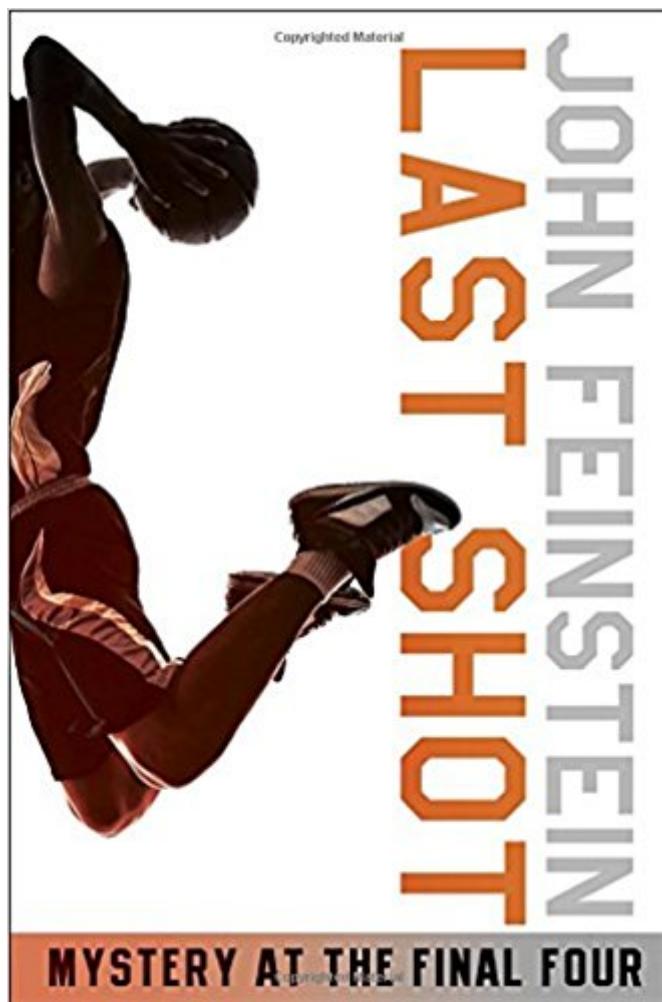


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# Last Shot: Mystery At The Final Four (The Sports Beat, 1)



## Synopsis

New York Times bestselling sportswriter John Feinstein exposes the real "March Madness" "behind the scenes at the Final Four basketball tournament. When Stevie wins a writing contest for aspiring sports journalists, his prize is a press pass to the Final Four in New Orleans. While exploring the Superdome, he overhears a plot to throw the championship game. With the help of fellow contest winner Susan Carol, Stevie has just 48 hours to figure out who is blackmailing one of the star players . . . and why. John Feinstein has been praised as "the best writer of sports books in America today" (The Boston Globe), and he proves it again in this fast-paced novel. "A page-turning thriller and a basketball junkie's bonanza." USA Today

From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Series: The Sports Beat

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Yearling (June 27, 2006)

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #60,967 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Basketball #35 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #136 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Mystery & Thriller

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-10 - This action-packed mystery is set at the NCAA Final Four men's basketball tournament. Eighth-graders Steven Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson are aspiring journalists and winners of the U.S. Basketball Writer's Association 14-and-under writing contest. Their prize is a trip, with press credentials and reporting responsibilities, to the Final Four in New Orleans. While

exploring the Superdome, they overhear a blackmail threat leveled at Minnesota State University's star player. Threatened with a falsified transcript that would disqualify him and his team, Chip Graber is pressured to deliberately lose the final game against Duke. Stevie and Susan Carol become resourceful sleuths determined to save Chip and to expose the scandal. Throughout the story, famous basketball personalities make memorable guest appearances, including spirited sports analyst Tony Kornheiser and irrepressible commentator Dick Vitale. References to real players and coaches mingle, almost eerily, with the fictitious characters. Feinstein shares his extensive sports expertise, smoothly weaving into the tale a wealth of background information about NCAA regulations, tournament traditions, recruitment and eligibility issues, and gambling. Although the action on the court is vividly described, this story also breaks new ground for teens, focusing primarily on the influential role of media in promoting college basketball. Readers will enjoy the rivalry and chemistry between outspoken but insecure Stevie and savvy-beyond-her-years Susan Carol, and their spunky determination to get the scoop. Mystery fans will find enough suspense in this fast-paced narrative to keep them hooked. - Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC  
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Gr. 6-9. Best-selling sportswriter Feinstein joins the parade of adult authors testing the waters of children's publishing. Unlike so many show-biz celebrities turned writers, he brings plenty of craftsmanship and a kid-friendly story to the table. The setting is college basketball's Final Four, and the stars are the two teenage winners of a writing contest, Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, whose prize is a free trip to the tournament and an opportunity to cover the games. Friction between the pair quickly turns to camaraderie when they overhear one of the players from fictional Minnesota State being coerced into throwing the title game. Feinstein makes good use of his insider's knowledge of the Final Four as the intrepid junior reporters set out to expose the scandal, ultimately weaseling themselves into the bad guys' lair in classic Hardy Boys' fashion. The premise holds together, if a bit shakily, and Feinstein keeps the action moving throughout. The draw, though, is the vivid background, complete with cameos by real-life media personalities and big-name coaches. Bill Ott  
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I like John Feinstein's writing. I'm a serious sports fan, just finished a couple of weeks with the Spurs & Heat so was primed for this story. I think the dialog was a bit forced but I liked the

characters, and the relationship between the two protagonists.

Best book I have ever read! A sports mystery. You can't beat it!!!!!! You won't be wasting your time if you buy this book! I'm so ready to read the rest of the series!

This book was full of great basketball action. The book had a ton of suspense and hook. I will always be able to say that the whole entire book is great. # great book

This is by far the best mystery book I've ever read! I don't prefer mystery books but John Feinstein's books... Are so good they take my breath away. (not literally) I hope Mr. Feinstein keeps on writing great books for me, the other people I've recommended, and everyone else who reads his books.

Last shot a final four mystery was a great book that I loved every minute of. No one could ever predict the outcome with all the twists at the end. A bad guy becomes good and who you think is your friend becomes your enemies. I would recommend it to any sports fan. Great book and I can't wait to read more from this author.

Awsome awesome awesome awesome awesome Aawsome awesome awesome awesome awesome awesome Aawsome awesome awesome awesome awesome awesome Aawsome awesome awesome awesome sweet best hanging intense fun

These books were purchased for my 12 year old son. He has enjoyed all of the John Feinstein books that we have purchased.

Very enjoyable. I would recommend it to anyone who is a fan of college basketball. Keeps you entertained throughout the entire book!

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