

ESA ASTRONAUT

SAMANTHA

CRISTOFORETTI

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1  
00:00:05,910 --> 00:00:03,669  
i got the call to become an astronaut

2  
00:00:08,470 --> 00:00:05,920  
one evening i had this feeling that the

3  
00:00:10,870 --> 00:00:08,480  
whole universe just stopped turning

4  
00:00:12,789 --> 00:00:10,880  
around and smiled at me

5  
00:00:15,749 --> 00:00:12,799  
my name is samantha christopher and i'm

6  
00:00:17,349 --> 00:00:15,759  
a mission specialist on the nasa spacex

7  
00:00:19,750 --> 00:00:17,359  
crew 4 mission to the international

8  
00:00:22,470 --> 00:00:19,760  
space station

9  
00:00:25,349 --> 00:00:22,480  
i was born in milan in italy but i grew

10  
00:00:29,109 --> 00:00:25,359  
up in a tiny little village in the

11  
00:00:31,990 --> 00:00:29,119  
northeastern alps still in italy so a

12  
00:00:34,229 --> 00:00:32,000  
very rural place small place

13  
00:00:36,790 --> 00:00:34,239

in the mountains i grew up skiing and

14

00:00:39,110 --> 00:00:36,800

enjoying the outdoors my parents owned a

15

00:00:41,030 --> 00:00:39,120

hotel so that's what they did all their

16

00:00:44,790 --> 00:00:41,040

working life we actually lived in the

17

00:00:46,630 --> 00:00:44,800

hotel it was our home

18

00:00:48,549 --> 00:00:46,640

i started dreaming about becoming an

19

00:00:51,110 --> 00:00:48,559

astronaut pretty early on i was still in

20

00:00:53,750 --> 00:00:51,120

elementary school i think it was

21

00:00:55,510 --> 00:00:53,760

a number of impressions that made me

22

00:00:57,910 --> 00:00:55,520

dream about that the things that i was

23

00:01:00,310 --> 00:00:57,920

learning in school also books that i

24

00:01:02,790 --> 00:01:00,320

read it was an avid reader of adventure

25

00:01:05,670 --> 00:01:02,800

books the fact that i was growing up in

26  
00:01:08,310 --> 00:01:05,680  
a place where i had an opportunity to go

27  
00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:08,320  
out and play and explore with other kids

28  
00:01:12,870 --> 00:01:10,880  
unsupervised and get that passion for

29  
00:01:15,030 --> 00:01:12,880  
adventure so a number of those things

30  
00:01:17,270 --> 00:01:15,040  
and i guess they were enough to

31  
00:01:18,469 --> 00:01:17,280  
kindle that sparkle of passion for space

32  
00:01:20,630 --> 00:01:18,479  
exploration

33  
00:01:22,630 --> 00:01:20,640  
i completed my high school in italy and

34  
00:01:25,109 --> 00:01:22,640  
then i enrolled at the technical

35  
00:01:27,030 --> 00:01:25,119  
university of munich in their

36  
00:01:29,190 --> 00:01:27,040  
engineering degree and i chose the

37  
00:01:31,510 --> 00:01:29,200  
aerospace track

38  
00:01:33,990 --> 00:01:31,520

and then something unexpected happened

39

00:01:38,069 --> 00:01:34,000

the opportunity opened up of actually

40

00:01:39,749 --> 00:01:38,079

joining the italian air force as a pilot

41

00:01:42,069 --> 00:01:39,759

that had not been possible for me

42

00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:42,079

straight out of high school because back

43

00:01:47,030 --> 00:01:45,040

then the italian military did not admit

44

00:01:50,469 --> 00:01:47,040

women

45

00:01:52,469 --> 00:01:50,479

the very broad educational and training

46

00:01:54,870 --> 00:01:52,479

background that i had when i became an

47

00:01:57,990 --> 00:01:54,880

astronaut really helped me a lot the

48

00:02:00,789 --> 00:01:58,000

astronaut job is really very much about

49

00:02:03,109 --> 00:02:00,799

this broad spectrum of things that you

50

00:02:05,749 --> 00:02:03,119

have to master rather than being a

51  
00:02:07,590 --> 00:02:05,759  
specialist that has mastered very very

52  
00:02:10,300 --> 00:02:07,600  
well for a long time this one thing and

53  
00:02:11,990 --> 00:02:10,310  
so i was very grateful in hindsight

54  
00:02:14,550 --> 00:02:12,000  
[Music]

55  
00:02:16,550 --> 00:02:14,560  
in 2014 i had the opportunity of flying

56  
00:02:18,309 --> 00:02:16,560  
to space for the first time and i spent

57  
00:02:19,430 --> 00:02:18,319  
200 days on the international space

58  
00:02:23,750 --> 00:02:19,440  
station

59  
00:02:25,750 --> 00:02:23,760  
hatch hugging our friends were waiting

60  
00:02:27,910 --> 00:02:25,760  
for us there getting used to that

61  
00:02:30,070 --> 00:02:27,920  
sensation of floating the first look out

62  
00:02:32,150 --> 00:02:30,080  
of the cupola that first you know full

63  
00:02:34,229 --> 00:02:32,160

view of the sunrise it was almost

64

00:02:35,910 --> 00:02:34,239

overwhelming for me and you know of

65

00:02:37,670 --> 00:02:35,920

course as the time goes by you settle

66

00:02:39,670 --> 00:02:37,680

into a routine you know you're not

67

00:02:40,949 --> 00:02:39,680

overwhelmed by emotion every single day

68

00:02:43,430 --> 00:02:40,959

but it becomes more like a quiet

69

00:02:45,190 --> 00:02:43,440

affection for the place for the work for

70

00:02:47,750 --> 00:02:45,200

the people

71

00:02:50,070 --> 00:02:47,760

getting selected for crew 4 was amazing

72

00:02:52,470 --> 00:02:50,080

because it's an opportunity to go back

73

00:02:55,990 --> 00:02:52,480

to the international space station and

74

00:02:58,470 --> 00:02:56,000

experience a game that transformation

75

00:02:59,830 --> 00:02:58,480

from being an earthbound creature to

76

00:03:03,430 --> 00:02:59,840

being this

77

00:03:06,309 --> 00:03:03,440

space living creature and being part of

78

00:03:08,070 --> 00:03:06,319

that very very special life up there in

79

00:03:09,200 --> 00:03:08,080

this outpost of humanity of their in