



LIFE'S A GAMBLE,  
SOMETIMES A CRUEL ONE

*Bea & Charlie seek hope  
in the Pony Express,  
but the truth they discover  
on the trail could break them*

“Plenty of action, a tender romance, and a sturdy female hero make for a fun read.”

*-Kirkus Reviews*

### TO PURCHASE

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# HEART OF GRIT

## *A Young Adult Novel*

In *Heart of Grit*, teens Beatrice and Charlie rekindle a lost friendship just in time to see each other through their toughest trials. As they set out on the Pony Express trail to mend what's broken, they're met with corruption and injustice outside their small town. Discerning friend from foe becomes as crucial as knowing whether to face evil head-on or turn a blind eye.

In this pre-Civil War divided country, neutrality isn't an option, and they must decide not just where they stand, but who they stand with. In the solace of their friendship, they could possibly find something new and yet so familiar.

### DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Expectations vs. forging one's own way
- Family honor vs. personal triumph
- Propaganda: Who controls society?
- Civil liberties: Progress vs. regression
- Is it possible to rescue someone else's reputation?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Shelli Sivert grew up minimally supervised in a small town called Pleasant Grove, to which she credits her wild imagination and storytelling spirit. Studying English in college deepened her love for literature. She has a special affinity for a well-crafted essay and has taught hundreds of college-bound students the skill. She lives in the Arizona desert with her husband, two sons, and dog Luna. *Heart of Grit* is her debut novel.