

The Codger and the Sparrow

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The Codger and the Sparrow is a literary novel about inter-generational friendships, loneliness, rebellion, and a special form of community service. The latter creates unexpected benefits on all sides when a grieving widower meets a teenage troublemaker who has also landed on the wrong side of the law.

The unexpected dovetailing of these alienated lives exposes a connection between them, even though Luis's Puerto Rican roots lie far from Hank's world.

As they share their lives and memories, Hank resolves to do better than he has been. A road trip to Houston, Texas to reconnect with an old love motivates him to make changes, but Luis's request to come along for the ride introduces differences that he finds unpredictable and strangely compelling.

The lively ride each undertake to walk out of their worlds of despair and depression and into new lives creates a story replete with wry humor, social observation, and psychological depth.

Readers who look for literary works that embrace cultural differences, age challenges, and interpersonal evolution will find *The Codger and the Sparrow* nicely steeped in all these qualities and more, as each character discovers new approaches to life through their evolving friendship with each other.

The result is a powerful story of how a chance encounter introduces new life support systems, realizations, and growth opportunities, no matter the age of the traveler through life.

The Codger and the Sparrow will appeal to (and is highly recommended reading for) fiction enthusiasts who look for powerful sagas of transformation that can emerge from grief, rebellion, and unexpected life encounters.

—D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, *Midwest Book Review*