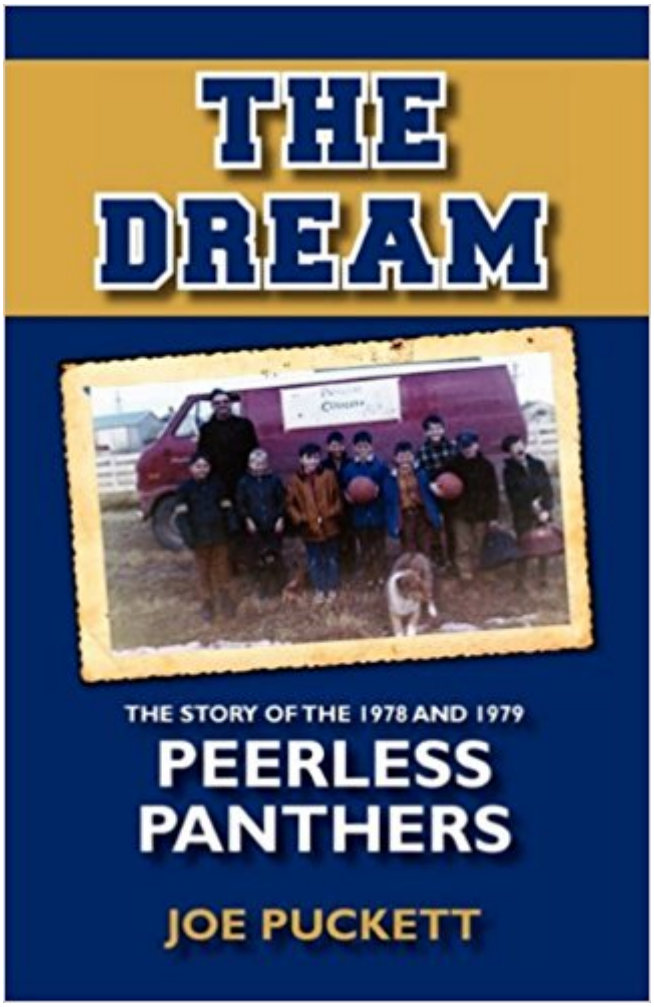
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The Dream



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Synopsis

The Dream is the incredibly nostalgic and poignant story about the passing of Peerless High School in Peerless, Montana, which closed its doors forever in June, 2009, and the 1978-79 Peerless Panthers. It also includes the passing of District 1-C, once the most powerful Class C basketball conference in Montana, where three other high schools, Antelope, Outlook and Flaxville, have also closed. It is the story of the end of an era when every year the State Class C basketball tournament in Montana was played in Helena, the most gracious and accommodating host ever for this sensational tournament. But most of all, as is stated in the prologue, "This is a story about a dream, a dream that a group of boys shared to someday play in the State Class C tournament in Montana, then to win the State championship game for their small school. So this is a story about dreams, rivalries, triumph, disappointment, passion, and a love that was shared by a group of boys who never gave up striving for the one thing in their life that mattered most to them: Playing in the State Class C basketball tournament in Montana.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Debut author Joe Puckett currently resides in Stuttgart, Germany with wife Vonda and daughters Cosette and Emma. When not working for the Department of Defense during the day, he supports his self-admitted sports addiction by coaching his two daughters in softball, basketball and soccer at night and on weekends. Although published previously in technical journals, this is his first venture into creative writing.

I was never one who understood the intracasies of basketball--professional, collegiate or high school (and younger). But I was drawn into the lives of the Peerless Panthers and rural, small (very small) school (K-12) life through the eyes of the youngsters who had the dream of playing at the State level in Helena, Montana back in the late 70's. The book was a page turner, and although a tiny bit more editing might have been helpful, that in no way distracted from the magical charm of the book. Among other things, this marvelous autobiographical scetch transported me more than 30 years back into a place I've never been--Northeastern Montana--as no book could, I believe. It held me in exactly the proper level of suspense (re. the exploits of the Panthers, their basketball teams over the years drawn from so tiny a population of students) as the author and his twin brother grew from fifth graders to seniors in high school. Hopefully, the author will write another broader autobiographical sketch of that same place and period, but wherein he attempts to sensitively examine the lives of the others, both in his family and his small school. His style of writing should encourage others to do the same in bringing back to life so many "other" Peerless, Montana-like places throughout America. His was indeed a magical time and place, but I'd wager that there are other such times and places just waiting to be examined in the careful detail offered by Joe Puckett.And for the record, I now know a lot more about the intracasies of basketball than I ever dreamed I could or would. It was a wonderful story of adolescent and teenage growth in basketball and life.

Joe Puckett creates a "virtual reality" of the game of basketball. He makes the game easy to understand and goes through his entire childhood and teen years game by game. Having grown up in the area I know that basketball and "playing cards" are the two major activities in the winter. On Friday and Saturday nights everyone is at the gym having a hot dog and enjoying the game.Joe came from a school that went years without winning a conference game. He describes how the school and community put Peerless, Montana on the map as a basketball powerhouse. He interjects humor into the book and keeps the reader's attention.He talks about the struggles and excitement of going to the state championship tournament. He also relates the frustration of losing the state championship game which he had so strived to win."The Dream" is great movie material. Script writers go to work!

this book is about basketball in the district in MT that my kids played. Knew some of the stories, really a trip back to a great time for me. I saw the Pucketts play many times!

phenomenal book, not just about basketball it is a great lesson on growing up physically and emotionally. One of very few books I could not put down once I started reading. Everyone I recommended it to that has read it says the same thing.

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