

# THE ALPHA GAMES "HEROES & VILLAINS"

# BRAVEST NEW WORLD

## Duo Lings vs. Plot Stopper



### Star date 17154

Ground Control M197c mission brief to Sentinel 5 (transcript)  
Time stamp 15:17

**GC:** Ground Control to Sentinel 5. How're ya doing up there? Out.  
**S5:** Ah, you know, another day on the other side of paradise. Out.  
**GC:** So we got a new mission for ya, buddy. Out.  
**S5:** Please tell me we're not getting more soil samples from the Altruista belt. Those planets are dead. Read our last report. Out.  
**GC:** You should be so lucky. Nah, this is a meet 'n' greet job. Out.  
**S5:** Ah, shoot. You know we're not set up for that. Out.  
**GC:** It's a non-negotiable, I'm afraid. You're the only vessel in that quadrant. Out.  
**S5:** Okay, hit me with it. Out.  
**GC:** It's an M-class planet, currently designated as M197c. Previous research missions have reported that it's fairly well populated, with a number of

different cultures inhabiting different regions across the planet. Our guys at this end have started communications, but we need someone on the ground to say Howdy, and tell 'em how nice we are. And that's you, buddy. Out.

**S5:** We gonna have a problem with language? Out.

**GC:** You're gonna have a problem with language. Over and out.

### Star date 171546

Sentinel 5 preliminary M197c report to Ground Control (transcript)  
Time stamp 11:56

**S5:** Sentinel 5 to Ground Control. We're orbiting M197c. You sure you got nobody else in this quadrant? Something's showing up on our screens. Out.  
**GC:** Roger that, good buddy, you're on your own out there. You got a problem? Out.  
**S5:** (pause) I don't know. (pause)

**GC:** Sentinel 5? (pause) Are you reading me? Out.  
**S5:** I'll get back to you. Over and out.

Time stamp 13:18

**GC:** Ground Control to Sentinel 5, come in. (pause) Sentinel 5?

**S5:** Doesn't make sense. Out.

**GC:** (relieved) You trying to freak us out down here? Out. Sorry, not out, can you give us a status report? Out.

**S5:** There's a ship. Out.

**GC:** What ship? Is it hostile? Out.

**S5:** Hard to say...

**GC:** Come on, you gotta give me something. Out.

**S5:** I'm going down to the surface. Over and out.

### Star date 171547

Sentinel 5 follow-up M197c report to Ground Control (transcript)  
Time stamp 01:47

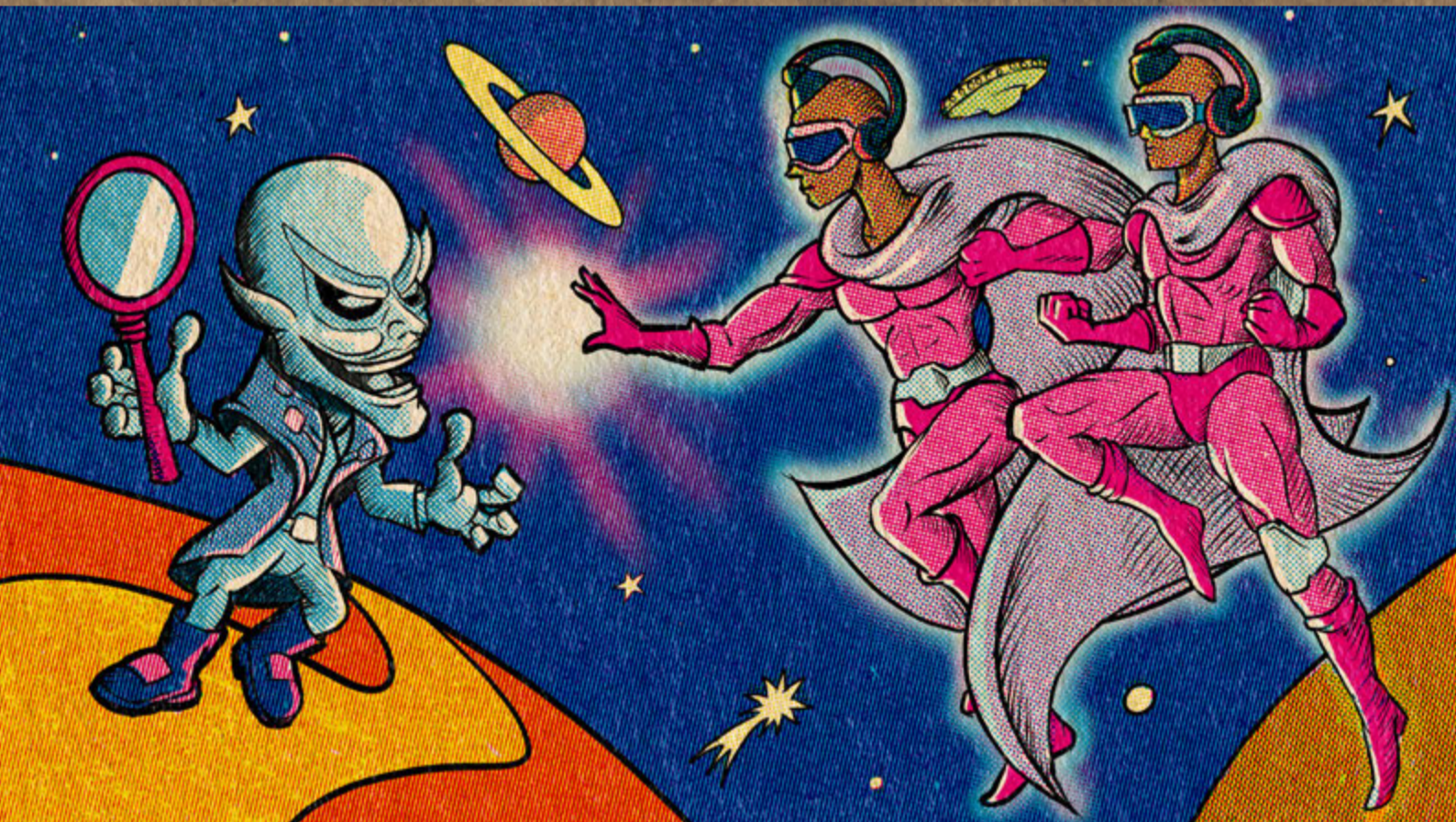
**S5:** Sentinel 5 to Ground Control. We're pulling out of orbit. I've lost two officers, Machado and Reid. Out.

**GC:** What the hell? I need a status report now! Out.

**S5:** There was something down there. I don't know, some kind of alien entity. It was attacking the planet's inhabitants. Then it materialized into physical form and started attacking us. I pulled my people out as fast as I could. Out.

**GC:** Can you describe it? Out.

**S5:** Sometimes it was like a miasma, it was everywhere



at once. It was weird, attacking people's language, so nobody could understand each other. People got angry, violent. It was chaos. Then the thing changed into a monster, I guess, and we got hit. Out.

**GC:** Do you still have eyes on that ship? Out.

**S5:** Negative. Out.

**GC:** Our communication channels at this end have been severed, so we got no idea what's happening. It's all up to you, Sentinel 5. It's imperative we begin peaceful relations with this planet. Out.

Sentinel 5 communication with Alien Ship, Duo Lings (transcript)

Time stamp 11:35

**S5:** This the starship Sentinel 5 of the Earth Allied Forces Alliance. We are on a peaceful mission to build a relationship with the planet you are orbiting. Do you read? Out. (pause)

**S5:** We are not a military vessel. We have only basic means of defending ourselves. Repeat: we are not a military vessel. Out.

**DL:** Greetings, Sentinel 5, and peace to you.

**S5:** Oh thank god!... I mean, peaceful greetings to you too. Out.

**DL:** We have been listening to you, and we have been watching you.

**S5:** Okay... Can I ask what your interest in this quadrant is? Out.

**DL:** We are Duo Lings, we nurture communication between all cultures, so that harmony can develop between all beings.

**S5:** (relieved) That... sounds just fantastic. Right now there's a monster miasma that wants to ruin our communications with the people down on that planet. The state

the Alliance is in, we need all the friends we can get. Out.

**DL:** Indeed yes, the creature you speak of is Plot Stopper. His efforts to destroy communication between territories have resulted in conflicts across the universe. By using a toxic blend of bad grammar, typos, and wrongly used words, he turns clear communication into incomprehensible, often culturally offensive gibberish.

**S5:** If you can't help us, we're screwed. Out.

### Star date 171548

Sentinel 5 final M197c report to Ground Control (transcript)  
Time stamp 12:26

**S5:** Sentinel 5 to Ground Control. Do you read? Out.

**GC:** Yes! We read! We thought we'd lost you. Out.

**S5:** That alien ship turned out to be our bestest buddies. That thing on the planet was trying to disrupt communication and cause conflicts left, right and centre, but the aliens on the ship, the Duo Lings had inter-planetary expertise, ensuring translations were not only accurate but culturally resonant, as well as the latest CAT tools, platforms, and MT technology. With their deep understanding of cultural nuances, they conveyed the right tone and context every time, no matter the language. With their help, we disposed of Plot Stopper and have gained new allies on M197C which turns out to be called Haldene. Out.

**GC:** Well done, Sentinel 5. You've done a great job. The Alliance is proud of you. Out.

**S5:** All in a day's work. Out.

**GC:** By the way, you missed something in the Altruista belt. Those rocks ain't dead. Out.

**S5:** Does that means you're sending us back? Out.

**GC:** Anything, buddy, but you just proved you're capable of anything. Out. (End of transcript)

## Story by Originia

Alpha Games' narrative writer.

Original illustrations: Andres Alegria