



The Wicked Flee

Matthew Iden

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A late-night knock on his door pulls retired DC homicide detective Marty Singer out of a sound sleep and drops him into a desperate hunt to find Lucy Rhee, the kidnapped sister of his friend, Chuck Rhee. With no clues, no leads, and almost no hope, they've only got guts and instinct to discover where The Wicked Flee—and save Lucy before she's gone forever.

This is a new release of a previously published edition.

The Wicked Flee Details

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Author : Matthew Iden

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From Reader Review *The Wicked Flee* for online ebook

James Thane says

This is a taut, noirish novel in which the action plays out in only a few hours, albeit very long hours, for the characters who are caught up in the story. Marty Singer is a retired Washington, D.C. homicide detective who's awakened out of a sound sleep a little after 9:00 one night by Chuck Rhee, a detective on the Arlington, Virginia police force who specializes in the criminal gangs that work the area. Chuck's sixteen-year-old sister, Lucy, has failed to come home and Chuck instinctively knows that she's been kidnapped. Rhee understands that if he simply reports Lucy missing, it will be hours and more likely days before the police take any concrete steps to find her. By then she could be gone forever, and Chuck begs Marty to help him short-circuit the process and begin looking for her immediately.

Meanwhile, a rookie Maryland state trooper named Sarah Haynesworth has reason to believe that someone is coercing young girls into prostitution. She has the name of a suspect and of a potential victim, but she arrives at the suspect's home just as the man is dragging the body of the victim, who has overdosed, out his back door. One she arrests the man, Sarah has no authorization to pursue the investigation any further but she continues to do so on her own time. Thus, from two very different angles, Sarah on the one hand and Marty Singer and Chuck Rhee on the other begin to unravel a nightmare scenario in which very young women are being trafficked across several state lines.

The story is told from multiple viewpoints and proceeds at a frantic pace through the rest of that very long night. To say much more about the plot would be to give too much away, but Matthew Iden has written here one of those proverbial thrillers that grabs the reader by the throat and refuses to let go. Even the lesser characters are very finely drawn and the settings are very well done. The action takes place on a cold winter night and Iden has the reader shivering along with the characters at a good many points along the way.

It all builds to a strong climax that caps the story perfectly. This is a novel that will appeal to large numbers of crime fiction readers.

Gary Hines says

Best of the series!

I've chewed up the entire series in less than a week and by far this is a good one. I'm looking forward to more.

Ami says

I read Matthew Iden's explanation of *The Wicked Flee* and why he wrote it differently than the previous four books; to challenge himself as an author. *The Wicked Flee* only covered several hours as Marty and his friend Chuck Rhee try to track Rhee's missing younger sister, Lucy. It is also written in SEVERAL point of views from various characters (all using third person narrative) including Marty's (still in first person).

I appreciated Iden's attempt -- unfortunately, I thought the story lacks of Marty Singer himself. He's not in the book enough -- in my opinion -- and well, I guess I missed him, and his dry humor. I also missed his adopted daughter, Amanda. I liked that I finally knew more about Rhee, but I didn't exactly read the book for Rhee. The writing is good but this is (sadly) my least favorite book in Marty Singer's series.

The book is provided by Thomas & Mercer publishing via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.

Jool says

This is a good police suspense series that I have been enjoying. I do recommend the series.

Tulay says

Good plot.

If you're going to read this book because you like Marty Singer character don't. He is not in this story much. Story is about human trafficking, he is just for the ride with his friend to find his kidnapped sister. Some animals, we call human use young innocent girls to satisfy themselves and make money. Being a cat lover, I was worried about Pierre, nobody was taking care of him.

Michelle (Michelle's Book Ends) Shealy says

"But it was hard for my ex-cop's brain not to tick off each of the misdemeanors and felonies I was flirting with the moment I'd opened the gate behind the dump that was Tuck's house, trespassed through the yard, and tiptoed up the rear porch to try the back door..." Marty

In the fifth book of this series, retired homicide detective Marty Singer is back doing what he does best. He's helping the people he loves and calls his friends with things that are out of their control. Chuck Rhee, a cop who works generally with trying to clean up the street gangs, helped Marty previously and is asking for him to return the favor. Chuck's sister, Lucy, has been kidnapped. Using what he always relies on, his instinct and his own good sense, he wants to help Chuck find out where she's gone. If its not too late that is. Using Lucy's friends information they start off in pursuit of where she may have been taken.

Meanwhile State Trooper Sarah Haynesworth has a run in with a suspect. He's trying to flee a scene carrying a dead girl through the snow. Sarah wants to investigate further because from what she can tell there is a connection with this suspect to other missing girls. She's told to drop it and that the case is being transferred to the Washington County Sheriff's office.

The disappearing girls and Lucy are all tied together perhaps? Is there a serial killer out there or are the girls part of a human trafficking ring? Some shocking and creepy parts as the people involved try to disappear. None of the cops involved here are about to give up on these girls and their paths finally intersect. Hopefully

Sarah, Chuck and Marty can find out where "The Wicked Flee" in time to save Lucy and perhaps more girls.

This is a stand alone but also part of the "Marty Singer Mystery" series. Any of the books can be read in any order or together and make perfect sense. The writer has built a seamless body of work. However, that being said this series book was slightly different then the others. Rather than it all Marty all the time there was the introduction and crossing of characters. I believe the author was adding some layers to Marty's life. Marty travels along a pretty solid line. This change gave Marty a chance to branch out in other directions. The author has written Marty out of the box that he may have previously been written into. I think Marty can now go in more directions then where he may have been previously headed.

The final in the series of five books in the Marty Singer Mystery series. Or is it? Word had it directly from this author that there were more Marty Singer books in the works. I sure hope so. I'd hate to see this series end just yet. There is a short story that is also part of this series called "The Guardian." It can be obtained by signing up at Matthew Iden's website. If you are a fan of this series like I am, please be sure and visit Mr. Iden at: matthew-iden.com/download_the_guardian/.

Thank you to Netgalley and Thomas& Mercer Publisher for the ARC.

K says

Th Wicked Flee is a little gem of a noir style crime novel. The plot races and you hold on for all you're worth as the story unfolds. If Matt Iden's other books are as good as this, I'll be reading more from this author.

The story involves several protagonists, including a retired detective, his friend who works undercover with another police department, and a rookie female State Trooper who will eventually be a very good cop. This law enforcement triumvirate are on the trail of the undercover cop's 16 year old sister who has been kidnapped for delivery to a rich and twisted pedophile.

Despite a few rather predictable plot twists, I still found myself becoming agitated when the kidnap victim is almost free only to be recaptured, her fate seemingly secured toward a very bleak future.

Overall, the story is satisfying and the ending is an appealing one, especially if you're the kind that prefers seeing some just retribution in your yarns. A solid 4 Star book that I hope is representative of Mr. Iden's other novels.

Nancy says

Very satisfying story in the Marty Singer series. Lucy definitely had gumption, and so did Sarah. The ending leaves everything and nothing to the imagination.

Irene says

Received from Goodreads Give Away program.

Loved the book, even though I dislike the subject matter. Fast-paced from the very beginning. Didn't want to put the book down. Easy read.

Liked the good-guy characters. I'm going to have to go back and read the other Marty Singer series.

Have added Matthew Iden to my list of favorite authors.

Definitely recommend

Lynda Kelly says

Five stars for number 5 in the series from me. I read this almost in the one sitting on a lovely day in the garden !! It flowed well and was very exciting even though I didn't think Marty got as much of a look-in this time out. This has been a great series and numbers 2 and 5 are my favourites.

It was all set in a day as well so almost real-time reading for me.

I was, however, a tad disappointed at the silly mistakes. Ticks used instead of tics, balling and not bawling (which means something completely different), prefect and not perfect and retuning in place of returning !! Apostrophe errors here and there as well.

Aside from those (I thought) crashing errors it was really very good, though.

Becki says

Great book. Loved the fast pace and Marty's interaction with others. Can't wait for the next one Matt!

James says

This one isn't quite up to the standards of the first four, but it's still an excellent read. It seems a little rushed and not as well developed as its predecessors, but it did no serious damage to the fact that this series remains one of my current favorites in the police/mystery genre. I'm already looking forward to the next one.

Connie Becerra says

Read on my Kindle. I am sad that the series ends here. Hope a new one comes out fast. Enjoyed all of them!

Christy says

I binge read books four and five in this series today, and felt that they were quite different in style. Whilst book four was more slow and cerebral, untangling a web of politics, corruption and deceit, *The Wicked Flee* had a much more simple action feel to it.

Detective Chuck Rhee comes to Marty for help after his sister doesn't show up to a meeting, and the entire book takes part over the next day as it becomes a race against time to get Lucy back before it's too late. There is no mystery over what's happened to her, as we switch between the perspective of Marty & Chuck as they chase down leads and merge with the path of Sarah, a young state trooper, the bad guys, and the victim. We know exactly who has her and what's going to happen to her - the question is, can Marty and Chuck pull it off and get her back? I enjoyed the fast paced non stop action of this book, and read it in one sitting - but I think I prefer it when Marty has a bit more thinking to do.

I did like the background story of Chuck a lot, but there was very little development for Marty in this book compared to the others. It was more a book about Chuck & Lucy if anything - and I was pleasantly surprised at how well it worked. I wouldn't mind a book that centred on Chuck and his life and work with gangs, as he's a very interesting character.

I really hope that there will be more Marty to follow and I'm sad that I've finished with this series for now. A solid 4.5 stars from me!

I'd like to thank Thomas & Mercer, in conjunction with NetGalley, for providing me with an advanced review copy of this title.

L says

It wasn't until I read James Thane's review and saw this: "This is a taut, noirish novel in which the action plays out in only a few hours, albeit very long hours, for the characters who are caught up in the story," that I realized the story covers only a few hours! These few hours do seem very long, indeed! So much happens! This tale is dark. It is also one of those "grab you by the throat" novels. I couldn't put it down.

I love the Marty Singer series (another thank you to Thane!) and this one, despite a plot that struck me as sort of contrived around or exploitative of a current social issue (I don't want to, and can't, believe it's as bad as what Singer uncovered), I have to say I really enjoyed it (well, perhaps "enjoyed" is not the right word).
