

TINY HOUSE

FOR MICRO, TINY, SMALL, AND UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS



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ON OUR PAGES



FEATURED

Celebrating Thoreau's Legacy

So many tiny housers have been inspired by Henry David Thoreau. Laura LaVoie is no different. In this month's article, Laura talks a bit more about how she took her own walk in the woods.

My Tiny Life

One woman's story about her own highs and lows of her tiny house journey and how she has reached a life she is absolutely happy about...and all in a tiny house!

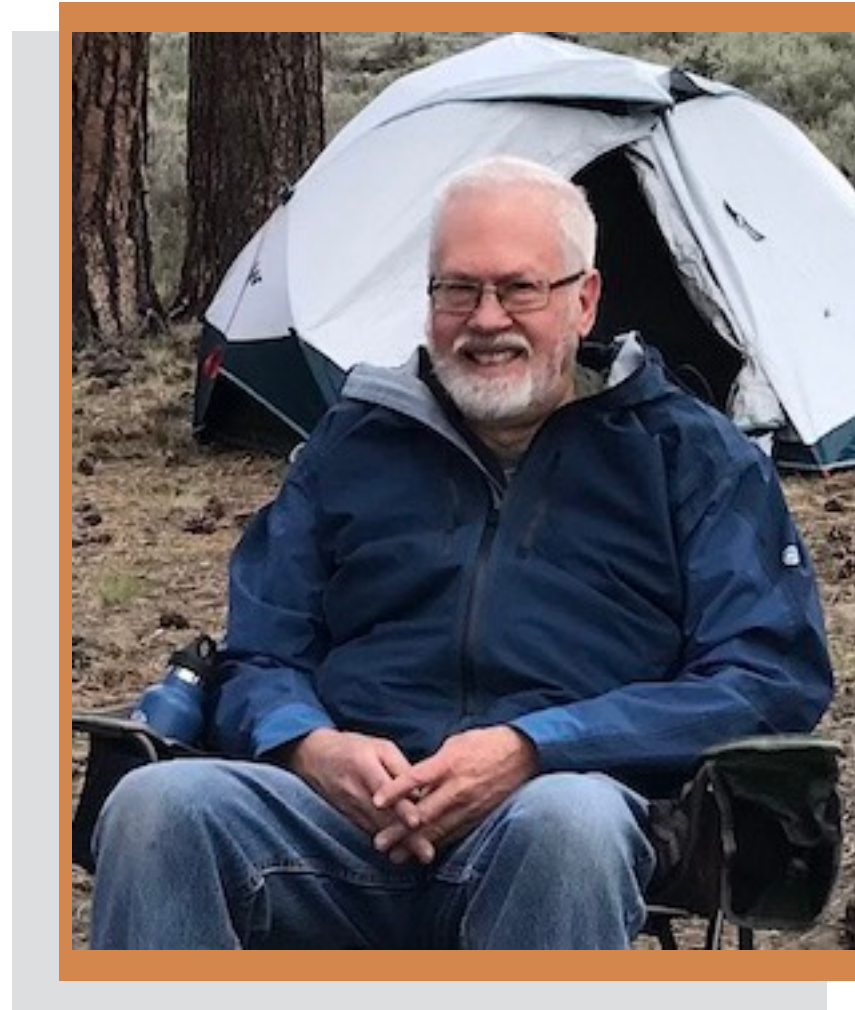
Easing the Edges

Builder Greg Parham has built a number of tiny houses and in the first installment of a new series, he talks about having to do a bit more work to achieve a near-perfect look.

People, Not Brick & Mortar

It's one of our first photo series of just images. This collection shows *real* life in a tiny house, dirty clothes and all.

MANY TINY HOUSERS HAVE FOUND INSPIRATION IN THE WRITINGS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU, and Laura LaVoie is no exception. In this month's issue, Laura shares her own journey and how her personal walk in the woods led her to the tiny house lifestyle.



In Tracey's story, she opens up about the highs and lows of her tiny house adventure, revealing how she has created a life she loves—all within the cozy confines of her tiny home!

We're also excited to introduce a new series by builder Greg Parham. In the first installment, Greg discusses the extra effort required to achieve that near-perfect look in tiny house construction.

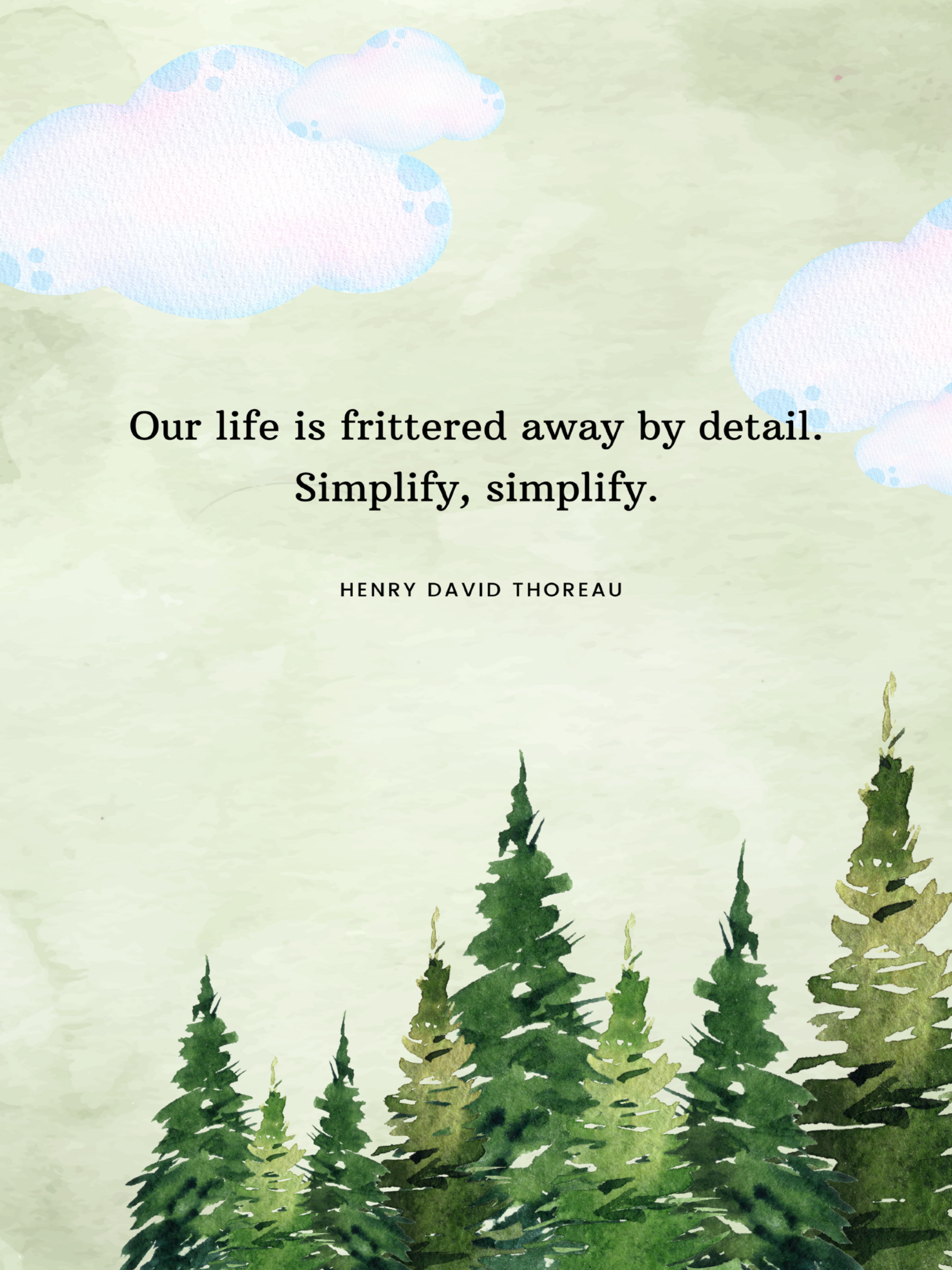
This issue features our first photo series dedicated solely to images, capturing the real-life essence of tiny house living, dirty clothes and all.

This and lots more in Issue 139 of the Tiny House Magazine.

Kent

Kent Griswold, Editor in Chief





Our life is frittered away by detail.
Simplify, simplify.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Celebrating Henry David Thoreau's Legacy

Living Deliberately in a Tiny House



Written By Laura LaVoie

On July 12th, we celebrate the birthday of Henry David Thoreau, a man whose words have inspired countless people to pursue a life of deliberate living. While his history is far from perfect and not above criticism, he had some profound thoughts that have influenced many of us on the tiny house path.

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

Thoreau's famous quote resonates deeply with those who seek to break free from the constraints of conventional life and embrace something more meaningful.

For as long as we can remember, we wanted to live a less ordinary life. We both ached for the unconventional. There was a lot of dreaming before the doing started, but in 2007, we realized we were the only things standing in our way. The first time I heard Thoreau's words, like many of us, was in high school English, and I had no idea how much they would eventually mean to me as we started our journey down a path of deliberate living.

Living deliberately takes time and planning, but we realized you just need to pick up a hammer and start swinging. We spent three years building our tiny house. We were living in Atlanta, and we would drive to Asheville every other weekend to work on our house. We had never built anything before and were learning as we went.

As the weeks, months, and years went by, the construction began to look like a house, and we were inching closer to moving in. It wasn't always easy.

Near the beginning of the build, we spent a long, challenging weekend working with the concrete for our post and pier foundation. Our home sits halfway up our mountain with no road access, so we used a less-than-trusty ATV to get supplies to the building site. The ATV refused to carry more than three bags of concrete at a time, so it took hours to load, drive, and unload 900 pounds. We also needed to transport an electric concrete mixer and all the water we needed. When we finally had everything up there, it was already Sunday afternoon, and we needed to be back in Atlanta Monday morning for our jobs.

We mixed and poured the concrete into the set and level tubes as fast as we could. As the summer sun finally faded, we had to set the last foundation bolt by the beam of a flashlight. We yelled and argued, and there may even have been some crying, but by 11 pm, the site was cleaned up, the borrowed cement mixer was loaded back on the trailer, and we started the three-hour drive back to Atlanta. At 2 am, nearly delirious, we arrived home. I was late to work the next day. That was our moment of panic with the build. That was the moment we wondered what we were getting ourselves into.

We did it. And if I could do that, I could do anything.

Building the house was only the foundation upon which we could build our new lives. It was the catalyst. Our lives in Atlanta were beginning to feel like we were on autopilot, and we needed a big kick to start something new. We began to downsize by moving from a 2,700-square-foot home into an 800-square-foot apartment before taking the drastic leap to just 120 square feet. This reduction in size and the accompanying reduction in expenses allowed us to be bold with our choices.

Changes can open up these opportunities, or they can be scary. They can even be both at the same time. Just before the tiny house was finished, I quit my comfortable job of eight years. I was good at my job, but I felt suffocated every day. I became increasingly frustrated by how I felt restricted and contained. When I started to come home in tears more days than not, both of us knew we had to change something.

The tiny house gave me the courage I needed. The tiny house allowed me to pay off my debts and reduce my expenses so that I could try something new. I finally felt ready to leave my job.

We both wanted to live more deliberately. We didn't want to let life pass us by. Thoreau also said, *"The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it."*

With Thoreau's Live Deliberately philosophy in mind, we took the steps we needed to leave behind the life that didn't work for us and pursue the things that did. People always ask us how we can live together in such a small space. The only honest answer to that question is that we never thought we couldn't. We both wanted this, and the size of the house doesn't matter as much as the choices we make to live our lives consciously and deliberately.

Tiny living isn't for everyone, and we're not trying to say that big is bad and small is good. We want to share our story and how we changed our lives to focus on the most important things to us. Everyone can benefit from thinking about



The exterior and interior of Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond.



what does and doesn't work for them and set out to live more deliberately.

As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives.



Movable Roots Open House

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Be the first to explore our brand new custom Black Prong Cabin before it heads out for delivery!

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7/27/24

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Fill out the email form.

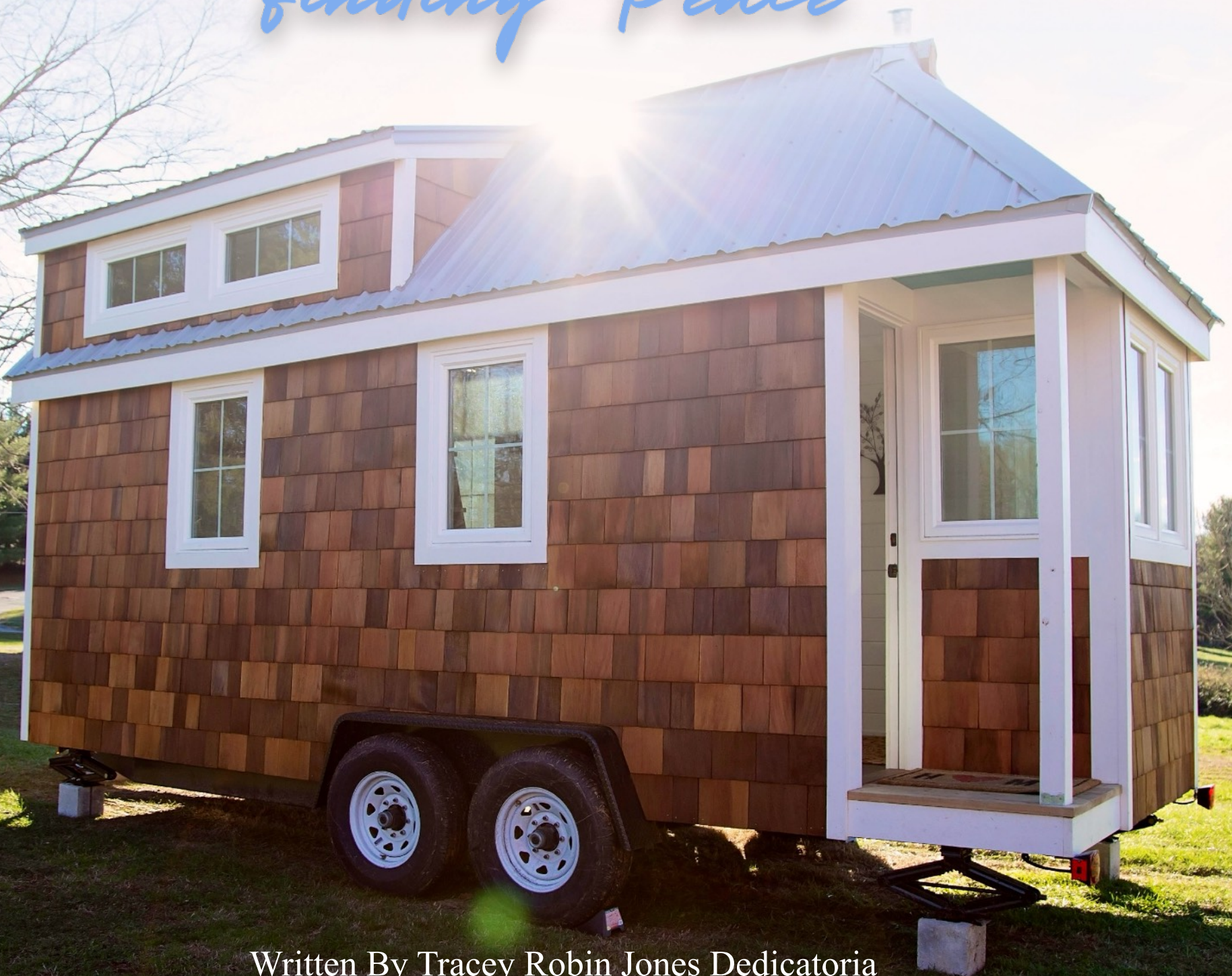
Let us know You would like to come and how many people will be attending with you.

Nikki will reply with a time slot.

MY TINY LIFE

*Survival.
Strength.*

finding Peace

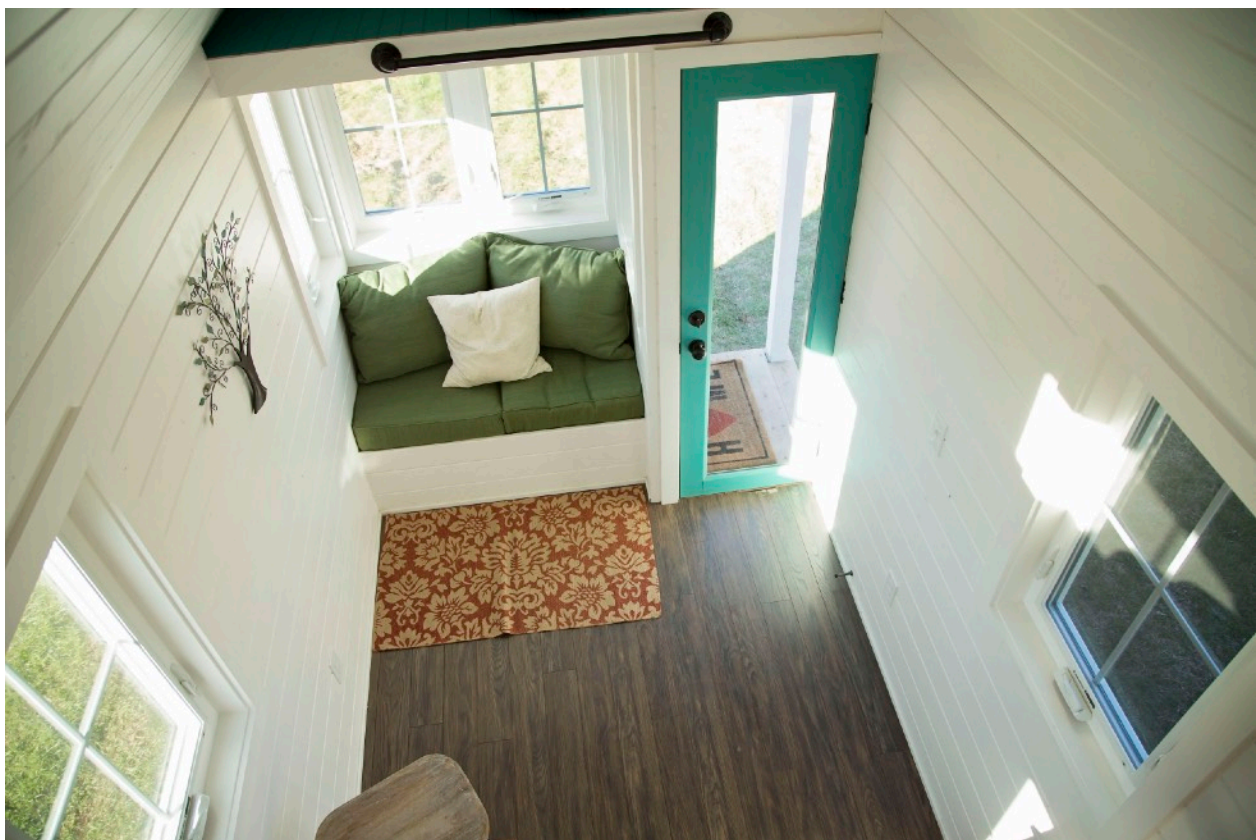


Written By Tracey Robin Jones Dedicatoria

When my ex-husband and I separated in 2016 I had a mountain of debt and only qualified for an RV loan of \$42,000. At that time, I had been studying tiny houses as a possible venue for me to stay on the farm, not sell the family land and have a roof over my head. Another advantage to going tiny is if you own land buying tiny will NOT put a lien on your land like a traditional mortgage. My ex-husband got the house where we raised our family, and I got more land, the horse pasture, and my tiny. Ironically it was purchased on my 50th birthday!



I had always put myself last as a wife and mother. I regret not doing more for myself. I finally began to take care of myself. I even joined the Y and started working out. A gym membership is great if you are living tiny. Long showers without filling the tank, using their electricity.



The Pecan wasn't built custom for me. But when I saw her, I knew that was my house. I loved the idea that they had used recycled materials from other building projects from old barns etc. Some of the cedar beams in the Pecan are over 200 years old, and her simpleness, after all I am a minimalist. I loved Johanna's incredible farmhouse/coastal cottage style and placement of color. These tactics of design make the tiny house feel homey and more like a house than an RV. The listed price was a little more than I could afford. But they worked with me. We took out the toilet, minisplit and water heater to bring the price down.

I was placing the tiny house on the back portion of the farm that I got in the divorce settlement.

Next obstacle the electric company wanted \$15,000 to provide access due to the distance from the closest transformer. Well now I must go off grid. Solar panels, generator, dry flush toilet, propane appliances and installations ran me about \$7,000. But this was done a little bit at a time, and I could handle that. I also had a welder come out and put steel loops on the corners of the house so the house could be strapped down with mobile home anchors. That first winter before I could get this done was scary, she had been leveled and



placed on blocks, but if we got a big gust, she would lift just a little. This was terrifying while I was sleeping in the loft at night. I thought at any moment I was going to be like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz. The wind would whistle through the small openings in the ridges of the metal roof, so I stuffed steel wool in the holes.

The water heater I selected was a Propane Marey that used D batteries for ignition. Before I had the minisplit installed I did have lots of issues with condensation on windows and the water heater chimney. The 22-inch range also uses battery ignition, but I opted to just light it the old-fashioned way with a lighter. I learned quickly that the water pressure in the tiny is lower than in a regular house. Luckily the on-demand water heater had a setting for low water pressure. Oh,

the joy when I finally had a hot shower in my little house. The tiny house journey makes you appreciate things folks take for granted every day. When I purchased a portable washing machine no such luck couldn't get it to work. The water pressure was too low. I also replaced all the lights with LEDs and installed a Newport propane heater by Dickerson. Before that, I was sleeping in many layers of clothes, gloves, hat, etc. A Virginia Winter is no joke. The only bad thing about this type of heater is it lacks a thermostat so you can't set it at a particular temperature and since heat rises the loft could be up to 10 degrees warmer. This is also the case with the mini split and AC. So, when it's really hot I sleep downstairs.

Even with the solar panels and battery bank there



couldn't run the water pump or mini fridge. I would use the generator to take a shower, got extremely creative with non-perishable food and used a cooler outside at times when the temp was below 40 degrees. I also had a few small rechargeable battery banks I purchased from Renogy. They were great for charging cell phones, laptops, electric toothbrushes etc. I would plug in the

battery banks at work during the day to recharge. The little Apricool cooler is the only one I ever had enough juice to run off solar continuously during the winter. I even hung battery operated lights in various areas around the house. There are so many things you miss when living completely off grid. The microwave, dryer, AC, using a slow cooker or even flat ironing your hair. None of these things can be done on solar alone. And putting gas in the generator all the time gets expensive.

Keep in mind if you live in a state that collects personal property taxes and your tiny is a certified RV you will have to pay personal property taxes. Also, most tiny house insurance companies do not provide wind damage coverage if you live on a peninsula. For this reason, it's best to cover the tiny as an additional structure under a traditional homeowner's policy if you have a regular home on the premises.

In 2020 I was finally able to get electricity and a deep well! This was life changing AC/electric heat with a thermostat, microwave, slow cooker. Now I could maintain the house at a specific temperature no more condensation.

The tiny house market has changed over the past 8 years. The tiny house I have now would cost me almost twice as much to build today, and the higher interest rates are making things even more difficult. Tiny houses seem to be being built more like wooden RVs from an exterior standpoint. I would like to see more tiny houses being built with recycled materials to decrease



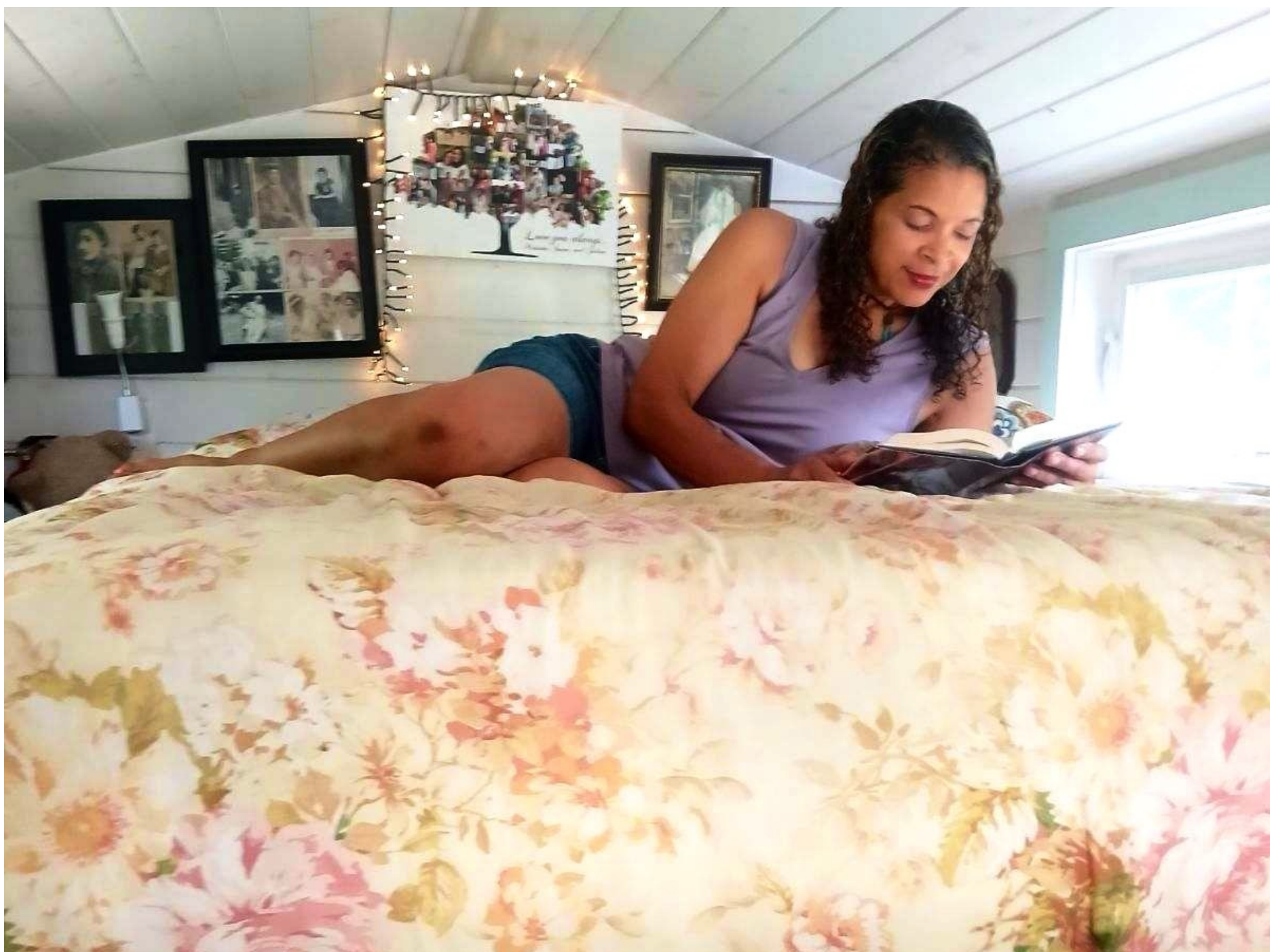
costs. Places like the Habitat for Humanity Resale Store are great places to get used toilets, sinks, and appliances. I would also like to see more varied roof lines and exterior architectural design.

If you decide to take the tiny house plunge you can save money by having the basics built, then having local folks put in your heating, AC, appliances etc. Or you can purchase a model already built that you could adapt to your own needs. I have no regrets in taking this tiny life journey. It has helped me problem solve, overcome, learn, believe in myself, and find

peace. If want your tiny home to be your last forever home that you grow old in think about a downstairs sleeping area and door entrances that are at least 36 inches. This can be challenging in a small space. But it can be done.

At the end of the day the tiny house enabled me to stabilize, pay down debt, keep my horse and stay on the land. It was a blessing. If I had a big mortgage, things would have been quite different. And Tracey without a horse, not happening.

Best of luck in your tiny house endeavors!



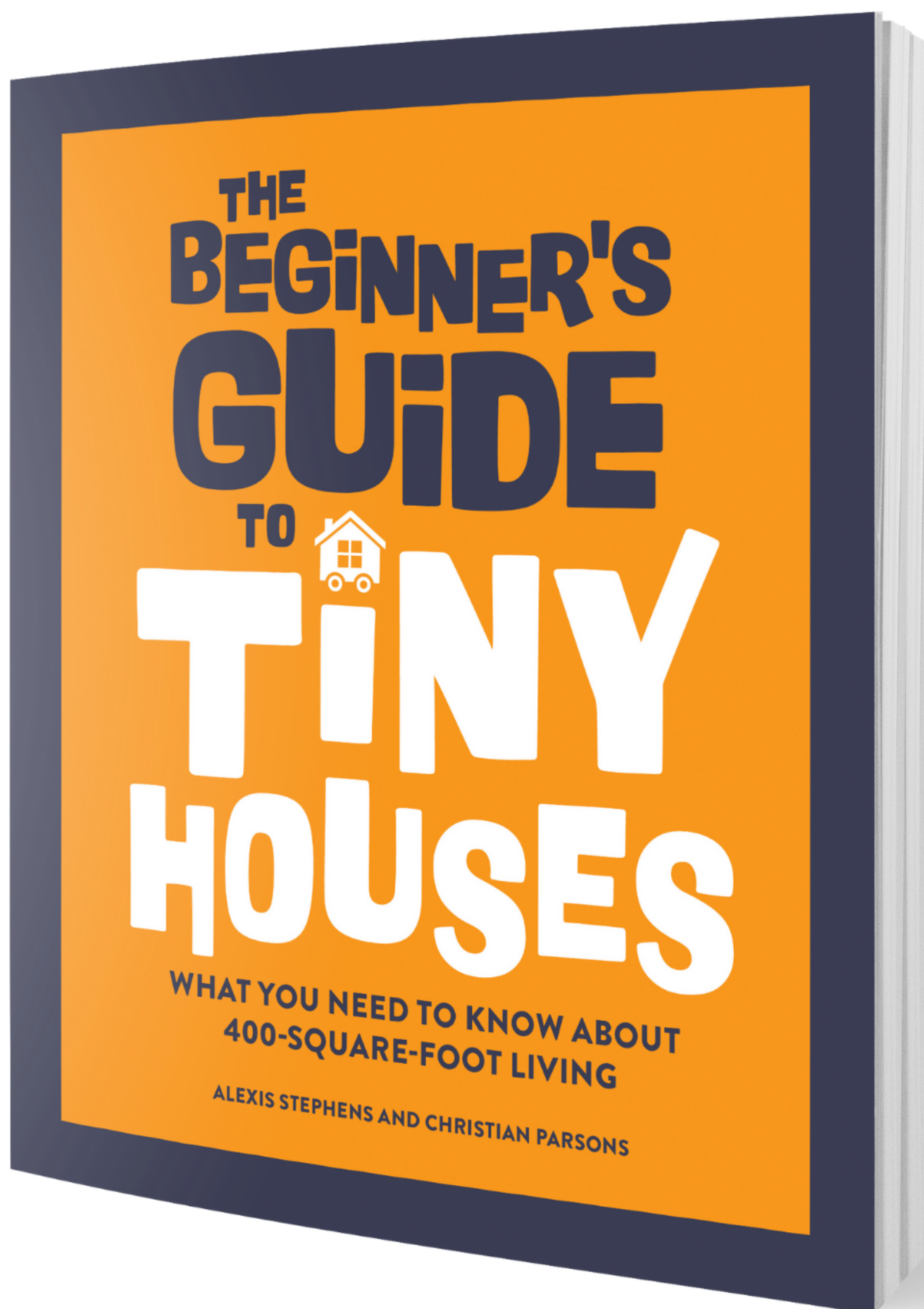


(top) Lyndsey Finney, a fellow horsewoman has been riding alongside Tracey for 11 years...since she was 7 years old.



"Your thorough guide to tiny house living, full of time-tested advice from legendary tiny house dwellers and travelers."

—Ethan Waldman, host of the Tiny House Lifestyle Podcast



FOR

Buying a ready-built tiny house offers numerous benefits that appeal to a broad spectrum of buyers. One of the most significant advantages is immediate occupancy. Unlike traditional home construction, which can take months or even years, a ready-built tiny house allows buyers to move in almost instantly. This can be particularly appealing to those who are looking to downsize quickly, relocate for a job, or simply seek a rapid lifestyle change.

Financially, a pre-built tiny house often represents a more affordable option compared to constructing a custom tiny home. Building a house from scratch involves a myriad of costs, including materials, labor, and permits, which can add up quickly. A ready-made tiny house typically has a fixed price, making it easier for buyers to budget and avoid unexpected expenses.

Another benefit is the elimination of construction stress. Building a home, even a tiny one, can be a

complex and stressful process, involving decisions on design, materials, and managing contractors. A pre-built tiny house removes these hassles, offering a turnkey solution where everything from the layout to the finishes is already taken care of.

Additionally, pre-built tiny houses are often designed and built by professionals with expertise in maximizing space efficiency and functionality. This means buyers can trust that their new home is designed to meet modern standards of comfort and usability, often incorporating innovative storage solutions and energy-efficient systems.

In summary, purchasing a ready-built tiny house provides a convenient, cost-effective, and low-stress way to embrace the tiny house lifestyle, allowing buyers to enjoy their new living space immediately without the complexities associated with home construction. That said, if you are



looking for a turnkey home fit for 2 people you can purchase one now and have it customized for your lifestyle from one of the most popular tiny house builders on the East Coast, **Movable Roots Tiny Home Builders LLC**.

The Movable Roots story began many years ago growing up in Nogales, Arizona in their own THOW (Tiny Home On Wheels) or in their case, a mobile home. In the early years, Mike and Jonathan Cheatham learned their work ethic, building knowledge, and how to treat customers from their father.

For the past 20+ years, the brothers have worked together and individually as company owners in all stages of the residential construction and remodeling business. In recent years, Mike and his bride Nikki had begun researching “living tiny” and “going tiny” themselves. They were ready to *live* more (traveling and creating more memories) while freeing themselves from the typically high cost of a mortgage on a traditional home. Mike and Nikki shared this new-found passion of possibly building Tiny Homes for others with Jonathan and everyone hit the ground running. Movable Roots was born!



Jojo Bean Series

The Jojo Bean is a versatile design that can easily fit the needs of a full-time traveler, AirBnB short-term rental, Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) for an aging parent, or even the weekend warrior who wants a quality built unit for those weekend glamping trips.

The tiny house maximizes space and storage within a small footprint starting at 170 and going to 260 sq. ft. It is designed all on one level so there are no stairs, ladders, or lofts.



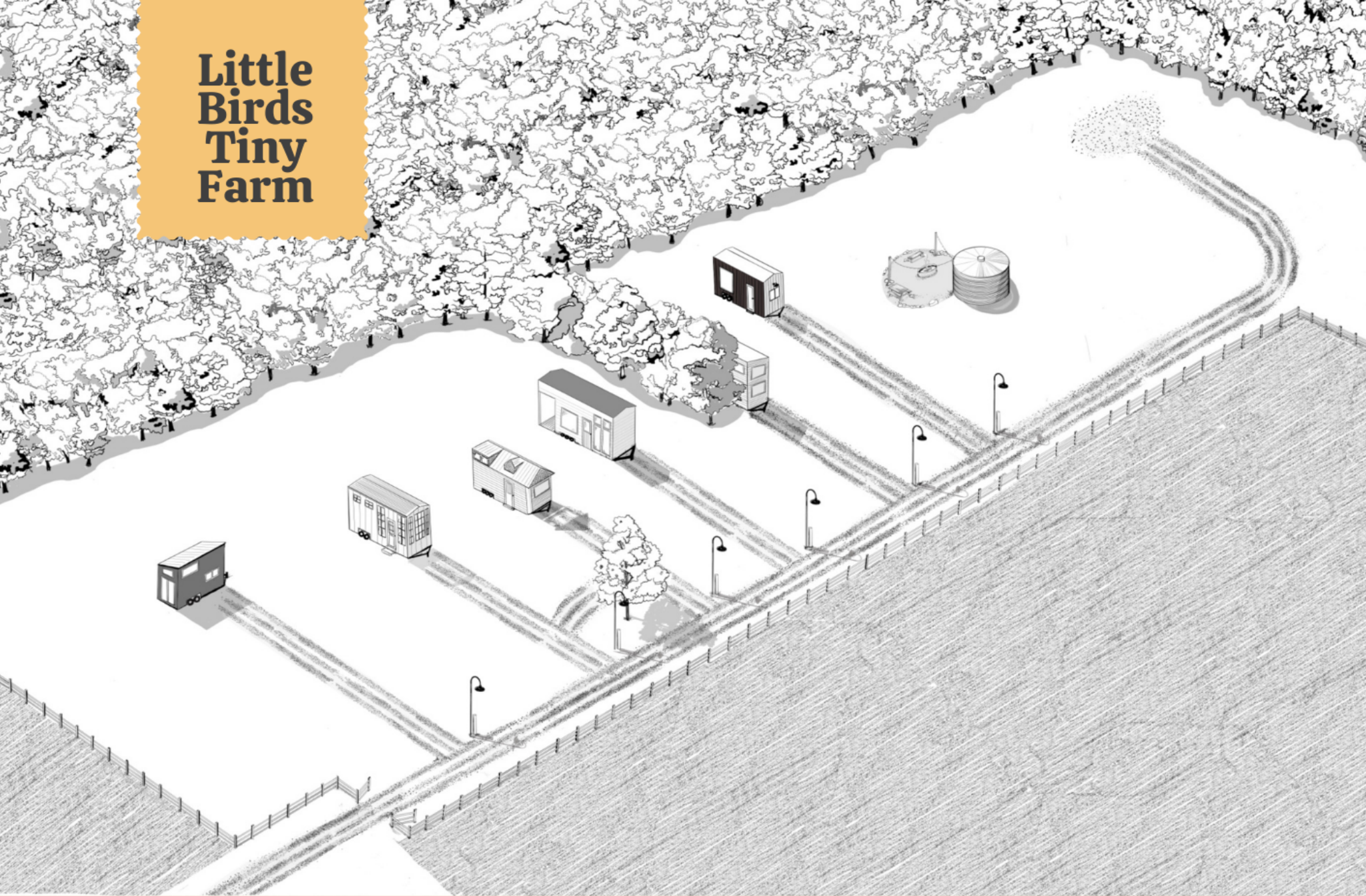
The Jojo Bean • 24' in length | 200 sq.ft | sleeps 2 | priced at \$79,999
as shown





CONTACT: Movable Roots, LLC - 834 Washburn Rd Melbourne FL 32934 - (321) 600-4988
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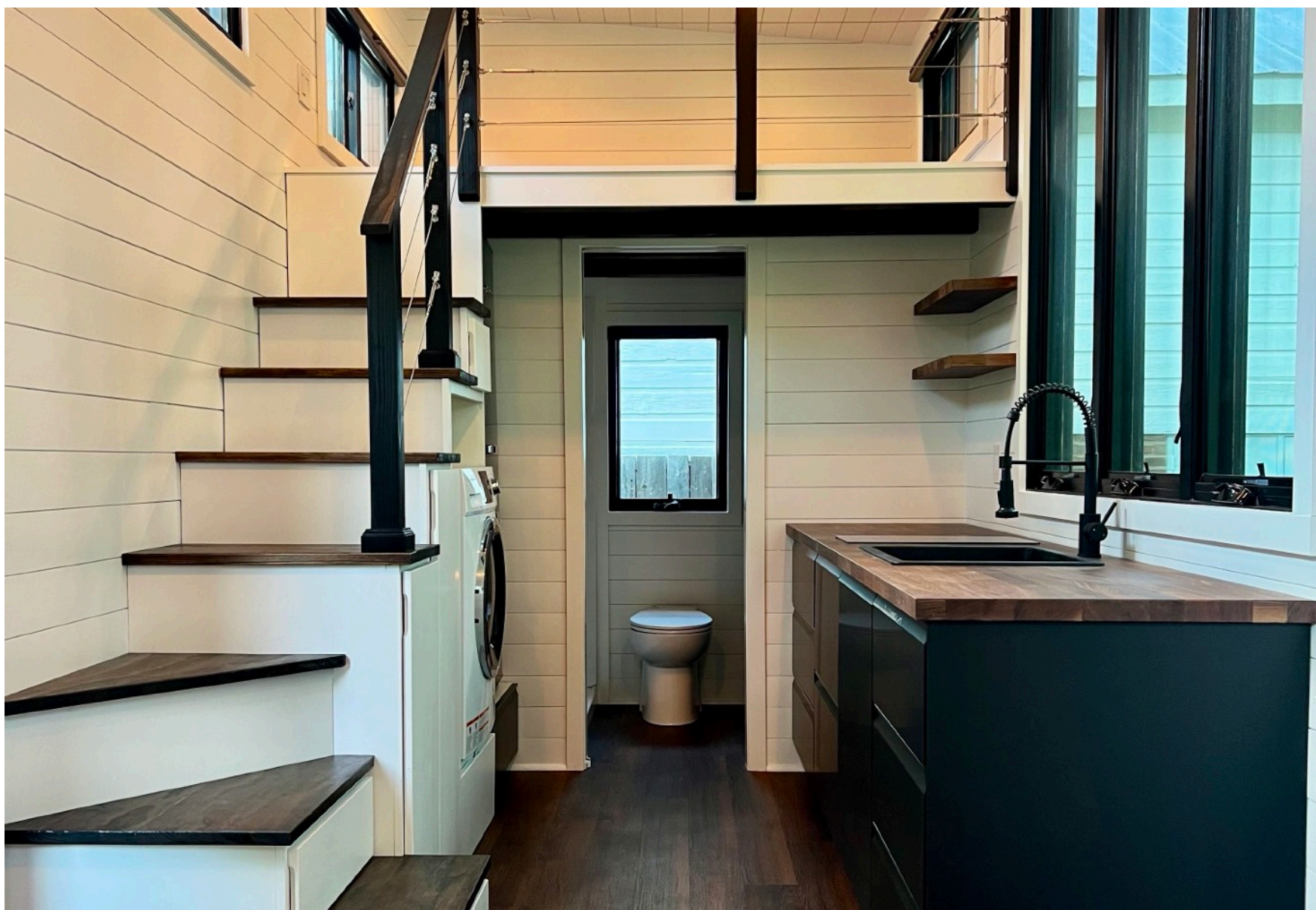


@littlebirdstinyfarm



folks@littlebirdstinyfarm.com

Tiny house owner Shannon Jackson owns and lives in a 2024 Perch & Nest Roost22 built by Perch & Nest located in Winston-Salem, NC. The house is 22' long as the name suggests and includes a sleeping loft, a private bathroom, a galley kitchen, and a space perfect for a living room or media center.



In 2018 I was overwhelmed with my life. All I wanted to do was run away which was neither healthy nor possible. My nightly escape was binge-watching TV shows about life in the Alaskan wilderness. I became fascinated with the idea of a small home and a simpler life, alone in nature. As possibly the coldest-natured person in America I knew living in Alaska wasn't a real option. I hoped though that one day a happier life *would* be an option..

I ran across tiny homes on YouTube and the more I researched tiny living the more certain I was that it was for me. The ability to take my home anywhere was a huge draw, but **the idea of living in a small space was equally appealing.** I knew it would also mean financial freedom and the opportunity to travel more.

A (clear sealed) cedar shiplap wall and an aluminum clad porthole style window create the living area accent wall.





The kitchen cabinet fronts are made of recycled wood dressed in a foil made mainly of recycled plastic. These cabinets feature an integrated handle rather than an attached pull making them even more tiny-friendly.



The matte black cabinets and sleek black appliances pair well with the traditional white walls and wood accents creating a modern, rather than rustic feel throughout.

The built-in stair storage provides additional kitchen storage with pull-out pantry shelves tucked inside as well as drawers for shoes and everyday items close to the main entry. This custom piece also houses the Summit brand (ventless) washer-dryer combo.

In 2021 my mother passed away from a rare form of breast cancer. She was the kindest person I've ever known and losing her was devastating. It took a great therapist, a few amazing books, and lots of meditation and self-reflection, but I found a path forward and soon realized that *my reason for going tiny was more about living life than running away from it.*

So in 2023 I sold my house, gave away my car and most of my possessions, and decided to take a cruise. I figured it wouldn't take too long to find land and have the tiny house built and I could visit my friends and family while I waited. Nine months later I was still cruising and visiting because I ran into so many issues during my house hunt. While I was happy to have a new hobby as a solo cruiser, I was close to giving up on ever living in a tiny house. Then the universe sent me **Alaska Wagoner, the Tiny House Concierge!**

Her guidance and advice jump-started my search and led me to find Johanna and the amazing team at **Perch & Nest**. Johanna's warm and friendly personality made it feel like I was designing my tiny with one of my friends.

I finally have my tiny and beautiful place to park it. My next cruise is to Alaska and I hope it's even better than all the TV shows I used to watch. This time I get to come home to my tiny sanctuary and I couldn't be more grateful.



The bathroom is equipped with a Sanicompact macerating toilet making this tiny house RV ready for a traditional sewer connection as well as the ability to be semi off-grid with black water collection.







A-Frame Tiny House Plans

Alexis

[Click Here](#)



10 Helpful Rules to Own Less Stuff

Owning less stuff is freeing, refreshing, and liberating.

It allows us to spend more time, money, and energy on the things in life that matter most and bring us real lasting joy and meaning.

But even when we want to own less, and can see through **the empty promises of consumerism**, actually applying that desire to our stuff can be tricky.



This is a website full of motivation and practical ideas to help you own less. If you're new, I suggest starting with my **Most Popular Posts**.

But for today, I want to lay out ten rules to help you own less.

Will these ten rules solve all of your decluttering questions? I probably wouldn't go that far.

But I do think you will find all ten helpful in your desire to own less. And the more you apply them to your home, the less you will own (both now and into the future).

10 Helpful Rules to Own Less Stuff

1. The “Overflowing Space” Rule

Whenever a space begins to overflow, it's a sign to declutter. Regularly assess areas like closets, drawers, shelves, and storage units.

If they're filled beyond capacity, it's time to thin out. And if *every* space in your home is overflowing, start with the easiest, most-lived space and **get started there**.

2. The “Past Its Life” Rule

Items that represent a past version of yourself or are from past seasons of life—whether it's clothes

that no longer fit your style, hobbies you no longer pursue, or items needed when your kids were younger—can be let go.

Additionally, this makes room for items that **resonate with who you are now**.

3. The “If I Own More Than One” Rule

Anytime you notice **duplicates** in your home, consider it a great opportunity to minimize. Choose the best and let go of the rest.

This rule applies to everything from kitchen gadgets to clothing, towels to coffee mugs, and Tupperware to scissors. Reduce redundancy and free up space.

4. The “Cost Doesn't Count” Rule

Don't hold onto items just because they were expensive.

The money is already spent and keeping something you don't use doesn't bring that value back. Even worse, they tend to make us feel guilty every time we see them.

Plus, they could bring someone else joy once you decide to remove them.

5. The “Yearly Review” Rule

This is a super-practical rule to help

you determine necessity: if you haven't used something in the past year, chances are you won't need it in the future.

This is especially true for clothing and gadgets.

6. The “Borrow Rather Than Own” Rule

Instead of purchasing items you'll use only once or twice, consider borrowing or renting them.

This reduces clutter and also saves money.

I know this is crazy thinking nowadays, but if a neighbor or family member owns the thing you need to use, you don't need to buy your own.

7. The “Single Item, Multiple Use” Rule

Opt for items that can serve multiple purposes, particularly in the kitchen. There used to be a decluttering website when I first started blogging that created a satirical list of “unitaskers” (things like [banana slicers](#)). It was always hilarious the items they would find to feature. Avoid unitaskers.

This not only saves space but also simplifies your setup, making cooking more enjoyable.





8. The “Shopping Holiday” Rule

One month, every year, decide to buy nothing but groceries and consumables.

This one month, done annually, will do wonders to help you get ahead in your budget (just imagine getting a credit card statement once/year with \$0 due).

But more than that, it will help reset your spending for the rest of the year. Plus, when you call it a “Holiday,” that just sounds fun doesn’t it?

9. The “Fad Filter” Rule

Be critical of trendy items that often promise more than they deliver. Fads come and go quickly (think: Beanie Babies, Stanley Cups, Fidget Spinners, Hard Rock Cafe T-shirts. Cold Plunge Tubs) and rarely offer any lasting benefit to our lives —other than proving that we can

buy whatever everyone else is buying.

This rule helps you avoid accumulating items that quickly become obsolete or lose their appeal.

10. The “Clear Counters” Rule

Maintaining clear countertops not only enhances the look of your kitchen but also makes it more functional and enjoyable to use.

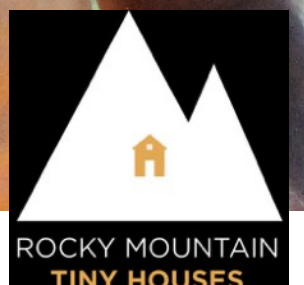
This rule encourages maintaining cleanliness and order daily.

These ten rules, I believe, if you apply them in your home, will bring about a brand new way of thinking about possessions. In fact, by following just a few of them, you’ll find it easier to make decisions about what stays and what goes.

And trust me: You’ll love owning less.

EASING THE EDGES

A NEW BUILDER SERIES BY GREG PARHAM
OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN TINY HOUSES



The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra

-Jimmy Johnson

As a tiny house builder, tiny house dweller, and overall tiny house enthusiast, I have seen a lot of tiny houses in person since joining the movement back in 2012. Some builds are extremely nice. Some of them are absolutely horrendous, or if I'm being nice, they just leave a bit more to be desired. Most tiny house builds are what I would call "average".

In general, these middle-of-the-road abodes are still well-built, safe, functional, and attainable in price. There is likely very little wrong with them, if anything at all. Yet, there tends to be something that is "missing". Some kind of secret sauce that differentiates an average build from a really nice build. Most folks can distinguish this difference in quality, yet have a hard time explaining why such a build is nicer.

In my career as a custom tiny house designer/builder, I believe this secret sauce comes down to three things: Design, Materials, Execution. Design is a very subjective discussion, and something I could write a whole other series on, so I'm not going to divulge much in this arena with this series.

Material selection can also be a bit subjective, but I think most would agree that solid white oak flooring is nicer than cheap laminate flooring- quartz counters are higher quality than formica- a tiled shower is more exquisite than fiberglass reinforced panels, etc. A lot of people swear that

plywood sheathing is superior to OSB, even though this is a detail you'll never see. When working with a customer to help them select materials, I try my best to be unbiased. I explain the costs, weight, time to install, function, and any maintenance concerns so they can decide what is best for their situation. In these regards, it is a tad easier to quantify material choices.

This leaves the final, and often most overlooked consideration-execution. Attention to detail is everything. It starts with the trailer, moves into framing, utilities, insulation, interior finishes, exterior weatherproofing, all the way to the ridge cap. Of course, this is a generalization, and I'm forgoing details about details in the interest of time here, but it's also the reason this fine publication has agreed to let me break this novel into a mini-series!

To begin this exploration of finely executed details, I'll start with why I'm dubbing the series "Easing the Edges". Any house design with nicer casework, such as window returns/casing, baseboards, built-ins, custom cabinetry, etc. are inevitably going to require the installer to rip stock down to a specified size.

A good example is in builds where the customer wants wood casing for the windows. One could very well go buy some 1x2s or 1x4s, slap them up, and call it good. However, 1x2 lumber from big box stores tends to be for furring strips, and

not so much for finish work. 1x4s can be had in better condition, but they tend to look too wide for the smaller proportions of tiny houses. When I see 1x4 casing in a tiny house, it's a dead giveaway that not much thought went into the end result and how this trim will affect the overall feel of the space.

The solution? Take a 1x6 and rip it in half, yielding a board that is now 2.75" wide. For most builds, this width is spot on! But, it could be even better! You could then re-saw the thickness of the board in half such that a 3/4" thick board becomes two pieces at about 5/16" thick after deducting the saw kerf. I personally think the thinner profile also lends itself better to tiny house proportions. Another benefit is that if you are working with an expensive stock, say cherry or maple, you've just doubled your coverage!

But what happens when you run a nice tight-grain piece of wood through a table saw, jointer, or planer? It leaves a sharp, square edge. An inexperienced woodworker probably wouldn't think to address this, at least until they receive a nice paper cut or a few splinters to the digits! The solution? Ease the edges! This is the act of taking some sandpaper and carefully running it along the square edge so that it rounds over just a tad. One could also set up a 1/8" radius cove bit on a router and run along the board edge. There are instances where this is preferable, but most of the time, applying some 80 and 120-grit sandpaper by hand is the best way to go about it.

The end result is so gratifying. Not only are you eliminating the sharp edge, and the possibility of splintering, but it looks and feels nice. The finish has more of a surface to adhere to rather than a knife edge. It's a seemingly small, yet profound detail that makes a huge difference in the overall build quality.







There are literally hundreds of micro details just like this in any tiny house build. While I'm not at liberty to dissect each and every one, I've selected a few topics for upcoming publications that are more common, and hopefully you the reader will find worthwhile. If there is enough

interest, the esteemed editor and I have even thrown around the idea of some Q&A in this series, so don't be shy to reach out if you have a burning question others might also find helpful.

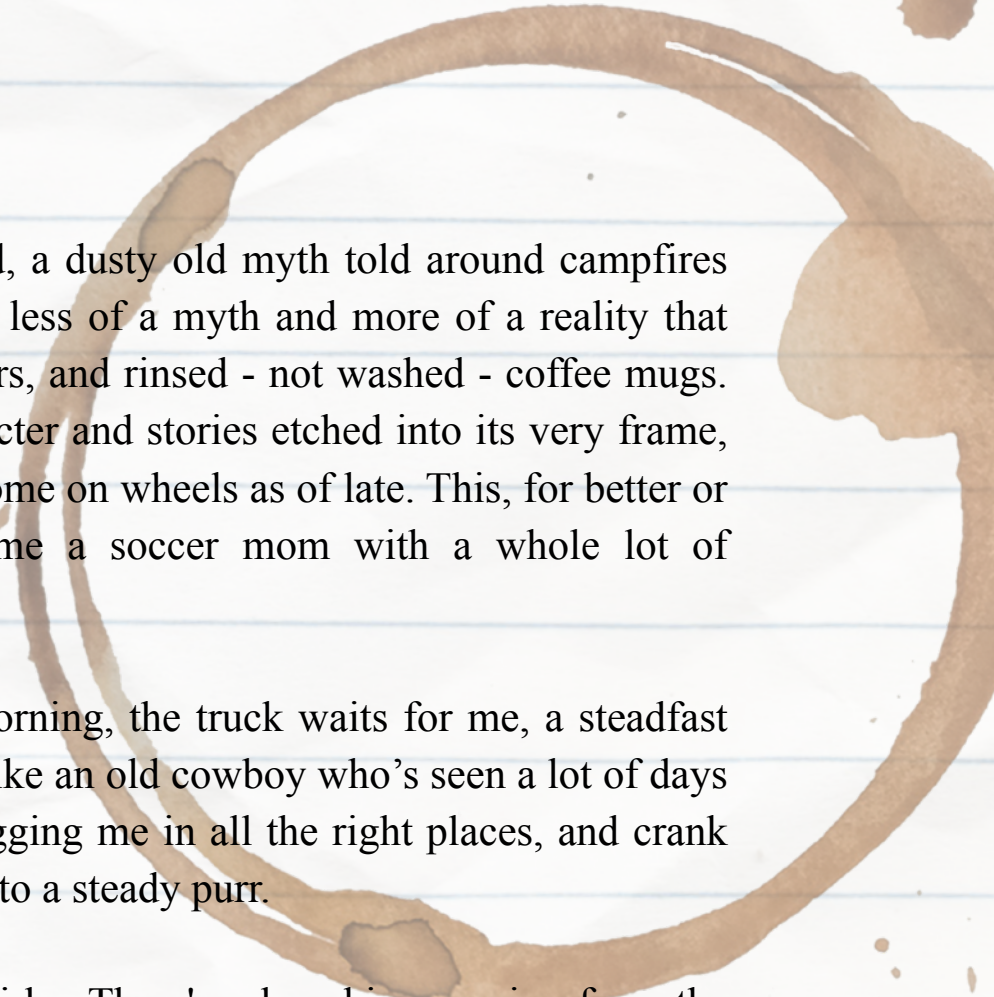
Until next time...





Dusty Roads

Written By Andrew M. Odom



There's a certain romance to life on the road, a dusty old myth told around campfires and enshrined in country songs. For me, it's less of a myth and more of a reality that smells faintly of hay, gas station air fresheners, and rinsed - not washed - coffee mugs. My truck, a Ford F250 Crew Cab with character and stories etched into its very frame, has become less of a vehicle and more of a home on wheels as of late. This, for better or worse, is the story of my life. Just call me a soccer mom with a whole lot of testosterone!

When I step out of the house in the early morning, the truck waits for me, a steadfast companion. It's got that look of ruggedness, like an old cowboy who's seen a lot of days but still stands tall. I clamber in, the seat hugging me in all the right places, and crank the engine to life. It comes to life and eases into a steady purr.

Driving it every day, you get to know its quirks. There's a knocking coming from the exhaust, a groan when you have to move into 4WD and a windy sound from the passenger window when you hit seventy on the highway. But it's these quirks that make it feel like home, the familiar idiosyncrasies that you learn to love. I can almost hear it whispering to me, "Just another mile, buddy, just another mile."

The sun visor tells its own story, plastered with stickers collected over the years. There's a faded one letting folks know I voted, another saying I support Carolina businesses and a cheap necklace charm of a steer skull. Each knick-knack is a memory, a moment captured and stuck up there to remind me of where we've been. Tucked into the instrument panel are old photos, yellowed with age and frayed at the edges. One shows my wife on her prom night (before I knew her), another of my wife at the beach, and my favorite—a snapshot of my daughter, grinning with a gap-toothed smile, just looking for an adventure of her own.

Dora - the F250 - isn't just for getting me from point A to B; it's a workhorse in the truest sense. Behind it, I haul a small tagalong trailer more often than not, a modest but sturdy companion that rarely sways but does its share of clattering. Inside is Romeo, my daughter's young paint gelding. His coat is a patchwork of white and sorrel, a vivid display that's earned him the name. He's really handsome, Romeo is, with his curious eyes and energetic spirit. He loads well and seems to enjoy our adventures. We've made a hundred or more trips together now, and I swear, sometimes he looks at me through the slats with a knowing eye, as if to say, "We're in this together."

I've seen all kinds of weather from Dora's cab—rain that lashes against the windows and summer sun that turns the interior into an EZ Bake Oven. In those moments, the

truck's AC becomes a savior, its coolness chilling me to my bones while the windshield wipers beat a rhythm against the afternoon showers. And when I look in the rearview mirror at my daughter or even in the side mirrors back at Romeo, they are both cozy in their own compartments. It's at those moments I feel a kinship with them. We're all three at the mercy of the road and the elements, travelers bound together by the hum of tires on asphalt.

But the truck isn't just for me and Romeo. Over the years, it has carried a whole cast of characters—my daughter and her friends, their chatter filling the cab with the innocence of youth and the noise of unbridled enthusiasm. My dad has settled into the passenger seat for long drives, his stories and our talk of the state of the union turning the miles into a journey through family history. My wife's laughter lingers faintly in the air, a reminder of our road trips with the radio playing softly. And there's my trusty mutt, Levi, who's spent countless rides in the back seat, his hearty panting echoing above the noise of the world outside the windows. Each passenger has left their mark—a forgotten toy under the seat, a stray earring in the cup holder, a crumpled map in the glove compartment. The truck has become a patchwork quilt of these shared moments, each thread woven with laughter, memories, and the simple act of moving through life together.

Work, too, is often done from the truck. The center console has become my desk, the glove compartment my filing cabinet. I've made calls, scribbled notes, and even opened the laptop perched on the tailgate or awkwardly sitting behind the steering wheel. There's a satisfaction to it, a feeling of freedom that comes from turning my truck into a mobile office. The world outside may change—fields turning to forests, towns melting into countryside—but inside, it's a constant, a place where I can get things done.

The back seat is a testament to my daughter's growing up, a little museum of her childhood. A coloring book, its pages half-filled with crayon scrawls, lies in the seat back pocket. A few stale French fries have somehow managed to evade every cleanup, and a lone hair clip gleams from its spot on the shoulder harness. Press-on nails, once an electric blue, now scattered and dulled, still carry the echo of giggles and glam sessions. These remnants, these little pieces of her life, remind me of all the moments we've shared, the rides to school, the late-night runs for ice cream, the quiet talks about her day.

I keep extra clothes in the back, folded under the seat. You never know when you might need to swap out a shirt soaked in sweat or put on a clean pair of socks. A toothbrush and toothpaste, tucked into the center console, have saved me more times than I can

count, freshening me up for impromptu meetings or unexpected visits. There's a ritual to it all, a daily routine that keeps me grounded even as I roam.

People sometimes ask if I ever get tired of it, the constant driving, the makeshift living quarters. They wonder if I grow tired of driving. But they don't see the beauty in it, the way the world unfurls through the windshield, the sun rising and setting on an ever-changing horizon.

Every day is a new adventure, every mile a story waiting to be told. And in the hum of the engine, the creak of the trailer, and the rhythm of the road, I've found a kind of peace. My truck may not have four walls and a roof, but it has a heart, a soul, a spirit that matches mine. Together, we roam the roads, bound by a shared journey, a mutual understanding that this life, with all its bumps and turns, is where we're meant to be.

So here's to my truck, my trusty steed, my home on wheels. May the road rise to meet us, the sun shine upon us, and the miles stretch out ahead like a welcoming embrace. Because in the end, it's not the destination that matters—it's the journey, and the truck that takes me there.





CUSTOM BUILDERS MOVABLE ROOTS

PRICE DROP ALERT

We are trying to make room for our upcoming custom builds to finish out 2024 and into 2025. We're offering an incredible deal on our existing inventory of the 20' Jojo Bean and the 24' Jojo Bean.

- 20' Jojo Bean: Now Only \$69,999
- 24' Jojo Bean: Now Only \$79,999

Both models are ready to ship immediately!



AFFORDABLE OVERLAND



By Christina Nellemann / Photos Courtesy of Oru Designs

“WE WANTED TO CREATE AN
AWESOME CAMPER THAT WE
COULD TAKE ANYWHERE
AND HAVE IT AS
COMFORTABLE AND SIMPLE
TO USE AS POSSIBLE.”



If you are looking to break into the overland world, but don't want to invest a lot of money or DIY expertise, take a look at the all-season lightweight truck campers from [Oru Designs](#). Not only are these campers custom-made for any truck, but the basic versions are very affordable in an otherwise pricey industry.

Located in San Marcos, California, Oru Designs is a team of off-road and camping enthusiasts who design and build custom lightweight truck campers for any truck and for any adventure.

Oru offers two different designs. The Bruin and the larger Bruin XL are pop-up, hardwall campers with all-season aluminum composite tent walls, and high-strength yet lightweight aluminum construction. The Tenfold is a classic wedge-shaped camper with tented sides.

The prices are what might be the best features of these campers. The basic Weekender Bruin camper starts at only \$8,499 and includes all the standard features including a queen bed platform, mesh windows, and an insulated ceiling. Even better, the standard Tenfold only costs \$5,999.



The campers mount to the top of any truck bed rails. The design allows for the truck bed to be open and available to load with gear, tools, or equipment. The bed platform can be stowed away when not in use and allows for full standing room inside.

Various upgrades for both designs include additional access doors and windows, memory foam mattresses, and vent fans. Storage options such as MOLLE-compatible panels are also available for all designs and versions.

Steve with Oru Designs was so kind to give us a little more insight into the Oru Designs truck campers and company.



WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR ORU DESIGNS COME FROM?

We wanted to create an awesome camper that we could take anywhere and have it as comfortable and simple to use as possible. We knew we didn't want a thin mattress and be forced to move panels to get in and out of bed and be forced to take the bedding and pillows on and off each day.

HOW ARE YOUR DESIGNS UNIQUE FROM OTHER TRUCK CAMPERS/TOPPERS?

The hybrid hard wall is the only one on the market that allows you to have all of the benefits of a hard wall system while allowing it to stay sealed while opening and closing. That feature is especially nice in inclement weather.

WHICH MODEL AND PACKAGE IS THE MOST POPULAR AND WHY?

The Bruin with barn doors is the most popular as it has the hybrid hard walls and the barn doors allow you to easily get in and out of the camper and are very utilitarian as you can remove them easily.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR ACCESSORIES AND OPTIONS?

The insulation kit, awning mounts, and roof racks are the most popular.

FOR SOMEONE JUST STARTING WITH ONE OF YOUR DESIGNS, DO YOU HAVE ANY HELPFUL CAMPING, OVERLAND, OR GEAR TIPS?

Follow the rules while you are in the backcountry so we can enjoy it for years to come!







People, Not Brick & Mortar

A house and a home, while often used interchangeably, have distinct differences.

A house is a physical structure, a building made of materials like wood, bricks, and glass. It is a place of shelter, providing the basic necessities for living. However, a house remains merely a property without the essence of warmth and belonging that transforms it into a home.

A home, in contrast, embodies a sense of comfort, security, and emotional connection. It is filled with memories, personal touches, and the presence of loved ones. It is a space where individuals or families create and share their

lives, imbuing it with their unique spirit and character.

Photographs, when devoid of this essence, can often feel cold and impersonal. They may capture the technical details of a house, but they fail to convey the warmth and love that make it a home. Without the context of lived experiences and genuine connections, such images lack the vibrancy and emotional depth that transform mere structures into cherished spaces where life unfolds meaningfully.

The following pages show how a tiny house can become a small home just with a little life and a little bit of evidence of such.



Tracey Robin Jones Dedicatoria lives in a 20' THOW built by Perch & Nest that she had made the center of her small farm complete with her beloved horses.



(this page and next) Owned by Grant Brazil and Callan Charron, this Roost36 is located in Hendersonville, NC

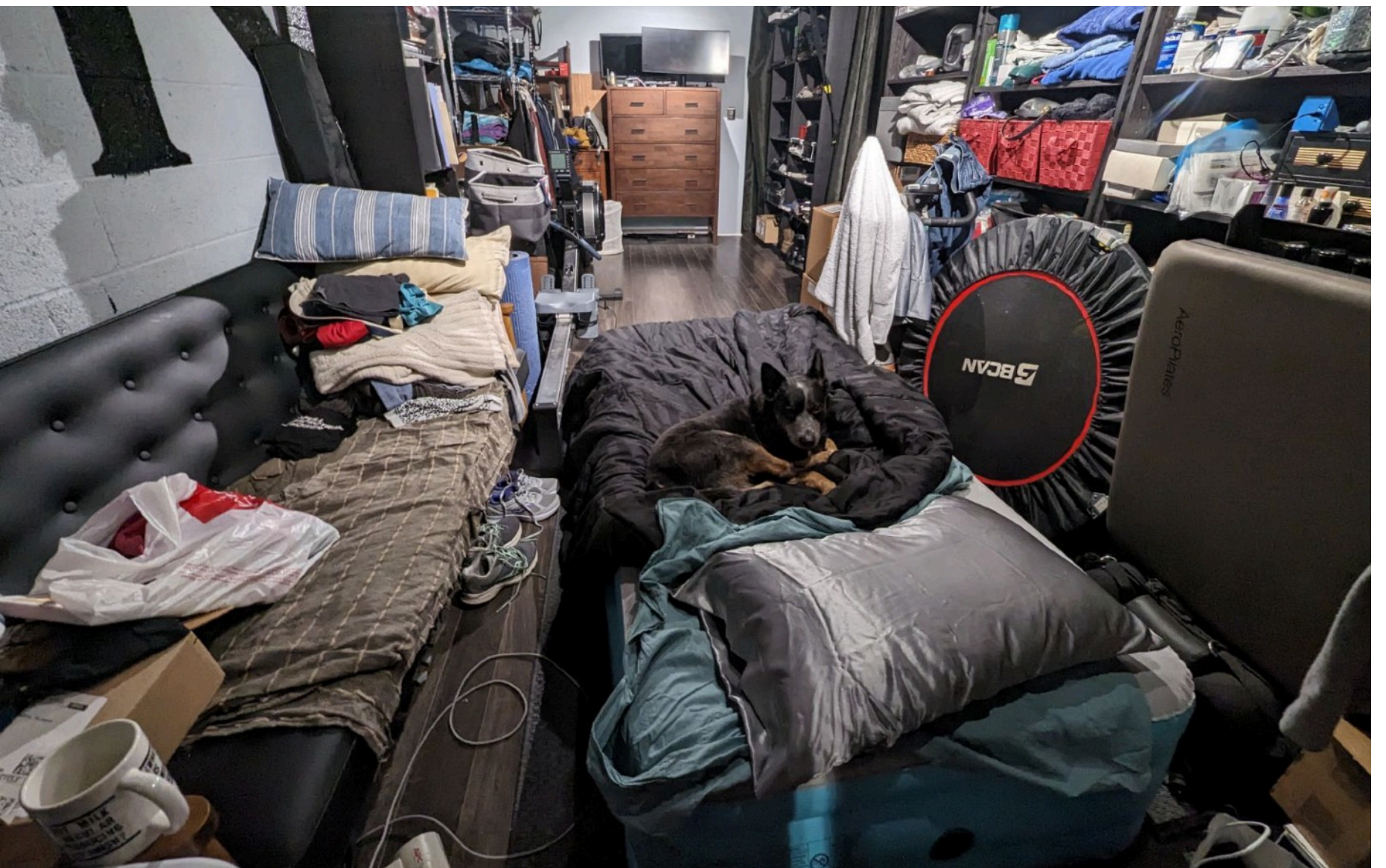




Owned by Mollie Bradford and featured in Tiny House Magazine issues 132 and 133, the Tiny Cottage, a Nordic minimalist-inspired retreat tucked away in the woodlands of North Carolina, is perfect for pre-wedding and styled photoshoot preparations, or picnics and workshops on the patio, which boasts charming views of the properties nearby chapel across the meadows.



Author Laura M. LaVoie and her partner Matt built their tiny house in 2013. Since then their lives have transitioned them to a different location and they use their THOW as a getaway. This is a view of what the house looks like when not lived in everyday.



This small space is a transition location for tiny houser T.J. Butler as she and her husband move from their tiny house for the summer into a space in their photography studio. Necessity breeds creativity!



The Little Picket Fence House built in 1940 is now lived in by author Emily Kearcher and her family of four, as well as their orange cat. The small home is roughly 1500 sq.ft.



Just before photographer Ariel McGlothlin moved out of her Fy Nyth tiny house she and her husband is showing their transition into a small house on foundation. The THOW was lived in full-time for 9 years and now serves as a guest house.



Kris Ward is a retired paratrooper and lives in his THOW at a private airport in Raeford, NC. His space serves numerous roles as he lives, works, and works out in his 36' long tiny house.



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