured tripod races, Icehouse tournaments, singing flower concerts, and moonlit fondue feasts. Afterwards, the Emperor of Mars issued a challenge to his Science Council: invent a system for mass emigration, within 33 years. Sadly, all that remains of their ancient civilization are pieces for a game, not their technology for inter-dimensional doorways.



## INTO THE UNKNOWN

When Scorpio-5 landed at Cydonia, few believed they'd find alien artifacts. But they did. The ancient pyramid contained the still-operational inter-dimensional doorway through which the original population had apparently abandoned Mars. But where'd it lead now? Earth? The future? "Empty space" wasn't the answer Commander Thompson expected as he leapt through the portal...



## THE PRIME MINISTER IS DEAD

One thousand centuries ago, in the crystal city of Lyralla, the Emperor of Mars declared that whoever beat him at Homeworlds would become the new Prime Minister. After 3 weeks of tournaments, the 3 best challengers each played a game with the Emperor. All 3 won. So they became a Tribunal, and the Emperor retired.



## WHOEVER GETS 1000 POINTS WINS

In The City, where people play pyramid games with a passion Americans reserve for televised sports, four noted individuals dueled for possession of a solid gold Icehouse stash. The 23 widely publicized Pyramid Throwdowns were held at the Saturn Cafe. I hear the winner developed back trouble after carrying the set around in her rucksack.



## THE AGONY OF DEFEAT

A crowd formed around the pyramid table as word of the high stakes game spread throughout the coffeehouse. Gambling wasn't really permitted at Planet X-33, but this was different: with news of their father's ailing health on their minds, four siblings were settling a question of great importance to them all. Tonight's stakes: one kidney.



## THE TAVERN

Five guys drove around one night in an old VW Beetle, looking for adventure. They arrived at a mysterious tavern, where they learned to play an unusual game with pyramids. Later, they were never able to find the tavern again, and that barmaid's phone number was bogus. At least they remembered how the game worked!



## EVIL VICTORIOUS

The interstellar fleet commander suddenly gave the order to attack. After colonizing nearby star systems, acquiring new technologies, and building more and better starships, all while acting peaceful, he was finally ready to strike. His warrior ships created a supernova that vaporized his enemy's Homeworld, decimating her space fleet. Gina snarled. "Another game?" asked Jake.

