

# SHINER

## CHAPTER 2

a novel by Martin Smith

She lies on her back on the floor. Through her closed eyelids there is light and bewildered, she also knows that she has been both in and out of consciousness. But where is she? She shivers, as much in terror as in cold. There are no sounds other than her ragged breathing, loud in her ears.

Imperceptibly, she flexes her muscles. Nothing seems to be broken. She knows that she has faded in and out of consciousness, she fades again. She does not want to open her eyes. She does not want to open her mouth. Slowly, she runs her tongue around her mouth. Her lips feel swollen. And then, with a concealed shudder she remembers. He kicked her.

And that warm, metallic taste - it has to be blood. When she was a little girl she used to laugh when she fell and scraped her knees. She'd wipe the blood away and suck it, just to show that she was brave. But she didn't feel brave now. Now there was the terror of his return, another boot breaking bones. And perhaps worse. The blackness closes in, but it is not as black as it was before.

And somehow she knows she is not on her own.

And then she is jerked to her feet. She feels as if her hair is being pulled out as she is flung onto a hard chair. It shudders as her body hits it. But this time she is conscious. The chair slides backwards and she hears the sharp intake of breath. And then she sees that sitting around a small white plastic table are eight girls, and she can see they are terrified and close to hysteria.

There's a whimper from one of them, another screams as the chair comes to rest almost in her lap. All are already flinching from the beating they know they are going to receive. .../Cont

### SHINER WHITE 2018

To the eye, the wine demonstrates richness with flashes of brilliant green and gold. On the nose, the wine shows light tropical fruit opening up to lemon curd, earthy wet fur and enticing almond nuttiness. The nose offers additional layers with hints of French toast and a minerality of wet chalk. The fruit-forward nose follows through to the palate with a fine viscosity carried to a long and luscious finish by the elegant acidity. Drink the mystery #Shiner.

Blend: 83% Sauvignon Blanc, 17% Semillon Gris

Alcohol: 13.12% pH: 3.32 Total Acid: 5.2 g/litre Residual Sugar: 2.1 g/litre

Wine of Origin Franschhoek

