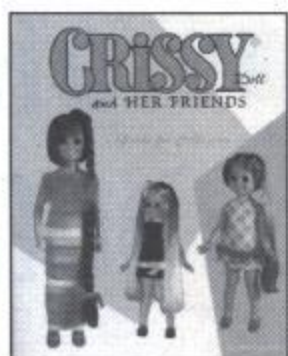


Book Reviews



Crissy Doll and Her Friends Guide for Collectors by Beth Gunther. Hitting her stride in the early 1970s, Ideal's Crissy was the only doll I ever asked for. I was

frightened by Barbie's perfect features, and her mere 11½ inches were no match for Crissy's commanding 18. And that hair! With the touch of her magical belly button and a tug of her tail (pony, that is), Crissy's hair grew...and grew and grew! Back then, she was the only doll for me.

Which is why Beth Gunther's *Crissy Doll and Her Friends Guide for Collectors* came as such a shock. Not only did Crissy have other dolls her own size to play with—including the Cher-esque Tressy and the tanned, tattooed pre-*Baywatch* babe, Brandi—she had popular 15-inch pals, like Velvet, Cricket and Dina. Where was I? Were our Sears' Wish Books somehow sucked into the void?

The author has done a marvelous job of cataloging Crissy's cronies and their known versions, including Swirl-Curl Crissy, who came with a serious-looking five-pronged device that sat atop her head and gave her a perfect pate full. Gunther is fastidious in her inclusion of individual variations; for example, the 1969 black Crissy can come with a pink ribbon at her neck, as well as the more often-seen green.

If you've got a Crissy that's a bit cruddy, don't despair: Gunther includes a chapter on "Restorative Methods," with instructions that detail the boiling-water hair recurling technique and strategies for battling eye-mold "disease." There's a fun chapter of reprinted department-store catalog pages, and a super reference section that includes identifying markings for all Ideal's grow-hair dolls and current values.

Crissy Doll and Her Friends Guide for Collectors is published by Antique Trader Books, which is a division of Landmark Specialty Publications. It is available for \$24.95 plus shipping and handling from Antique Trader Press, (800) 334-7165.

—Pune Dracker
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