



Sniper's Honor (Bob Lee Swagger)

By Stephen Hunter



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In this tour de force—part historical thriller, part modern adventure—from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *I, Sniper*, Bob Lee Swagger uncovers why World War II's greatest sniper was erased from history...and why her disappearance still matters today.

Ludmilla "Mili" Petrova was once the most hunted woman on earth, having raised the fury of two of the most powerful leaders on either side of World War II: Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler. But Kathy Reilly of *The Washington Post* doesn't know any of that when she encounters a brief mention of Mili in an old Russian propaganda magazine, and becomes interested in the story of a legendary, beautiful female sniper who seems to have vanished from history.

Reilly enlists former marine sniper Bob Lee Swagger to parse out the scarce details of Mili's military service. The more Swagger learns about Mili's last mission, the more he's convinced her disappearance was no accident—but why would the Russian government go to such lengths to erase the existence of one of their own decorated soldiers? And why, when Swagger joins Kathy Reilly on a research trip, is someone trying to kill them before they can find out?

As Bob Lee Swagger, "one of the finest series characters ever to grace the thriller genre, now and forever" (*Providence Journal-Bulletin*), races to put the pieces together, *Sniper's Honor* takes readers across oceans and time in an action-packed, compulsive read.

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Sniper's Honor (Bob Lee Swagger) By Stephen Hunter Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #145598 in Books
- Published on: 2014-12-30
- Released on: 2014-12-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.50" h x 1.00" w x 4.13" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 464 pages

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Time is taking its toll on Bob Lee Swagger: He was an old man in a dry month . . . hard, stoic, isolated, unmelted. The former sniper has been out of the game a long time, and, sadly, nothing has ever replaced what he's appalled to call the killing fever. Then his friend Kathy Reilly, Moscow correspondent for the Washington Post, sends Bob an e-mail asking for his help in researching a story about legendary WWII Russian sniper Ludmilla Milli Petrova, whose name mysteriously disappeared from the historical record around 1945. Why was she expunged from both German and Russian records? Will Swagger help Reilly track the story? Of course he will, and so begins a remarkably textured novel that jumps between the war and the present, slowly unraveling Milli's past while Swagger and Reilly discover that, even 70 years after the fact, there are still people who don't want the story told. Hunter does a wonderful job of moving between and ultimately connecting his multiple story lines, and he peoples the stage with at least a dozen memorable characters, from Milli and her cohorts through the Nazis who hunt them, and, of course, to Swagger himself, an ever-more-complex character as he ages. Perhaps most memorable of all, though, is Hunter's vivid re-creation of the carnage on the Eastern Front, where, as Milli notes, the Russians' only advantage over the Germans was numbers: If they kill us five to one, we bring six to one . . . we shall prevail because, all things being equal, we can outbleed them. --Bill Ott

Review

"Absorbing . . . You don't have to be a fan of military action fiction to enjoy this." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"Hunter knows his hero like a brother: righteous character firmly set, crafty intelligence thoroughly hidden, stone-cold willing to take the shot if a bad actor must die. . . . Swagger displays mighty tradecraft [and] Hunter loads up a whole magazine of action, double-dealing and gun porn." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"A remarkably textured novel. . . . Hunter does a wonderful job of jumping between and connecting his multiple story lines, and he peoples the stage with at least a dozen memorable characters, from Mili and her cohorts through the Nazis that hunt them, and, of course, to Swagger himself, an ever-more-complex character as he ages. Perhaps most memorable of all, though, is Hunter's vivid re-creation of the carnage on the Eastern Front, where, as Mili notes, the Russians' only advantage over the Germans was numbers: 'If they kill us five to one, we bring six to one . . . we shall prevail because, all things being equal, we can outbleed them.'" (*Booklist*)

"Given the return of the Russians to bad-guy status, this book couldn't be more timely. But any Swagger tale is a treat, especially one as layered and nuanced as this one. Hunter remains the absolute master of the action thriller and this is a terrific tale from a wondrous storyteller." (*Providence Sunday Journal*)

"My favorite thriller author [...] fun to read." (*The Herald-Dispatch*)

About the Author

Stephen Hunter has written eighteen novels. The retired chief film critic for *The Washington Post*, where he won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism, he has also published two collections of film criticism and a nonfiction work, *American Gunfight*. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Users Review

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