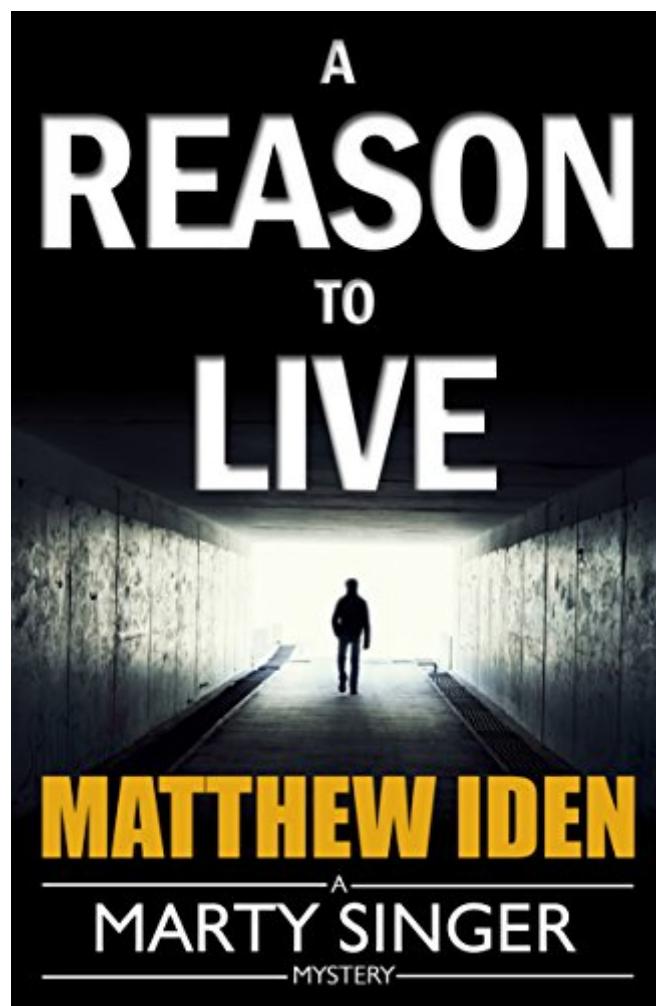


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# A Reason To Live (A Marty Singer Mystery Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

In the late nineties, a bad cop killed a good woman and DC Homicide detective Marty Singer got to watch as the murderer walked out of the courtroom a free man. Twelve years later, the victim's daughter comes to Marty begging for help: the killer is stalking her now. There's just one problem: Marty's retired...and he's retired because he's battling cancer. But with a second shot at the killerâ "and a first chance at redemptionâ "Marty's just found A Reason to Live. Revised edition: This edition of A Reason to Live includes editorial revisions.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ex-DC cop, Marty Singer, is facing an uphill battle against cancer. When graduate student Amanda Lane, the daughter of a homicide victim from twelve years earlier approaches him, worried that her mother's killer is now stalking her, Marty decides he must, despite his own health concerns, help her. His reasons are bigger than just helping a young woman in need -- as the lead detective on the mother's case, he feels responsible for the fact that her killer went free. Soon enough, Marty agrees that someone is stalking Amanda, the question is, is the stalker her mother's killer? And if so, how

can they find him before he harms or possibly kills Amanda? Those two questions, along with some very fine writing and character development, make *A Reason to Live*, a riveting and entertaining read. I've said this in other reviews: I don't have time to read a book that doesn't catch and hold my interest. I practically devoured *A Reason to Live*, so I can say easily that it did both - the book caught my interest immediately with an intriguing mystery and held it with characters I cared about and wanted to see succeed. I will definitely be reading more books by Mr. Iden. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

What a delightful, gut-wrenching tale of mystery and surprise! Finally, a middle-age protagonist who still has enough moxie to kick butt now and then. I enjoyed the style, language and clever metaphors. Dialogue was abundant and entertaining. Surprises are in store re the leading bad guy; and Iden drops a hint at the end about the possible future return of a despicable killer who was thought to be put away forever.

This was a very good book and a quick read. The storyline was interesting and just when you thought the author was going the route of predictability, he would throw in a twist that kept you guessing. As an advocate for American Cancer Society, I liked the twist on his cancer and how it may have slowed him down, but didn't stop him from doing what he felt needed to be done. Shows that you can live with cancer without giving up on your life. I am anxiously awaiting Marty's next adventure. Keep it up Matt!

In this intriguing mystery/police novel, Marty Singer faces two battles. The first is his battle with cancer. The second is his battle to discover the truth about events from 12 years ago, when a fellow policeman was charged with shooting an innocent victim and walked. When her daughter shows up on his door, asking for his help, they both realize she is being stalked by the same person who stalked her as a child, the same person who killed her mother. Marty, still trying to be a knight in shining armor, takes on her case. However, as he begins chemotherapy, they create an unlikely alliance and combo. At times we aren't sure who is helping who, and when the perpetrator's attorney shows up, they all become more of a team. The story is filled with twists and turns, just when you expect it to move one way, it turns in another, and only at the very end do you see the full picture along with Marty. From a cancer point of view, I greatly appreciated the insight into Marty's journey. It was done with caring and sensitivity, and I loved the advice from the nurse. And I found it touching when Marty discovers that cancer did not take away his ability to be with a woman. The

scenes were well done and tasteful. There is a minimal amount of rough language used, but it, too, is used with discretion. I am grateful to have received my copy of this book from the author for review. It is my hope that he will continue his own journey as an author, since I found the book both engrossing and inspiring.

The story is classic detective mystery book. Iden's writing has a natural ease to it, and his characters are deep and well rounded. Just look at Marty, a retired homicide detective. Kind of cliche until you see that he's battling cancer. I don't think Marty likes being retired either. He's a lonely man who is forced to look death in the face. This was a brilliant move because here is a guy who has dealt with the ugly side of death his entire career, now he has to deal with the possibility of his own. Amanda, the daughter of one of his unsolved cases, showed up at the perfect time. He needed a project, to be needed. She needed help, and the police weren't an option. She knew the murderer was back, but it wasn't anything concrete and basically the police failed her the first time around. This is a great book. If you like Michael Connelly or Jonathan Kellerman, you will love this.

I am a lifelong fan of detective-genre mysteries, and this book reminds me of some of my old favorites, especially good old Lawrence Block. The prose is clean and concise; the story is deep and heartfelt; the hero is both flawed and stouthearted. I received this book as a gift, and it was a pure pleasure to read. Very highly recommended!

Ok, I don't say that much. Good is as "good" as it usually gets, but in this case I'll give this work a five stars. I really enjoyed this book. Marty Singer is a 50-something ex-copy struggling with colon cancer. He's retired for health reasons and days have become a long series of coffee shop stops and waiting. Waiting for the next bought of chemo and wondering when he would die. Amanda Lane is the daughter of a murdered woman and long ago Marty was the detective on her mother's case. He gave a 12 year old Amanda a card, and the case moved on through the legal system to an unsatisfactory conclusion. Both Marty and Amanda moved on through their lives until she found herself struggling with the past coming back to haunt her. Amanda asks Marty to help her. He is at a loss for something to do and not having had the first chemo treatment yet, agrees. They are thrown together into a continuation of the case once thought resolved. Amanda is stalked, Marty is sick and despite the help called in, it all comes to a startling conclusion. I never saw the ending coming. I really liked the character of Marty Singer. He's a man with struggles of his own to face when he agrees to help the child of yester-year. All the players from the previous killing comes into play. The

author provides enough information to know who and how the players fit in without bogging the story down with backstory. Its all worked in, in a way that doesn't slow down the story or detract from the current action. Well worth the cost of the book....

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