

A SHOT AT FAITH



***Basketball was just a game; finding
out the truth became his goal.***



An original screenplay by: Carl D. Lord

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: *A SHOT AT FAITH*

LENGTH: FEATURE FILM

GENRE: DRAMA / SPORT

BUDGET: MID

LOGLINE

Faith and basketball inspire a forsaken young man to achieve a series of improbable goals, both on and off the hardwood with miraculous results.

(2023-24 MOVIE GUIDE AWARDS/KAIROS PRIZE TOP 3 FINALIST)

BACKSTORY

A *SHOT AT FAITH* was inspired by my own journey of purpose while overcoming the emotional scars of childhood abuse. Ultimately realizing my dream of becoming a college basketball player, my award-winning screenplay presents a riveting season of overwhelming challenges and unexpected encounters, culminating in a climactic ending of redemption, forgiveness, and ultimate triumph, leaving our audience cheering for more!

Carl D. Lord

KEY CHARACTERS



Mitchell Craig (17)

Mitchell, a reverent and prized basketball recruit has three goals. One. Earn the love of Betsy, his manic, single mother. Two. Uncover the heart-rending truth about his untold past. Three. Win a championship.



Betsy Craig (38)

Betsy's felonious and guilt-ridden past, fueled by her drug and alcohol addiction, conceals a dark family secret she can't let Mitchell discover.

SYNOPSIS

ACT 1

MITCHELL, learns he is sought by the "who's who" of major-college coaches, but is torn accepting a college scholarship or staying at home in hopes of rescuing his manic mother. Mitchell's love for BETSY, is unquestioned, but her demons of hatred and disdain peak during a pivotal jail scene when Mitchell visits her, furthering his confusion about leaving.

Mitchell prayerfully considers his options for the future, then accepts a basketball scholarship to a major university, where he breaks into the starting lineup, bringing renewed hope to a team of non-contenders. Along the way, he meets fellow freshman, EMILY FRASER, a compassionate member of the women's team. Becoming fast friends, he trusts Emily with his disturbing past while feeling something more as the season progresses.

ACT 2

Upon seeing Mitchell play during a nationally televised game, a mysterious fan, MARK SANDERS, (his estranged uncle), makes contact, requesting that they meet. Mitchell soon learns that his missing father, BOBBY, a former college-star himself, died five years earlier, but left Mitchell several mementos of their brief past along with an impassioned heartfelt message. Mark also reveals that Bobby had two goals: find his son and win a championship. Mitchell then learns that Betsy abducted him, and changed his identity when he was two years old to avoid an outstanding arrest warrant for possession of drugs. Aware of her son's discovery, vindictively, Betsy removes Mitchell from college as his team struggles to qualify for postseason play.

SYNOPSIS (CONT.)

Mitchell, devastated, struggles to forgive his mother, but eventually accepts the fact that God's ways are higher than his. As he continues to pray for Betsy, an unusual event jolts her into facing the reality that maybe she needs God in her life? Guilt-ridden, Betsy begins searching for answers while having Mitchell reinstated back to the team just before the regular-season ends.

ACT 3

Mitchell breathes new life into his undermanned teammates, helping his team storm through the national tournament and into the championship finals. After being seriously injured in the title game, Mitchell makes a dramatic recovery, inspiring his teammates to come back from an insurmountable deficit. Mitchell then hits the go-ahead shot with no time left, winning the national championship in honor of his late father's memory.

Mitchell realizes his final goal, and an even greater victory when Betsy, who has accepted Christ, asks for him to baptize her at a moving, down-by-the-river church service. The years of deception and hostility between Betsy and Mitchell are amazingly washed anew, demonstrating that true confession and forgiveness can repair even the most broken of relationships.



FILM COMPS

(Themes)

DRAMA

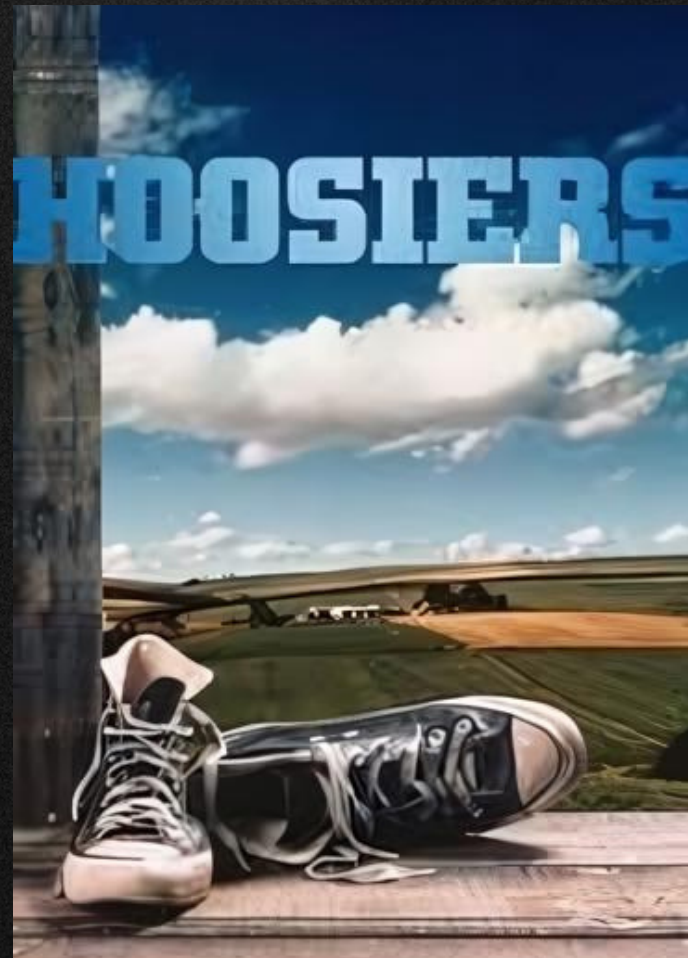
INSPIRATIONAL

SPORT

FAITH-BASED

OVERCOMING

REDEMPTION





WRITER'S BIO



Carl Lord's early love of literature began as a child after reading his first Hardy Boys mystery. Those early years of journaling and writing creative short stories have evolved into *Carl's* work appearing in national magazines, regional commercials, and local publications. Having completed multiple award-winning inspirational feature-length scripts, *Carl* has also written a fictional novel and a personal memoir.

With a background in college athletics, *Carl* is also an assistant track and cross-country coach at both the high school and college level.

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