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Not long ago, life for Brendan H. Banks and Kelly Shea meant subways, taxis, and the punishing pace of New York City. Kelly had worked on global ad campaigns for Ralph Lauren before launching a freelance career as a prop stylist, set designer, and lifestyle writer. Brendan's passion for photography led to plenty of stimulating work as a director and filmmaker. But a trip to Rhode Island set the wheels of "what if" in motion and the duo realized that they wanted a life less ordinary. It was time to leave New York City behind.

The best means of escape turned out to be a 30-year-old Westfalia Vanagon in need of a major overhaul. Many camper vans have names, and Brendan and Kelly's is no exception: she's known as Bernice. Bernice was often a troublesome companion; Brendan made over a dozen dives under the hood to fix her up on the road. Kelly describes being in the camper as the most tiring and rewarding experience of their lives.

Built in 1984, the T3 had 217,679 miles on the clock. The previous owner had made a few, small modifications to it, including a



- ↑ Morning in the Black Hills
- ↗ Bear Lake, Utah
- High Sierras, California

