



## MY MARTIAN YEAR

Farah Alibay

**A 687-day journey into the universe by a young female NASA engineer who has become a scientific rock star!**

224 pages

September 2022

Éditions de l'Homme

On February 18, 2021, the Perseverance rover landed safely on the surface of Mars. Media around the world broadcast the first images of this technological feat and the reaction of the crew of the Mars 2020 mission. Among the scientists and engineers gathered for the event was a young red-headed woman, jumping up and down and waving her arms in the air.

This story covers the two most important years in Farah Alibay's career, which are the equivalent of one Martian year. A daughter of immigrants, born in Quebec, and now an engineer with NASA, she takes us with her on her voyage to Mars; she interweaves the landmark moments of the Perseverance mission and space exploration with her own story and with personal reflections on the place of women in traditionally masculine professions, diversity, and the importance of having confidence in yourself. In doing so, she paints a portrait of a woman who is a fighter determined to meet any challenge and to push aside the obstacles standing in the way of her childhood dream: the conquest of space. This first-hand tale, ringing with authenticity, is an inspiration for new generations of women.

## STRONG POINTS

- The fascinating and unlikely story of a daughter of immigrants who defied probability and societal norms to gain entry to one of the most prestigious scientific agencies in the world.
- Written by a young scientist very popular especially with young people (14,000 followers on Instagram).
- Farah Alibay is an excellent communicator and popularizer in the field of aerospace.
- Unprecedented entry into a universe reserved for the world's greatest scientists.

**Subjects:** science, space exploration, aerospace, women in science, Mars, NASA, Perseverance, feminism, engineering

*Born in Montreal, Farah Alibay grew up in Quebec, before moving to England as a teenager. Hugely curious, a do-it-yourselfer, and in love with space, she studied aerospace engineering at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, before doing a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). After her studies, she joined scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Los Angeles, where she now lives. Since 2014, she has participated in four Martian missions and has become a science communicator.*