

# Crushed Out

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## Crush Rules

1. Inform your partner of being crushed out.
2. Gather information about The Crush, but do not infringe on her privacy.
3. Contemplate The Crush : adorn refrigerator with her picture.
4. Swap Crush info with other devotees.
5. Don't learn too much: keep the mystery alive.

The 1993-1994 University of Vermont women's basketball season is finally underway, and in the nick of time. The embers of my crush-that paralyzing state of mind and heart which renders usually sane, level-thinking lesbians silent and gasping for air, weak-kneed, no less-were dying low. Having not seen the Crush for some months, save the late October afternoon while stacking wood when, I swear, The Crush rode past my house on her mountain bike. Oh, it was her alright: baby dyke blue helmet, neon green shirt, black Spandex shorts. I stood only thirty feet from our dirt road, so I know it was her. Not that anyone believes me.

The home opener rekindles my crush, like adding seasoned wood chips to a bed of

hot coals. From sections 7 or 5, Rows I or E or Q, we watch and worship. Crushes are about enduring near panic-attack conditions-sweaty palms and arm pits, reddened faces, tightening chest muscles and the ultimate, roller-coaster belly. My crushes have varied over time. Gabriella Sabatini was a hot one for me. For a while it was Bonnie Raitt, but she is too regular, almost un-crushable. My big crush was Prince.

For many years my Prince crush stunned friends who couldn't believe a dyke like me could crush on a guy like Prince. "Why?" they ask. The music, the outrageousness, the dancing, the on-edge attitude, the stiletto heels? I cannot explain crushes, mine or anyone else's. I get crushed by those who embody a quality that I lack and would like to have or a quality I do possess and admire in others. I am a monogamous crusher. I only have eyes for my hoop star now. She is not the first basketball player I've crushed over. That was Skeeter: long-legged, lean, jump-shooting, tennis-playing, Skeeter. I met her at a Virginia sports camp in the mid-70's when women's basketball was in its infancy, and girls' team names were feminized: Falconettes, Bobkittens, Golden Damsels.

Following the UVM-Dartmouth game, five of us sit waiting for The Crush to emerge from the locker room. We swap Crush information and confess Crush rituals with the full awareness of our partners. One knows the restaurant where The Crush's family eats prior to home games. Another swears The Crush attended the Lesbian Lounge Lizards. Someone claims that The Crush was spotted at The Lesbian Archives in NYC, but she admits this is third-hand information. We contemplate acquiring our Crush's address, but, according to crush rules, this goes too far. We cannot upset The Crush. Her father, when asked if his family had anything to do with the posters and banners devoted to his daughter last season, commented, "There are rules about what family can do-fans can get away with anything. Not family. No way."

We are sort of family, so we have to be cool. Maybe a little cooler than we actually are. We wait. Slowly, casually, The Crush appears. She signs autographs for the pups. She dresses as a late 70's woodswoman: untucked flannel shirt over a purple tee-shirt, chestnut brown painter pants, suede hiking shoes. We discuss acquiring similar garb, but, again, such an action goes too far. A matronly woman gains The Crush's attention and gets a hug which causes us to titter. Two other women approach. They appear to be a couple, together long enough to begin to look alike, early middle-age, like us. They

## Where to Find OITM

### Barre

Pen Dragon

### Bennington

Bennington Free Library

Bennington College

Bennington Library

Record Rack

Southern Vermont College

### Brattleboro

Brattleboro Food Coop

Cahoots

Common Ground

Everyone's Books

### Burlington

Burlington College

Chassman & Bem

Fletcher Free Library

Onion River Co-op

Partners in Recovery & Growth

Peace & Justice Center

Pearls

Planned Parenthood

### Castleton

STEP Learning Center

### Chester

Misty Valley Books Chester

### Craftsbury

Craftsbury Public Library

### Center Rutland

Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection

### East Barnet

Innwood Manor

### East Hardwick

Greenhope Farm

### Fair Haven

Fair Haven Free Library

### Hardwick

Buffalo Mountain Coop

Galaxy Books

### Lyndonville

Jon's Automotive

Project EXCEL, Lyndon State College

### Manchester Center

Northshire Bookstore

### Middlebury

Middlebury Natural Food Coop

### Montpelier

Bear Pond Books

Horn of the Moon Cafe

Rivendell Books

Woman Centered

### Morrisville

Morristown Centennial Library

### Newfane

Moore Free Library

### Northfield

Brown Public Library

### Norwich

Social Alternatives for Gay Men

### Plainfield

Woman's Study Program

### Putney

Putney Library

### Randolph

Kimball Public Library

### Rutland

PFLAG

Rutland Free Library

United Methodist Church

Grace Cong. United Church of Christ

### St. Johnsbury

LUNA/NEVGALR c/o Umbrella

Natural Provisions

Regional Library

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

### Stowe

Food for Thought

### Waterbury

Video Exchange

### White River Junction

WRJ Books

Upper Valley Coop

### Williamstown, MA

Wild Oats Co-op

Or by Subscription mailed right to your door!