

What Are the Odds?

A miracle in Wyoming.

Words by Jed Hirschi. Photos by Rachel Rose.

I got a call from the girls around six in the evening. There was a mare that had been in labor for about 20 minutes and nothing was happening. I finished up my chores and headed out. By the time I got there she had foaled the tiniest baby I had ever seen. He was either premature or something else was at play. This mare always had big stout foals no matter the stud she was bred to and this little runt didn't match. She was still lying down so I felt inside her and was met by another set of little hooves. I quickly pulled out the second foal only to find he was smaller than the first. I bet these two together weighed around 80 pounds soaking wet.

It didn't take the old mare long to get both babies up and nursing. I knew twins in horses seldom happened. I just didn't realize how rare it was to have *two* healthy foals. There is a one in 50,000 chance that two eggs will get fertilized. Of those, 80 percent will abort both fetuses before full term. Of the remaining 20 percent, most have health problems and one or both foals die.

To have a set of twins that needed no vet care is a miracle few people ever get to see. These two boys are doing well. They are up close to the barn with Mom getting extra oats and lots of visitors. In a time with the coronavirus, fake news, and reality TV, it's refreshing to see God show off in the most beautiful ways. ■

Jed Hirschi comes from a long line of cowboys. He and his wife, Rachel Rose, have been working for Dr. H.B. Woody Bartlett on his Wyoming ranch for 15 years.



Heads or tails?

TOP: The brotherly love is real. When one of the boys ventures too far, no need for Mom to worry, the other brother nickers him in.

BOTTOM: "My brother is such a copycat."