

## Orange Crush

(R.E.M.)

[Chorus]  
(Follow me, don't follow me)  
I've got my spine, I've got my orange  
crush  
(Collar me, don't collar me)  
I've got my spine, I've got my orange  
crush  
(We are agents of the free)  
I've had my fun and now it's time  
To serve your conscience overseas  
(Over me, not over me)  
Coming in fast, over me

[Chorus]  
(Follow me, don't follow me)  
I've got my spine, I've got my orange  
crush  
(Collar me, don't collar me)  
I've got my spine, I've got my orange  
crush  
(We are agents of the free)  
I've had my fun and now it's time  
To serve your conscience overseas  
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[Bridge]  
High on the booze  
In a tent paved with blood  
Nine inch howl, brave the night  
Chopper comin' in, you hope

"We would circle and we'd circle and  
we'd circle  
To stop and consider and centered on  
the pavement

Stacked up all the trucks jacked up  
and our wheels  
In slush and orange crush in pocket  
and all  
This here county, hell, any county,  
it's just like heaven here  
And I was remembering and I was  
just in a different county and all  
Then this whirlybird that I headed for  
I had my goggles pulled off;  
I knew it all, I knew every back road  
and every truck stop"

[Chorus]  
(Follow me, don't follow me)  
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crush  
(Collar me, don't collar me)  
I've got my spine, I've got my orange  
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[Outro]  
High on the booze  
In a tent paved with blood  
Nine inch howl, brave the night  
Chopper comin' in, you hope  
High on the booze  
In a tent paved with blood  
Nine inch howl, brave the night  
Chopper comin' in, you hope

"Orange Crush" is a song by the American alternative rock band R.E.M. It was released as the first single from the band's sixth studio album, *Green*, in 1988. It was not commercially released as a single in the U.S. despite reaching number one as a promotional single on both the *Mainstream* and *Modern Rock Tracks* (where, at the time, it had the record for longest stay at number one with eight weeks, beating U2). It peaked at number 28 on the UK Singles Chart, making it the band's then-highest chart hit in Britain, where they promoted the song by making their debut appearance on *Top of the Pops*.

The video for the song, directed by Matt Mahurin, won the band its first VMA, for Best Post-Modern Video. "Orange Crush" was also the first song to win in the category.

The song was placed on R.E.M.'s Warner Bros. Records compilation *In Time: The Best of R.E.M. 1988–2003* in 2003, and a live version appears on the R.E.M. *Live* album recorded in Dublin in 2005.

The song's title is a reference to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange manufactured by Monsanto Corporation and Dow Chemical for the U.S. Department of Defense and used in the Vietnam War. As a guest on the late-night show *Last Call with Carson Daly*, Michael Stipe explained that the song was about a young American football player leaving the comforts of home for the war in Vietnam. Also, Stipe opened the song during *The Green World Tour* by singing the famous U.S. Army recruiting slogan, "Be all you can be... in the Army." Stipe's father served in the Vietnam War.