

Bringing Tiny Ones Into a Tiny House



By Heather Lusk

A lot of people are curious to know how Lindsay and Jared Knight are sleeping.

Four months ago the couple brought twins into their tiny home and Lindsay said she is continually asked how the four manage sleeping arrangements and schedules.

As far as they know the Knights are the first couple to bring infant twins home to a tiny house. In the process they've discovered an appreciation for time together as a family and can't imagine needing to walk across the room to grab baby wipes.

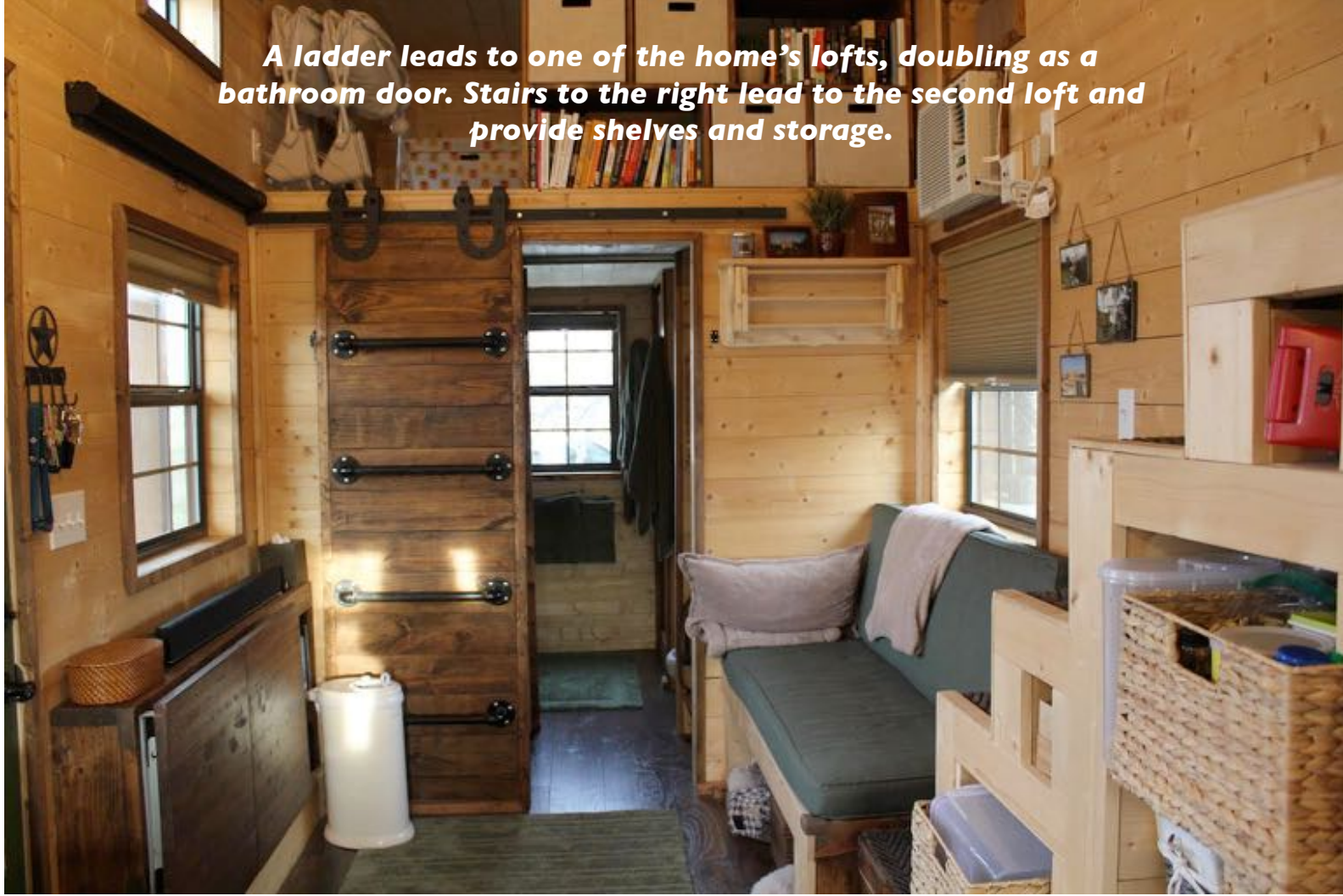
The initial decision to downsize was a financial one. The Knight's best chance to conceive a child was through in-vitro fertilization with a single cycle costing as much as \$30,000.

"We had gotten a lot of the things that we wanted in life," said Jared Knight. "Having that major bump in the road smacked us out of that trance."

"We have this huge house and huge yard. Would I rather be spending my time investing in a relationship or traveling?" said Lindsay Knight. "Not being able to check that next box caused both of us to reevaluate life,"

Jared and Lindsay Knight prepared their 310 square foot home for twins before the babies were born.

A ladder leads to one of the home's lofts, doubling as a bathroom door. Stairs to the right lead to the second loft and provide shelves and storage.



A visit to Europe in 2014 opened their eyes to the possibility of living on a smaller scale while staying with family members. “Most other places in the world don’t have these sprawling houses. They would have large families in small spaces and everyone was totally happy,” said Lindsay Knight.

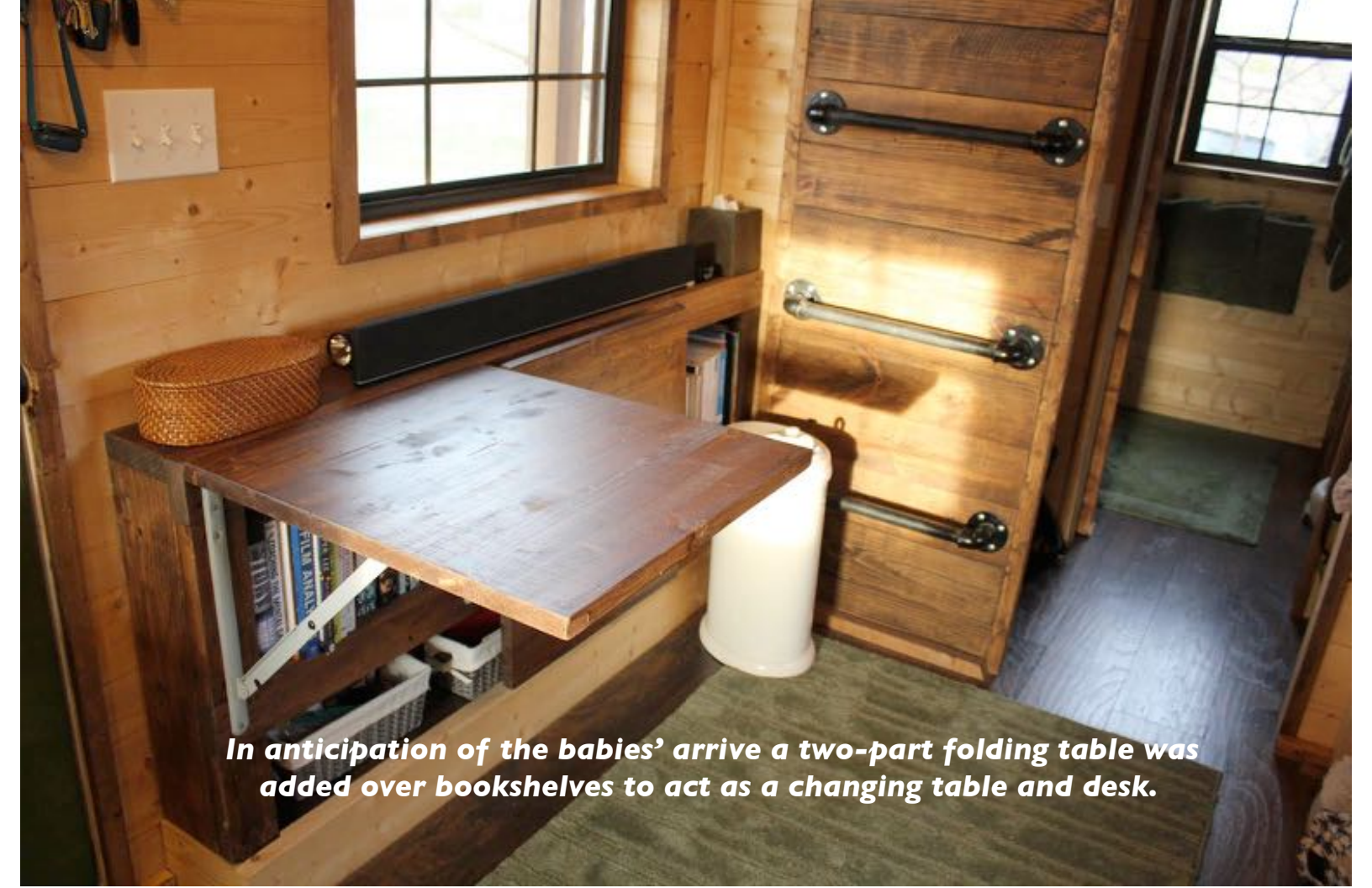
They put their 2,000 square foot house in Texas on the market and it sold almost immediately necessitating a temporary move with nearby family members to evaluate next steps.

The interim move turned out to be a blessing, forcing them to pare down possessions which the couple feels was a huge step toward their tiny home. They found a half acre of land and a custom builder to give them exactly what they wanted in designing their 310 square foot home.

In 2015 they moved into their new space but IVF wasn’t going as smoothly. After several failed rounds and much heartache, they were “cautiously optimistic” when hearing two heartbeats after a transfer approximately a year ago.

Throughout her pregnancy Lindsay Knight received advice from lots of parents but those living in larger houses admitted they had “too much stuff,” she said.

In particular Lindsay Knight discovered that items for twins required more space than for single babies, so she keeps the double stroller in her car and generally only has one of other truly necessary items.

A photograph of a rustic wooden interior. A two-part folding table is mounted over a wooden bookshelf. The table is made of light-colored wood and is currently in its extended position. A white cylindrical object, possibly a lamp or a container, sits on the table. The background shows a wooden door with three horizontal metal handles and a window with a grid pattern. The walls are made of vertical wood planks.

In anticipation of the babies' arrive a two-part folding table was added over bookshelves to act as a changing table and desk.

The Knights have discovered they now do more laundry than expected, but still have more clothing for their children than needed.

As for sleeping arrangements there is a lack of space for cribs and bassinets so the Knights use baby boxes popular in Scandinavia. The cardboard boxes have been provided to Finnish mothers for nearly a century and can be used until the babies are roughly six months old.

The Knights currently sleep with the babies in their boxes in the guest loft accessible by a narrow stairway. Their own bedroom loft is accessible by ladder which Jared admits isn't conducive to carrying infants without strapping them to his back.

Eventually the stairway loft will be the dedicated area for the twin girls, recently baby-proofed with a plexiglass wall and netting above. Most items in the home are dual purpose such as the folding changing table which doubles as a dining table.

If they had to do differently Jared Knight would have opted for a second staircase instead of a ladder to the loft to better utilize the entire space. Lindsay Knight would change the changing table area and storage around it if she'd known how often it would be used.

“We only know our type of crazy when it comes to raising kids,” said Jared Knight. “Everybody has their trials and tribulations. Ours seems normal.”

A plexiglass gate works as a door to the second loft for keeping children in and pets out.




At some point the Knights may move into a slightly larger home or may add a second house to their property so that the children have their own separate space, but they want to stay small.

“Our goal is to go as long as we can,” said Lindsay Knight. “I feel like in this stage of their life it’s been easier than I expected in a tiny house.”



The home's changing table is multi purpose.



Most of the house can be monitored from the loft's view.

Through Lindsay Knight's blog, TinyHouseWithTwins.com, she has shared some of her journey and thoughts on baby products. "Recommendation for twins—only buy one and test it first. Recommendation for twins in a tiny house—you honestly only need one of everything."

Lindsay's top products worth the space they occupy:

- Kinde Bottle Warmer - great for fast, warm bottles for two hungry babies
- Boon Drying Rack - for the constant cycle of washing and drying
- Wipes Dispenser - opens and closes with one hand and stores multiple packs of wipes
- Baby swing, bouncer or rocker - every infant is different so whatever is small yet soothes the baby
- A microwave with Medela steam cleaning bags - for easy cleaning, and reheating the meals that generous friends might bring

Photos submitted by the Knight family