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VANESSA

Well, we definitely can get to the question of challenges in a bit, but I like that perspective. And what do you think is your proudest accomplishment?

DEYANIRA

My relationship with my husband, it's something that I always wish I could have, because my mother couldn't show me what that could look like. And since I was little, I had this desire to create a partnership with someone who will be with me forever, in everything. And by the age of 15, I had

DEYANIRA

Yes, I did. So usually, the degree of chemical engineering is for six to seven years. But I didn't want to spend six or seven years of my life going to school, so I did it in three. And I have to say my university degree was only one part of what helped me mold my career path. Yeah, honestly, language skills and my ability to be curious, were my biggest assets in what helped me get where I am now. My University experience was studying from 7am to 10pm for four years, and working in between classes, and taking English lessons. I've had also domestic duties before I went to university, and I had to take care of my brother and the family business when I was not at university. So I did all of my courses in three years. And then the last year was practicum, and social service. And that's when I decided to go to Canada to



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VANESSA

Yeah, that's awesome. So I just quick sort of maybe not follow up question but a question that just popped into my head, when you are traveling those long distances on your motorcycle, are you able to, like if something breaks down, are you able to just get in there and fix it?

DEYANIRA

The road shall provide. And we have tools to fix things. I actually supervise my husband fixing things, I can fix a few, but not everything. And there is always a mechanic named Carlos everywhere in the world that can fix a BMW.

VANESSA

That's awesome. I love it. I just would think like, if you're going through 16 countries on a motorcycle, you might need to know a few things. In case you break down on the side of the road or something. That would be my worry. That's awesome. Good. Um, I'll do a couple more questions. Um, which person dead or alive, would you most like to have coffee with? Well, I guess you don't drink coffee, tea? I don't know. Juice, a milkshake. Whatever you want.

DEYANIRA

Dead or Alive? My great grandma Maria.

VANESSA

Okay. Is there anything in particular you'd want to talk about?

DEYANIRA

Yeah, I know that my mom had a very hard life. And she was a witness of my mom's life. And I would like to ask everything about her side of the story. We just finished writing a book and my mom and I call Miss India, Miss indigenous, in other words, and I would like to know more about my mom's life to understand her better.

VANESSA

And hear about it from a perspective of somebody kind of on the outside instead of directly from her.

DEYANIRA

Right. And yeah, also my great grandma Maria, look like me. She's the only one with straight hair. And I know that we were well connected. But she died when I was four years old, and I didn't have a chance to have those serious conversations.

VANESSA

Oh, yeah. Yeah, I think it would be awesome to sit down with ancestors and talk to them. I think that would be my answer to that question as well. Or at least, I don't know, there's a lot of people that I'd want to sit down and have coffee with, but I think that would be very cool. Okay, would you ever go to a movie alone?

VANESSA

Nice. I love that. You're so awesome. You're like, I'm gonna go to a horror movie alone. I don't need no man to comfort me. That's awesome. That's great. Okay, if you were given the opportunity to go into space, given today's technology, would you take it?

DEYANIRA

Definitely. In fact, I am working on the Deep Space challenge. And if you aren't familiar with it,

VANESSA

I'm not please tell me about it.

DEYANIRA

It is a challenge that was created by a Canadian Space Agency and NASA to invite the public to create a food system that can be taken into space, and in the way to Mars,

VANESSA

A food system?

DEYANIRA

Yes. So a system to feed four astronauts that will be in this project to go to Mars and that it has to be self-sustaining. And it has to have certain characteristics. I can send you the link to this challenge. But it's an exciting one, and my company is participating in it. And I feel very proud of this.

VANESSA

Yes. That's so cool. Yes, please send me the link, I would love to link it in the show notes. That sounds like a really cool project. And so basically, yes, you would take the opportunity to go and you would bring along your amazing food system that you've created.

DEYANIRA

And I would love to cook for people in space, too, although that's not a part of the challenge.

VANESSA

That's okay, that's okay, that part we can dream about. All right. Well, as we finish up, I would love to hear what advice you would give to the next generation of STEM professionals.

DEYANIRA

Great question Vanessa in its very short answer. Make a plan, don't let your career define you, define your career. And don't waste your life. There is only one.

VANESSA

Awesome, that's great. Well, thank you so much for joining me today. I have loved our conversation. I've loved hearing about all of your travels and your projects and your connections and your relationship and everything. It's just been really fun to talk to you. So where can other people connect with you?

DEYANIRA

Well, the easiest way or the most effective way I will say is through LinkedIn you can find me as Deyanira Mendoza Dominguez and there are not many like me, or yeah, LinkedIn as well through the

