

Monett Times Book review
By MELONIE ROBERTS
'A Dedication'
John Zaiss, author
Synergy Books

A rebellious teenager meets an elderly man in a most unlikely fashion, resulting in a most unlikely friendship. Falling into the familiar trap of "doing things the easy way," high school student Quinn Marshall gives up on academia after receiving a failing grade on a paper based on a poor choice and an educator's unwillingness to give him a second chance. Quinn excels at underachieving.

He then meets Joe Toscano, a retired by-the-book Marine who had little or no tolerance for the mistakes of his own son, but sees a chance of redemption in gently guiding Quinn through some tough decisions about his future without being judgmental of his decisions. His thoughtful silences allow Quinn to draw his own judgments as he learns to take responsibility for his own actions and their consequences.

As Quinn matures into a thoughtful and generously giving young man, his parents, teachers and friends begin to notice the change and search for the influences behind it. Everyone who touches the life of Joe Toscano ends up forever changed by his quiet strength and dignity, as well as unfailing acceptance of their shortcomings. Joe Toscano gives people room to grow, then stands back and lets them do it.

Readers can't help but be touched by this amazing story from first-time author John Zaiss. He skillfully weaves a tale of forgiveness, redemption, and the importance of second chances in the novel *A Dedication*. This story is one that bridges the generational gap between the very young and the elderly in such a manner that testifies to the truth that friendship comes in all ages and all sizes.

Break out the tissues and sit back for an extraordinary tale that gently grips the reader until the last page is turned.

This book is available at most major outlets including Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.