



UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

"Hoofprints in Saguaro Shadows" holds a deeply personal significance for me, reflecting my belief in the transformative power of enlightenment through storytelling. It is my intention to shed light on the myriad of human experiences tied to the ongoing crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border, advocating for empathy as the cornerstone of genuine solutions. My time spent living in Mexico offered me profound insights into its culture and people. Notably, during the aftermath of 9/11, I was touched by the overwhelming solidarity expressed by the Mexican people towards the U.S., with many voicing their willingness to join the armed forces in support.

Though the narrative of the book is crafted within the realm of fiction, it is deeply rooted in and inspired by real-life stories. The character embodied by Luis, for example, bears a strong resemblance to the story of an elite cutting horse trainer. This connection is further personal to me through "Samson," the name of my young stallion, whose involvement in a pivotal first chapter scene echoes a harrowing experience my mother survived, thanks to her horse, when faced with an assault. And the catamaran story really happened to a friend almost exactly as portrayed.

The genesis of this book was fueled by a desire to touch hearts and minds through storytelling, fostering compassion and understanding among a diverse array of individuals impacted by the border crisis, including ranchers, migrants, and law enforcement. My aim is to highlight the complexity of these experiences and encourage a more empathetic perspective.

SHAY TAGGERT

A u t h o r

Shay Taggert is an emerging voice in the landscape of contemporary fiction, renowned for her debut novel, "Hoofprints in Saguaro Shadows." The novel, praised for its intricate plot and compelling characters, delves into the life of Rye Dalton, a character as complex and enduring as the desert landscape she calls home.

Born and raised in the American West, Shay's upbringing on a family ranch provided her with a profound connection to the land and its stories, a theme vividly reflected in her writing. With a background rich in the art of horse training and participation in cow horse events, Shay brings authenticity and a deep sense of place to her narratives. Her experiences, from the dusty arenas of local competitions to the serene expanse of the ranchlands, serve as the backdrop for stories that explore themes of loyalty, resilience, and the complexities of human and environmental relationships.

Shay attended a local university where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Her academic journey was marked by a voracious appetite for reading, drawing inspiration from a wide range of authors and genres, from the gritty realism of Ayn Rand to the evocative landscapes of Sue Monk Kidd.

Beyond her writing, Shay remains deeply connected to her roots, often found on horseback exploring the trails and canyons that pepper the rugged country of the West. This connection to the land and her unwavering dedication to her craft make Shay Taggert a distinctive voice in contemporary literature.

Shay's work reflects her belief in the power of stories to bridge divides and illuminate the shared human experiences that connect us all. As she continues to write, Shay Taggert is undoubtedly an author to watch, her future works eagerly anticipated by fans and critics alike.