

# SHINER

## CHAPTER 1

a novel by Martin Smith

He sits in quiet confidence, in that old bar on that narrow street. You know, the one that's been there since who knows when, that seems immune to time. Unlike the myriad of trendy spots and hipster haunts that have come and gone in this place. He grew up here, but now he's like a stranger.

He waits in a corner booth at the entrance, both elbows planted squarely on the table with a Camel non-filter wedged firmly between his fingers, the smoke lingering in curling patterns above his head. If it wasn't for the crooked nose and the scars on his knuckles and brow, you wouldn't have known that he was a fighting man, but that's who he is and that's all he knows.

He comes from a dark world. Right after school he joined the legion. Him and his old man never got along and he needed to get out. Where the heat was, there he was sent. Uganda, Liberia, Russia. He has seen his fair share of blood and gore, but this, this was different. What they did to this man's daughter was beyond retribution. They were fucking animals. The pain in the man's eyes still haunts him. They had to pay and he would have done it for free if this wasn't a job. The whole thing rubbed him the wrong way and now it feels personal.

He puts his hands down on the table and his gaze freezes into the eyes of the man who is busy sitting down across from him, a big pig-like fucker slides into the booth. He forces himself to stay calm and slow his heartbeat as his gaze burns pure hatred at this man that is more animal than human. His mind goes into autopilot and he is aware of the knife in his left boot and gun on the right hip. "Don't get them mixed up", he thinks. "If shit goes down now, be quick to the draw, don't think, just shoot."

"Where is she?", Lieutenant Jon Maree asks.

### SHINER 2016

Shiner sees the masculinity of good old Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon rounded by small portions of Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. The wine boasts seductive notes of raspberries and black currants, with herbaceous and savoury notes. The palate is stylish and complex with traces of aniseed and liquorice dominating generous fruit and light but graceful tannins. Drink the mystery #shiner.

80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc  
Alcohol: 13.97% pH: 3.64 Total Acid: 5 g / litre Residual Sugar: 3.1 g / litre  
The wine was matured in 20% new oak for 22 months  
Wine of Origin Stellenbosch

