The Last Shot" is a true basketball story. In it, you will find an extraordinary coach, Coach Charles Strong, a legend in his own time. He takes a group of talented young men and builds them into something greater than the sum of their individual parts: a team. You will see his conviction about how to play winning basketball, and you will understand the process that made the 1979 - 1980 Luxora Panthers into a winning basketball team. More importantly, between the lines, you will understand how Coach Charles Strong was able to impact our lives far beyond the basketball court. Forget that we come from a small town in Arkansas that few people have ever heard of. Remember only what the game of basketball means to people all over the world. For the young men playing for Coach Charles Strong, basketball was our world. In a larger sense, this is a very personal and cherished story that makes the effort to keep something alive, a memory. It is a beautiful moment in time I shared with some very special people from a very special small town called Luxora, Arkansas, my hometown, population 1,317. Don't bother looking for it on the map. Be content to know it is located about 4 miles east of Osceola, Arkansas on Highway 61... or 12 miles west of Blytheville, Arkansas, same highway. One of the most defining characteristics of a small town in Arkansas is the quality and traditions of its local high school sports teams. In 1980, I had the great fortune to be a member of two of Luxora's greatest sports teams ever: the State Championship track and field team of 1980 and the State Runner-Up basketball team of 1980. I graduated on May 17, 1980 and since I left, I can count on one hand the number of times I've been back to Luxora. This book, about the Luxora Panthers basketball team of 1980, is a memoir of sorts, pieced together from my memories and from news clippings about our team. It's a way for me to go back, in my mind's eye, like a bird high in the sky, and look once again upon my Luxora, as I remember it to be. I thank you kindly, if you decide to join me on this journey back to Luxora, Arkansas, home of the mighty Luxora Panthers...

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