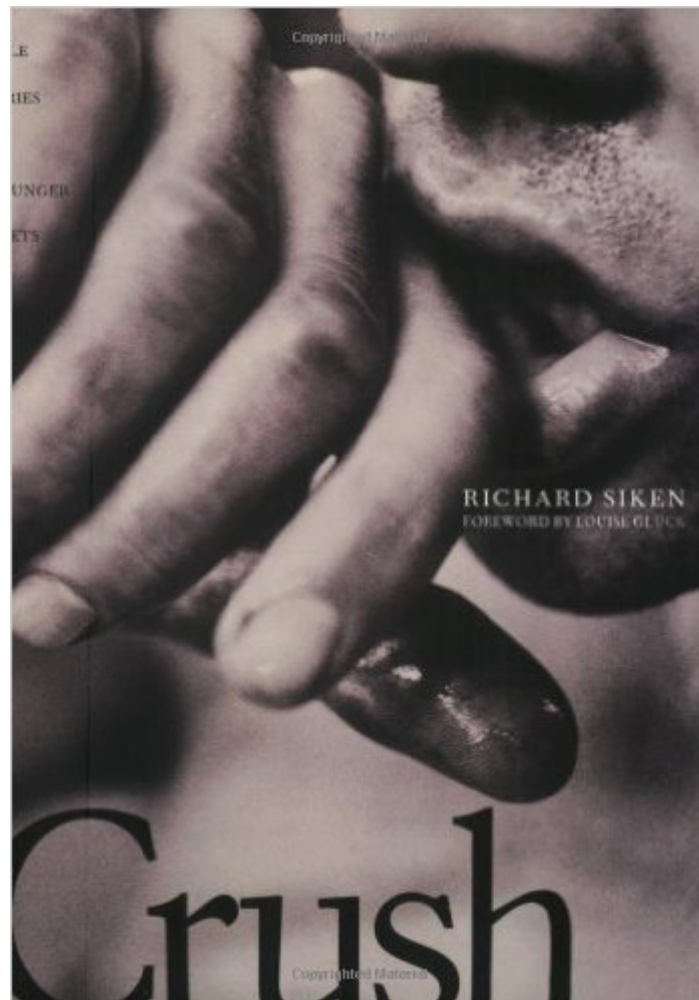


The book was found

Crush (Yale Series Of Younger Poets)



Synopsis

Richard Siken's *Crush*, selected as the 2004 winner of the Yale Younger Poets prize, is a powerful collection of poems driven by obsession and love. Siken writes with ferocity, and his reader hurtles unstoppably with him. His poetry is confessional, gay, savage, and charged with violent eroticism. In the world of American poetry, Siken's voice is striking. In her introduction to the book, competition judge Louise Glück hails the "œcumulative, driving, apocalyptic power, [and] purgatorial recklessness" of Siken's poems. She notes, "œBooks of this kind dream big. . . . They restore to poetry that sense of crucial moment and crucial utterance which may indeed be the great genius of the form."

Book Information

Series: Yale Series of Younger Poets

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press (April 11, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300107897

ISBN-13: 978-0300107890

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (83 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #39,910 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#8 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#) [#36 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Love Poems](#) [#144 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles](#)

Customer Reviews

Richard Siken, *Crush* (Yale, 2005) When I compile my list of the ten best reads of the year, I have no doubt whatsoever that Richard Siken's first book, *Crush*, will be on that list, possibly at the top. I could stare at the cover for hours-- a close-up of a mouth, and a hand, thumb wet with blood, or perhaps motor oil. It fits perfectly with the contents of the book, which are clingy, suffocating, obsessive, and uniformly brilliant. Louise Glück writes in her introduction that "[f]or a book like this to work, it cannot deviate from obsession (lest its urgency, in being occasional, seem unconvincing)...". She is, of course, correct; how obsessive can you be if you are not constantly turning your obsession over in your mind or your hands? And Siken provides a picture of obsession that is hauntingly pure. "...Your name like a song I sing to myself, your name like a box where I keep my

love, your name like a nest in the tree of love, your name like a boat in the sea of love-- O now we're in the sea of love! Your name like detergent in the washing machine. Your name like two Xs like punched-in eyes, like a drunk cartoon passed out in the gutter, your name with two Xs to mark the spots, to hold the place, to keep the treasure from becoming ever lost. I'm saying your name in the grocery store, I'm saying your name on the bridge at dawn. Your name like an animal covered with frost, your name like a music that's been transposed..." ("Saying Your Names") There is something not right about this, and it's obvious from even a cursory read. In the hands of many (perhaps most) other poets, a passage like this would come off sappy-sweet.

Richard Siken's *Crush* is urgent, its voice an aggressive invasion. From the first sentence of his first poem, the reader engages death, love, and longing. "Tell me about the dream where we pull the bodies out of the lake / and dress them in warm clothes again" (3). There are no subtleties here, only language that literally forces the reader to engage the writing and the beauty of the rhythm on the page. It is in this language and rhythm that Siken develops a very tight and eloquent structure. Siken's voice is consistent throughout the collection - at times raw, uninhibited, escaping the clothed bitter aftertaste of conventional language and in other parts soft, rhythmic, alliterative, and safe. "The Dislocated Room" is crafted in just such a manner. It begins on a beautiful evening where it would seem all is at peace: It was night for many miles and then the real stars in the purple sky, like little boats rowed out too far, begin to disappear. And there, in the distance, not the promised land, but a Holiday Inn. (46) But the dislocation begins. The reader quickly peels back the layers of the poem and finds something sinister and raw in a Holiday Inn somewhere, anywhere in America. This is the in-between, the waiting that happens in the space between one note and the next, the part where you confuse his hand with the room, the dog with the man, the blood with the ripped up sky. He puts his hands all over you to keep you in the room. (47) The sky is no longer purple with stars "like little boats rowed out too far" but violated, filthy, stained.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Crush (Yale Series of Younger Poets) *Juvenilia* (Yale Series of Younger Poets) Harvey Cushing, a biography, ([Yale university. School of medicine. Yale medical library. Historical library. Publication) *The 1946 and 1953 Yale University Excavations in Trinidad: Vol. # 92* (Yale University Publications in Anthropology) *Save Twilight: Selected Poems: Pocket Poets No. 53* (City Lights Pocket Poets Series) *The Star By My Head: Poets from Sweden* (Poets in the World) *Russian Poets* (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets) *Something Indecent: Poems Recommended by Eastern European Poets* (Poets in the World) *Younger You: Unlock the Hidden Power of Your Brain to Look and Feel* 15

Years Younger Look Younger: A Proven Anti-Aging Guide For Looking 10 Years Younger: Fast And Effortless Anti-aging Tactics Medicine's Dilemmas: Infinite Needs versus Finite Resources (Yale Fastback Series) The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia (Yale Agrarian Studies Series) Inside Jihadism: Understanding Jihadi Movements Worldwide (The Yale Cultural Sociology Series) Reading Dante (The Open Yale Courses Series) Planning Democracy: Agrarian Intellectuals and the Intended New Deal (Yale Agrarian Studies Series) Fundamentals of Physics: Mechanics, Relativity, and Thermodynamics (The Open Yale Courses Series) Fundamentals of Physics II: Electromagnetism, Optics, and Quantum Mechanics: 2 (The Open Yale Courses Series) cakes: The Ultimate 200 cake recipes (cake recipes, cake pop crush, cakes books, cake pops, cake pops, mug cakes, mug cakes cookbook, mug cakes low carb, ... Pies, Pizza, cooking recipes Book 1) Spiralizer Recipes: 97 The Best Spiralizer Recipes From Classic Pasta Dishes, To Salads, Noodle Soups, Fries, Breakfast Noodles-Crush Your Pasta Cravings ... Book, Spiralizer, Spiralizer Cookbook) Sugar Crush: How to Reduce Inflammation, Reverse Nerve Damage, and Reclaim Good Health

[Dmca](#)