



1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:17,340

\h Music.

2  
00:00:17,340 --> 00:00:21,960

\h SUNITA WILLIAMS: Hi. My name is Sunita Williams. I'm a NASA astronaut.

3  
00:00:21,960 --> 00:00:26,170

\h QUESTION: What did you enjoy about your space flight?

4  
00:00:26,170 --> 00:00:29,390

\h WILLIAMS: It was an amazing experience for me. It was a long time.

5  
00:00:29,390 --> 00:00:31,610

\h I joined the astronaut corps in 1998,

6  
00:00:31,610 --> 00:00:35,370

\h so it was about eight years before I had the opportunity to go into space.

7  
00:00:35,370 --> 00:00:39,320

\h But as soon as I got, as soon as we all got there on STS-116

8  
00:00:39,320 --> 00:00:42,980

\h and were able to just look out the window, see the space station for the first time,

9  
00:00:42,980 --> 00:00:45,720

\h those gold solar panels as we were approaching it,

10  
00:00:45,720 --> 00:00:49,980

\h I was beside myself with how wonderful just the view was,

11  
00:00:49,980 --> 00:00:54,030

\h not to mention I had the opportunity to do a couple spacewalks while I was up there,

12  
00:00:54,030 --> 00:01:00,630

\h and just having that visor between you and the outside of space was just incredible,

13  
00:01:00,630 --> 00:01:02,420

\h and to look and see Northern Lights,

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00:01:02,420 --> 00:01:07,730

\h as well as our beautiful planet out into space was just amazing. Just incredible.

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00:01:07,730 --> 00:01:10,160

\h QUESTION: What was life like aboard the International Space Station?

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00:01:10,160 --> 00:01:13,500

\h WILLIAMS: So you can fly from one end of the lab right through the

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00:01:13,500 --> 00:01:19,130

\h Node and into the Russian segment through the PMA, and that's just a lot of fun.

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00:01:19,130 --> 00:01:21,790

\h There's always a constant humming of the pumps in the

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00:01:21,790 --> 00:01:24,530

\h background and the fans in the ventilations system,

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00:01:24,530 --> 00:01:27,490

\h so you're always hearing a little buzz. But if you want some quiet,

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00:01:27,490 --> 00:01:29,840

\h you can go into the quiet of the Kyuta.

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00:01:29,840 --> 00:01:33,170

\h I think the best memory that I have from living on the ISS

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00:01:33,170 --> 00:01:36,100

\h is the camaraderie of the crewmates up there.

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00:01:36,100 --> 00:01:40,140

\h Every evening, we would get together and have dinner around the table in the service module

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00:01:40,140 --> 00:01:43,340

\h and just share stories with each other about the day.

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00:01:43,340 --> 00:01:47,990

\h Sometimes we'd discuss language and the idiosyncrasies of the different languages,

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00:01:47,990 --> 00:01:51,720

\h and it was just always fun just to reflect and realize where we were.

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00:01:51,720 --> 00:01:54,380

\h QUESTION: Tell us about your dog Gorby and his sudden fame.

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00:01:54,380 --> 00:02:02,070

\h WILLIAMS: Gorby is my Jack Russell terrier and I got him in 2001. Gorby's my little buddy.

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00:02:02,070 --> 00:02:06,280

\h Gorby, I spent a lot of time in Russia training for this mission for the

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00:02:06,280 --> 00:02:10,200

\h International Space Station and so of course I got to know a lot about Russia,

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00:02:10,200 --> 00:02:16,010

\h and of course one of the distinguished people of the Russian history is Mikhail Gorbachev.

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00:02:16,010 --> 00:02:18,180

\h I heard about, I heard about Gorby sightings.

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00:02:18,180 --> 00:02:23,340

\h Heidi Piper was down on NEEMO underwater and they had a big Gorby magnet there,

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00:02:23,340 --> 00:02:27,530

\h and then one of the gentlemen from the press had written me an e-mail and said,

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00:02:27,530 --> 00:02:31,590

\h "Hey, we have Flat Gorby sightings all over the world."

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00:02:31,590 --> 00:02:34,540

\h He was in Japan, he was in Russia, so he was all over the place,

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00:02:34,540 --> 00:02:37,140

\h and it was really nice. It was uplifting.

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00:02:37,140 --> 00:02:39,920

\h It made me laugh every time I got an e-mail from them.

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00:02:39,920 --> 00:02:43,100

\h QUESTION: How did you adjust to weightlessness?

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00:02:43,100 --> 00:02:46,680

\h WILLIAMS: I would say the transition to microgravity was a little bit easier.

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00:02:46,680 --> 00:02:50,520

\h It took me just about 24 hours and then I felt like I was used to it, and then I loved it.

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00:02:50,520 --> 00:02:55,290

\h A little clumsy, but I got used to being able to fly around pretty quickly thereafter.

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00:02:55,290 --> 00:02:59,430

\h Coming back to Earth, it probably took a couple days just for the neurovestibular effects

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00:02:59,430 --> 00:03:02,420

\h to start to wear off. Sort of went off like a light switch with me,

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00:03:02,420 --> 00:03:05,260

\h but it's a little bit different for everybody. But I can still feel

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00:03:05,260 --> 00:03:08,390

\h I'm a little bit slower in running than I was before I left,

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00:03:08,390 --> 00:03:10,970

\h but I heard it's usually a day for day, so it will probably take

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00:03:10,970 --> 00:03:14,150

\h me about six months to get back to where I was before I left.

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00:03:14,150 --> 00:03:17,460

\h QUESTION: Do you see life on Earth differently now?

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00:03:17,460 --> 00:03:22,550

\h WILLIAMS: Definitely see things on Earth a lot different than before I went.

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00:03:22,550 --> 00:03:27,140

\h When we were up there, we had the distinct pleasure of being able to look out the window

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00:03:27,140 --> 00:03:32,340

\h and see our beautiful planet and see continents, and no borders for countries,

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00:03:32,340 --> 00:03:35,560

\h and I think that was a huge impression. You look down at the

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00:03:35,560 --> 00:03:39,400

\h planet Earth and it's hard to imagine two people even arguing,

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00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:41,650

\h never mind fighting down there, because it all looks like one,

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00:03:41,650 --> 00:03:44,050

\h that we live on these wonderful continents together.

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00:03:44,050 --> 00:03:48,280

\h The second impression I got was looking out the side window at how thin our little

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00:03:48,280 --> 00:03:52,060

\h atmosphere is that protects us from all the dangers of living in

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00:03:52,060 --> 00:03:57,250

\h space, of vacuum and heat and cold, and we can't take any of that for granted.

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00:03:57,250 --> 00:03:58,890

\h QUESTION: Who inspired you?

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00:03:58,890 --> 00:04:02,870

\h WILLIAMS: Well, I think my parents were a huge inspiration to me. Both of them had

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00:04:02,870 --> 00:04:08,040

\h came from not-so-well-to-do families and made it on their own,

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00:04:08,040 --> 00:04:11,520

\h and both of them have a huge "can-do" spirit, and influenced me

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00:04:11,520 --> 00:04:14,860

\h to take chances and do as well as I can.

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00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:20,850

\h John Young was a huge inspiration for me to even apply to the astronaut corps when my

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00:04:20,850 --> 00:04:25,180

\h test pilot school class met him when we came to visit to Johnson Space Center.

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00:04:25,180 --> 00:04:27,510

\h QUESTION: With space flight behind you, what would you like to do next?

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00:04:27,510 --> 00:04:28,910

\h WILLIAMS: I'd love to go back to space.

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00:04:28,910 --> 00:04:33,380

\h I'd love to go to the space station again as the commander of the space station.