

THE LAST SHOT

A Play in One Act

By James Brady

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It's the last night of the basketball recruiting season and Coach Montgomery from Southwest Tennessee State University is trying to convince Dalton Garrison to sign a basketball scholarship. When the coach can't get a commitment from the young athlete, he applies a full court press and wins Dalton's mother. However, Mrs. Garrison wants her son to like the school. Dalton convinces her to wait until tomorrow and talk to Coach Bilecki from Kentucky A & M. Why is Dalton so set on Kentucky A & M? What has Coach Bilecki offered him? Coach Montgomery needs to sign Dalton in order to save his job. What can he do and how far will he go in order to convince Dalton? This unique play deals with a very real issue affecting high school and college students. Highly recommended for contest use.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

DALTON GARRISON: High school basketball player, age 17

MRS. GARRISON: His mother, in her early 30s.

COACH MONTGOMERY: Basketball coach, age 36.

PLACE: The Garrison's living room in Memphis.

TIME: The present.

SETTING

We are in the Garrison's living room. The only furniture is an old worn sofa, a homemade coffee table, an end table, and a chair. The room is the cheapest of government housing. There are two doors, one leading to the bathroom and the other leading to the kitchen. There are fresh flowers on the coffee table.

PROPS

COACH: Cup of coffee, 2 small cards, briefcase, letter, pen, college brochures, small notepad, watch.

MRS. GARRISON: Cup of coffee, tray with slices of pie and forks, watch.

DALTON: Pen and notepad.

SOUND EFFECTS: Phone ringing.

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: It is late evening. MRS. GARRISON and COACH MONTGOMERY are sitting on the sofa. DALTON is sitting in the chair with his legs stretched out in front of him.)

COACH: The advantage of Southwest is that it's a small school. *(Takes a sip of coffee)* Wooo mercy! That's good coffee. We only have 4,000 students. Everybody's friendly. Everybody knows each other. Dalton will get to know all of his classmates and professors.

MRS. GARRISON: Dalton's never been away from home. Like me, I guess. Never been much anywhere. A small school sounds good. How many students those other schools got, Dalton?

DALTON: Which one? We've talked to over a hundred schools.

MRS. GARRISON: That one you like.

DALTON: Kentucky A & M?

MRS. GARRISON: Yeah. How many they got?

DALTON: *(Shrugs)* Twenty thousand?

COACH: At least. Some of those big schools have forty or fifty thousand students.

MRS. GARRISON: Oh, my.

COACH: Can you imagine fifty thousand students? Wooo mercy! That's a lot of folks. Everybody walks around with their head down. Won't even give you the time of day. And nobody cares about you. Now at Southwest, we care about the students. Each student is something special and we give each one personal attention. *(Takes a sip of coffee)* Wooo mercy! That's good coffee. You know at one of those big schools, a young man could get lost.

MRS. GARRISON: I sure don't want him to get lost...and he better not forget where home is. He better not go off to school and forget about his mama. *(Looks at DALTON)* You better not forget about your mama.

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COACH: If he comes to Southwest, he'll be only 80 miles from Memphis. He can come home on the weekends when we're not playing a game or practicing.

MRS. GARRISON: (*Looks at DALTON*) He better come home.

DALTON: I'll come home...if I don't have to study.

MRS. GARRISON: Since when did you worry about studyin'? You can bring your books home and study right here.

COACH: He'll only be an hour and a half away.

MRS. GARRISON: (*To DALTON*) How far away did you say that other school is? Kentucky A & M.

COACH: It's in the northern part of Kentucky. You've got to go through Tennessee and almost through Kentucky. A couple of bus stops in Tennessee and you have to change buses in Kentucky. Probably take about twelve hours by bus.

MRS. GARRISON: (*To DALTON*) I thought you said it was two hours away.

DALTON: It is...if you fly.

MRS. GARRISON: Who's talking about flyin'? We talking about comin' home on weekends.

DALTON: You didn't —

MRS. GARRISON: On the bus!

COACH: (*To MRS. GARRISON*) If Dalton comes to Southwest, he'll be able to come home on weekends and you will be able to come to our home games.

MRS. GARRISON: I don't drive.

COACH: It's only an hour and a half bus ride. And we play a pre-season tournament against the University of Memphis in Memphis.

MRS. GARRISON: I don't go to the games.

COACH: Mrs. Garrison, you don't know what you're missing. The band playing and the fans cheering. And to be able to watch a player with a God-given talent like Dalton. Wooo mercy! All the excitement.

MRS. GARRISON: I don't need no excitement...I went one time and that was enough. Everybody yellin' and screamin'. Like to drove me crazy.

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DALTON: The state finals against Overton. The only game we lost all season.

COACH: Thirty-five and one is not too shabby.

DALTON: We should have won that game. We beat 'em by 20 points in our gym.

COACH: I saw the game at your gym. You scored 47 didn't you? *(DALTON nods.)* You were hotter than a two-dollar pistol.

MRS. GARRISON: I think I made him nervous.

DALTON: That wasn't why we lost the game.

MRS. GARRISON: You said it was the worst game you ever played.

DALTON: It was. But I wasn't nervous.

MRS. GARRISON: *(Softly to COACH MONTGOMERY)* I think I made him nervous. *(DALTON shakes his head. SHE takes a sip of coffee.)* So, I just stay home and watch TV.

COACH: I hear you. *(HE takes a sip of coffee.)* If Dalton comes to Southwest, you can watch him on national TV along with millions of other viewers. We play two games on ESPN. *(Takes two small cards out of his pocket and hands one to MRS. GARRISON and one to DALTON)* The games that are highlighted are on TV.

MRS. GARRISON: Thank you. *(Looks at the card)* St. Louis... Cincinnati...Dalton on TV. My, my. Won't that be somethin', Dalton?

DALTON: *(Looks at the card)* Do you play Kentucky A & M?

COACH: *(Shakes HIS head)* I call Coach Bilecki every year and try to schedule a game, but he won't play us.

MRS. GARRISON: Why not?

COACH: He says their schedule is full...but I think he's afraid of getting beat. The fans and alumni at Kentucky A & M don't take losing very well...especially to a Tennessee school.

MRS. GARRISON: So, Coach...uh...

DALTON: Bilecki.

MRS. GARRISON: ...is afraid—

DALTON: He ain't afraid of no Southwest.

MRS. GARRISON: Sounds like he is.

End of Freeview

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