

A Guided Tour of Mars with Emily "The Space Gal" Calandrelli

<<an Emily Calandrelli YouTube video plays in the background through the tv - barely audible>> <<Mindy snoring>> <<knocking at the door>>

Mindy: <<waking up with a start>> Wah!

<<knocking at door continues>>

Mindy: Oh man, I must have fallen asleep. Lemme just pause the video here. <<pause sfx>> <<yelling>> Coming! Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk. Opening the door.

Guy: Hey, Mindy!

Mindy: Guy Razzy! What are you doing here?

Guy: I just wanted to make sure you're all ready for our hike tomorrow morning.

Mindy: <<fake>> Oh yeah, the hike. I'm dolphinitely not remembering that for the first time right now.

Guy: Uh, Mindy.

Mindy: Yeah.

Guy: Is that a piece of popcorn stuck to your face?

Mindy: What?

Guy: Right there ...

Mindy: Huh <<unstick sfx>> <<chomp and chew>> Hmm, yeah, that's popcorn alright. Must have fallen asleep in my bowl while binging all those Emily Calandrelli videos.

Guy: Emily who?

Mindy: Emily Calandrelli? The Space Gal?

Guy: I'm not familiar.

Mindy: Oh, she is the best Guy Raz! You'd love her! She's fun and sciency and smart and I'm pretty sure we'd be best friends if we ever met in real life.

Guy: Sounds like you're a big fan Mindy.

Mindy: You can call me wind farm Guy Raz.

Guy: What?

Mindy: Because I'm such a big fan!

Guy: Ah.

Mindy: Anyway <<yawn>> I've been binging her videos all day. You wanna come in and watch a couple? The next one's all about humans on Mars.

Guy: As interesting as that sounds Mindy, I think I should probably get some sleep. We have to be up bright and early tomorrow, remember?

Mindy: What? Why?

Guy: For the hike!

Mindy: Ooh, right! The hike, totally.

Guy: Don't forget Mindy.

Mindy: I won't Guy Raz. Just one more video and then it's off to bed. I promise.

Guy: Okay, Mindy. I'll see you in the morning.

Mindy: I can't wait.

<<Mindy closes the door and heads back to the tv>> <<mindy sits down>>

Mindy: Okay, just one more Emily Calandrelli video and then it's off to bed. And play. <<button push>> ...

<<a clip from one of emily's videos plays in the background>>

Narrator: Three hours later.

<<the end of an Emily Calandrelli video plays>>

Mindy: Okay <<yawn>> just ... one ... more ... video ... <<yawn>> then it's definitely time for bed <<yawns again>> okay Aaaaaand play ...

Emily: <<through tv>> Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live on another planet? Well that's exactly what some scientists are trying to do ... NASA has plans to send human beings to the red planet as soon as the 2030s <<fading out>>

Mindy: <<over the tv>> <<big yawn>> Wow, this sleepy time hot chocolate is no joke. <<another yawn>> I'm getting so sleepy.

Emily: <<through tv>> So? How are they planning on doing all this? Well it's not going to be easy ... the furthest human beings have ever traveled is to the moon which is 238,900 miles or 384,400 km away from earth ... mars on the other hand can be anywhere from 34 to 250 million miles away from earth ... depending on where it is in its lap around the sun ... that's about 200 times longer!

Mindy: <<yawning aggressively>> Wow, that sure is a long way.

Emily: NASA is planning on heading back to the moon in the next few years with a space mission called - artemis ... after that, they hope to set up a base on the moon in which they could launch missions to mars and eventually set up long term research stations there where scientists could study the red planet up close ...

Mindy: <<almost entirely asleep>> Wow <<another yawn>> a Mars research station. Like a laboratory of bad ideas on Mars. That would be a dream ... a dream ... a dream ...

<<harps as we transition into a dreamworld>>

<< we hear a breeze pick up>> <<the sound of sand shifting slightly>>

<<Mindy bolts away>>

Mindy: Wah! <<slight echo that fades out>> <<spitting out sand>> Ugh! Sand in my mouth ... sand in my mouth ... where am I?

<<Mindy stands up>>

Mindy: It looks like I'm in the middle of the desert? But I don't remember falling asleep in a desert. Hmm...

<<wind picks up again>>

Mindy: What's that in the distance? <<squinting>> Is that a person? <<gasp>> That's not a person. It's an astronaut! <<yelling>> Hey! Heeeeey! Wait up! Run, run, run, run, run. <<Mindy runs after the astronaut>> Hey! Turn around! Excuse me. Tap, tap, tap <<Mindy taps the astronaut on the shoulder and they turn around>> <<we hear the ventilator going>> Hi, sorry, silly question/ Uh, where am I?

Emily: <<through radio on suit>> Where are you? You're on Mars!

Mindy: Mars?! But I don't have a space suit on. If I'm on Mars, how am I outside and breathing?

Emily: Maybe it's because all of this is a dream?

Mindy: Ah, yeah. Now that you mention it, I was up pretty late watching Emily Calandrelli videos.

Emily: That reminds me, I never introduced myself. Let me take off my visor. <<swish of visor being retracted>> My name's Emily Calandrelli, commander of the Artemis Research Station.

Mindy: <<biggest gasp yet>> Get out of here! What?! Emily Calandrelli! I am like your biggest fan every times a million.

Emily: Again, this is all in your head Mindy. I'm not actually real. I'm just a figment of your imagination.

Mindy: Well, it's still a thrill to meet the figment of my imagination that's you Emily ... Gah, this is going to be so fun. Can you show me around your martian laboratory of bad ideas.

Emily: You mean the research station?

Mindy: Sure.

Emily: Of course! I'd love to, come on, follow me, I'll give you the grand tour! Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk.

Mindy: Hey! I do that too! Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk. Woah! Is that big dome-looking tent thing your lab?

Emily: Our lab, our home, our play area, everything.

Mindy: Wow!

<<Mindy and Emily walk towards the habitat>>

Emily: Opening the airlock <<hiss as the airlock opens>> Come on, Mindy, step inside.

Mindy: Don't mind if I do. Stepping inside ...

Emily: Alright, closing the airlock <<hiss>> <<a beat>> <<ding!>> Ah! That means it's done and I can take off this big bulky space suit! <<clicks and clacks as Emily takes off the space suit>> Ah, that's better. Now <<opening door>> <<magical music plays>> welcome to the Artemis Mars Research Base.

Mindy: Wow!

Emily: It's not much, but it's home. At least for the next year and a half. We're about halfway through our three year mission.

Mindy: Woah, you're going to be living in this tent for three years?

Emily: Not exactly, our stay here on Mars is for about eighteen months. While we're here, we're going to be learning all we can about Mars before heading back to Earth and being replaced by the next crew of astronauts.

Mindy: Uh huh. Okay, so if you're only here for eighteen months which is, let me see, carry the one... One and a half years. Then how is this a three year long mission?

Emily: That's because of the travel time. It takes a while to get here from Earth, you know.

Mindy: Woah, so half of this Mars mission is just traveling to and from Earth? It didn't take me nearly as long to get here in my dream.

Emily: That's right, but it's not just me here. I have a whole crew with me to help learn about this little red planet. <<we hear someone walking down the hallway>> Speaking of which, here comes our chief science officer now.

Guy: Emily, have you seen my portable spectrometer? I thought I left it in the lab but I can't find it anywhere!

Mindy: Guy Razzy!

Guy: Excuse me?

Mindy: Guy Raz! It's me, Mindy!

Guy: Who?

Mindy: Mindy? Your neighbour and best friend? We share a movieflix account?

Guy: Ugh, I'm sorry, I think you must have me confused with someone else. I'm the chief science officer. I'm a geologist. And my closest neighbour is currently ninety-three million miles away.

Mindy: Okay, sure thing, Guy Raz. I'll play along; so mr geologist, chief science officer what exactly are you working on at the moment?

Guy: Well, at the moment, I'm working on trying to find my portable spectrometer.

Mindy: A portable spectrometer? You mean one of those tiny little gizmos you use to analyse dirt?

Guy: Yeah, I use it to analyse the martian dirt samples we get from outside.

Mindy: Huh.

Guy: Using the light from the machine, I'm able to tell what sort of minerals are in the soil.

Mindy: And that's important because...

Guy: Well, we're hoping that some of these minerals in the soil can tell us more about the past here on Mars. We already know that there used to be liquid water here on Mars because of what we've already found in the martian soil. My hope is that one day we'll also find signs of life too!

Mindy: Life? On Mars? Didn't someone write a song about that?

Emily: David Bowie?

Mindy: No, that's not it.

Guy: Well anyway, I better keep looking. I definitely had it when I went to the sleep chambers earlier. I'm going to check there. It was nice meeting you.

Mindy: <<coy>> I already know you.

Guy: <<walking away>> <<also coy>> No, you don't!

Emily: Shall we continue with the tour?

Mindy: Absolutely, yes, ten thousand percent.

Emily: Great! Just through here is the kitchen. Are you hungry?

Mindy: Almost always.

Emily: Great, then follow me.

Mindy: Right behind you Emily Calandrelli.

Emily: You can just call me Emily.

Mindy: I prefer Emily Calandrelli.

Emily: Suit yourself. The kitchen is right through here.

<<automatic doors swoosh open and close>>

Mindy: Ooh, I love what you've done with the place! So much stainless steel.

Emily: Well, it makes everything easy to clean up, which is super important when you live and work in a scientific laboratory.

Mindy: Yeah.

Emily: And equally as important when you have a station cook that's as messy as ours.

Fingerling: What? Who you calling messy?

Emily and Mindy: Gah!

Emily: Where did you come from?

Fingerling: Oh, I was just on the ground cleaning up a spill.

Emily: <<to Mindy>> Case and point.

Mindy: Wait a minute, is that you Thomas Fingerling?

Fingerling: I don't think so.

Emily: This is our station cook and resident biologist.

Mindy: I see...

Fingerling: Very pleased to meet ya young lady.

Mindy: Biologist? You mean a scientist that works with plants and stuff?

Fingerling: Yeah, that's me, little ol' green thumb.

Emily: Most of the food we eat here are pre-packaged meals from Earth, frozen and vacuum sealed. We have about double the amount that we'd need for our mission.

Fingerling: That food is basically microwave tv dinners! If you want some real food around here, you gotta grow it yourself. Like these here. <<a sack is dropped on the stainless steel table>> So far, I've been able to grow some lettuce, spinach, potatoes, soybeans, carrots...

Mindy: Cool.

Emily: Our head biologist here grows all our supplementary food in the station's greenhouse just across the hall.

Fingerling: That's right.

Mindy: But if you brought all the frozen tv dinners you could ever possibly need with you, then why grow even more food?

Emily: Well there's a couple of reasons. To start, it's always a good idea to have a back up food supply.

Fingerling: And sometimes a fella just wants a turnip, ya know? <<chomp>> ... [mouthfull] Oh that's a good turnip.

Emily: The plants also help recycle the carbon dioxide within the station.

Mindy: Ah! Because plants breathe in CO2 and breathe out oxygen.

Fingerling: That's right. And us humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out co2.

Mindy: So you're sort of helping each other out?

Emily: Exactly. But maybe the most important reason for growing food here is for the future.

Mindy: What do you mean?

Emily: Well, we're the first explorers here on Mars, but if all goes according to plan, in the future we'll have entire colonies of people living up here on the red planet. Hundreds, maybe thousands of people.

Mindy: And you can't be ordering take out from Earth every time someone gets hungry.

Emily: Exactly, so in the long term, it's essential for us to learn how to farm on Mars.

Fingerling: Ooh, Mars farm. New band name. Called it.

Mindy: Uh huh.

Emily: Come on, let's head over to the gym. I think our station technician is there and I need her to take a look at my communicator. <<Emily pulls out a walkie talkie device>> <<it buzzes around in static>> I can't seem to get it to work.

<<Emily and Mindy walk down the hallway>>

Mindy: Woah, you guys have a gym? Fancy! Do you also have a spa? Ooh, a sauna? Please say you have a sauna. I could totally go for a steam right now.

Emily: No spa and sauna unfortunately, but the gym is a super important part of our life here on Mars. We have to exercise for a minimum of two hours a day.

Mindy: Why? Y'all trying to get swole for when you get back to Earth?

Emily: What?

Mindy: Big! Buff! You trying to get them gains bro?

Emily: Uh, no.

Mindy: Oh, so why do you guys work out so much?

Emily: The main reason is because Mars only has 38% of Earth's gravity. Meaning we're about 38% lighter here than we would be on Earth, and without constant exercise, our bones and muscles can get really weak.

Mindy: Huh, I guess I do feel a little lighter. Lemme see how much I can jump. <<Mindy jumps up and down a few times>> Oh yeah, Mars Mindy is dolphiniety lighter than earth Mindy.

Emily: Astronauts in the international space station that orbits Earth have the same problem. They also have to keep up a rigorous exercise routine while on board in order to keep their muscles strong for when they return to earth gravity.

<<we hear some grunting and some clinking of weights from down the hall>>
<<muffled>>

G-Force: <<muffled behind door>> 997 ... 998 ... 999 ...

Mindy: What the ...

<<sliding doors open>>

G-Force: 1000! Booyah!

Emily: Mindy, this is our station technician.

Mindy: Oh, I know who this is, Grandma G-Force! Hugs!

G-Force: No.

Emily: This is our station technician. She calls herself Zero-G-Force.

G-Force: Yup, that's me.

Emily: She can fix anything around the station with just a flick of the wrist.

Mindy: A flick of the wrist?

Emily: Yeah, let me show you. Zero-G-Force?

G-Force: That's my name.

Emily: I was wondering if you could take a look at my communicator? It's been acting up recently. Look. <<walkie talkie turns back on>> <<static>> All I get is static. I haven't been able to reach mission control for hours.

G-Force: Let me take a quick look, see. Hmm, oh yeah, there's your problem. Yup, okay, stand back.

Mindy: Uh, what's happening?

Emily: Just watch.

G-Force: <<G-Force places the walkie talkie down>> Heeeeeeeee-yah!

<<G-Force karate chops the communicator>> <<it sounds like it's been completely crushed>> <<a few loose sparks come through>>

G-Force: That oughta do it. Here ya go, Mindy. Give it a try.

Mindy: Give it a try? You just karate chopped it into oblivion!

G-Force: Who's the technician here? Why don't you try it, space girl.

Emily: Let's see <<turns on walkie talkie>>

Dennis: <<through walkie talkie>> Artemis Research Station come in. Do you read me? This is mission control!

Mindy: Hey! It works!

G-Force: Told ya I fixed it.

Mindy: mindy_sigh4.Wav

G-Force: Now which one of y'all thinks you can beat me at push ups? Huh? Come on, I'll take both of you on. I don't care.

Dennis: <<through walkie talkie>> Come in Artemis Research Station! This is an emergency.

Emily: Sorry Zero G-Force. This sounds like it's serious.

G-Force: gforce_i'll say1.Wav

Mindy: It was nice meeting you.

G-Force: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

<<sliding door opens and closes>>

G-Force: <<muffled>> 1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... <<fading out>>

<<Mindy and Emily leave the gym and walk back>>

Dennis: <<through walkie talkie>> Come in! Come in! Hello?!?! Is this thing on? This is mission control!

Mindy: <<to self>> Dennis?

Emily: Mission Control, this is Artemis Research Base, go ahead.

Dennis: <<through walkie talkie>> Ugh! Finally! I've been trying to reach you for hours!

Emily: Yeah, sorry, we had a communication issue.

Mindy: Dennis? Is that you?

Dennis: Dennis? No, this is Houston, as in Mission Control.

Baby Dennis: And this is baby mission control!

Dennis: Ignore him.

Baby Dennis: Tee hee!

Emily: What's the emergency?

Dennis: You've got a dust storm headed your way, Commander Emily!

Emily: How bad is it?

Dennis: Sixty mile per hour winds. Or as I like to call them 100 kilometer per hour winds.

Emily: And how long til it gets here?

Dennis: That's why I've been trying to reach you. It's almost there. The wind storm should be hitting the station any minute now.

G-Force: gforce_oh snap2.Wav

<<tense music starts up>>

Emily: Thanks, Mission Control.

Dennis: You're welcome!

Mindy: A dust storm? Sixty mile per hour winds? Is that bad?

Emily: Let's head back to the control hub and find out. Come on follow me. Run, run, run, run, run...

G-Force: <<fading into the distance>> Ok, bye I guess!

Mindy: Run, run, run...

<<Mindy and Emily run down the hall>> <<sliding doors open and close>>

Emily: Okay, let's have a look at this radar/ <<bleep and bleeps>> Ah, yeah, there it is.

Mindy: That big giant blob? That's the dust storm?

Emily: Yup, and this little dot on the screen right here is us.

Mindy: That thing is huge!

Emily: It's a big one all right.

Mindy: And it's almost here, look!

<<tense music continues to mount>>

Emily: It should be hitting the station in 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1 ...

Mindy: Agh!!!

<<a beat>> <<nothing happens>>

Emily: And, that's it.

Mindy: Wait, that's it?

Emily: Yup, that's it.

Mindy: But nothing happened?

Emily: Yeah.

Mindy: But I thought there was going to be sixty mile per hour winds! I thought this whole tent space station was going to be blown away.

Emily: Well, I suppose that's one of the advantages of living here on Mars. The weather here is pretty mild.

Mindy: Wait, what?

Emily: Well, the atmosphere here on Mars is only about 1% as dense as the atmosphere on Earth so...

Mindy: The winds aren't as strong here?

Emily: Exactly, a sixty mph here on Mars feels about the same as a light breeze back on Earth.

Mindy: Feels like that would have been good information to know before I started freaking out Emily Calandrelli!

Emily: Sorry, Mindy!

<<a beeping alarm starts slowly getting louder and louder>>

Mindy: Hey, what's that beeping?

Emily: What beeping?

Mindy: That alarm. Don't you hear it?

<<the alarm beeping slowly morphs into a doorbell sound>>

Mindy: It sort of sounds like...

Emily and Mindy: A doorbell.

<<we transition out of dreamtime as the soundscape melts away and we're back in Mindy's house ... the doorbell is ringing>>

Mindy: <<super groggy>> Wait, Emily, don't go... I... <<fully waking up>> Ugh, where am I?

<<just then Grandma G-Force knocks down the door>>

G-Force: Heeeee-yah! <<the gingerbread door crumbles to the ground>>

Mindy: Hey! Only I'm allowed to smash down my gingerbread door!

<<Fingerling and Dennis mumbling as they walk into Mindy's house>>

Guy: Mindy! You're not even dressed yet.

Mindy: Dressed, for what?

Fingerling: See, I told you she'd forget.

Reg: Coool!

Mindy: What are you all doing here?

Dennis: It's hiking day mindy. The best day of the year! And look, I made trail mix. It's 90% lil chocolate candies and 10% trail.

Mindy: What?

Guy: You weren't answering the door, Mindy. We were starting to get worried.

G-Force: I wasn't.

Reg: Coool!

Mindy: Huh <<trying to remember>> I was having the most wonderful dream?

Dennis: Really? Was I in it?

Mindy: Yeah, you were.

Dennis: Hooray!

Mindy: You all were.

Dennis: <<slightly disappointed>> Oh.

Mindy: Yeah, you were there. And you were there. And Emily was there.

Guy: Emily?

Mindy: Yeah, Emily Calandrelli.

Fingerling: Emily who-landre-what-ee?

Mindy: Emily Calandrelli, the space gal! From the internet. She was giving me a tour of the research station on Mars. And you Guy Raz, you were a science officer. And Fingerling, you were a cook who grew his own food there.

Fingerling: Neat.

Mindy: And G-Force, you karate chopped things around the station to fix them.

G-Force: Yeah, sounds like me.

Mindy: Dennis, I never actually saw you but you were on the radio from Mission Control.

Dennis: Wow! I was on the radio!?! Was it like a podcast?!

Mindy: And then Emily Calandrelli was the station commander.

G-Force: I've never heard of her.

Mindy: Oh, she's the best! Look, take a look, let me just bring her up on my phone here. <<bleep and bleeps>>

Guy: Mindy! We're meant to be going for a hike!

Dennis: I wanna watch a space gal first! Anyone want any trail mix?

Fingerling: Oh! Me!

G-Force: Don't mind if I do.

<<the gang starts chowing down>>

Guy: But what about the hike!

Mindy: Don't worry, Guy Raz, we'll still go on the hike. Just one ... more ... video ...

<<play button pressed>> <<Emily video starts playing through phone>>

THE END