



# **Boss Nova Odyssey**

*Michael N. Graham*

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Michael Graham was a seasoned businessman who'd traveled the globe, first as the son of an airline professional and then for his own career. Spending time in government, advertising, and the hospitality industry, he crisscrossed America and eventually headed a global division of the world's largest ad agency. At sixty years old, he had done more than most men could fit into one lifetime. Yet he needed one more adventure.

In his twenties, Graham had opened a restaurant in Utah. Now he wanted to start an Asian eatery in São Paulo. It was not a city he knew well, and its people were even more unfamiliar to him. Even better—or worse—he spoke absolutely no Portuguese. This venture was designed to test him to the max.

Before much time had passed, Graham found himself in the perfect storm of red tape, uncertain financial capital, and customers who refused to be pleased. The daunting nature of the challenge he'd set for himself made him wonder why he had undertaken it in the first place. Was it simply a way to stave off the anxiety of aging? Or could this project bring him a kind of success he'd never experienced before?

## **Boss Nova Odyssey Details**

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## From Reader Review Boss Nova Odyssey for online ebook

### Yvonne Glasgow says

If you've ever had a passion and followed it, you might know what it's like to be Michael Graham, author of Boss Nova Odyssey. A passionate restaurateur, Graham wasn't ready to give up his foodie dreams just because he reached his 60's. Instead, he decided to embark on a whole new adventure. He uprooted himself and moved to another country, where he did not speak the language, and invested in opening a restaurant he hoped would stand out among the many others in the area.

In this biography, Graham shares his challenges, successes, and his failures with the readers. You learn about his history, and you learn what drives him to chase the things he loves. You also learn that sometimes success is lost to failure, and sometimes failure leads to success. If you didn't shoot for the moon, you'd never have a chance to succeed in the first place, and it's obvious that Graham knew this when he set out on his final adventure opening East (his restaurant) in São Paulo. He didn't know Portuguese, but maybe his knowledge of food would win them over. You'll have to read the book to find out.

Sooner or later you have to retire, but why not reach for the stars one last time first. That's the lesson I got from this book.

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### Caitlin says

A heartfelt and honest story of one man simply following his dreams. Michael Graham writes in loving detail of his adventures and misadventures in his pursuit of his passions. Whether it involves picking up and starting a brand new ski resort restaurant in Utah after having unsuccessfully attempted to impress Robert Redford, to becoming a known figure in Utah politics, to throwing caution to the wind and moving to Brazil, despite a significant language barrier, to open the restaurant of his dreams, this memoir is at times both charming and frustrating. You both root for Graham and are somewhat appalled at his lack of foresight and consideration in the face of his excitement and creativity. Having said that, you are always entertained by the path he takes along the way and intrigued as to what are his next steps.

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### Jessica says

This was a highly enjoyable read. Michael Graham's life has been full of interesting adventures and intuitive career leaps, and I am glad that he chose to share those adventures with us.

He possesses a great gift for storytelling. Graham does not mince words. His sense of humor is apparent in a sly self-deprecating fashion, as well as used to point out idiosyncrasies within the realm of business.

Though I am neither a business owner nor a man in my sixties, I found that there were elements of this book that I could completely relate to. At the very beginning, noting a Monty Python reference, I thought 'Okay. I like this guy.'. Reading a bit further, as he explained how he always rates the design and cleanliness of restrooms in restaurants, I decided that we had possibly just become friends.

A well written and entertaining journey, I highly recommend this book.

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## **Kat Kennedy says**

Humorous and honest memoir about pursuing dreams no matter the obstacles

From soup to nuts, Michael Graham's entertaining read about his venture opening a restaurant in Brazil at age 60 is a multi-course meal of wit and humorous anecdotes about starting a business in a foreign country where he doesn't speak the language. His endeavor leads him to travel back in time and recall the steps and missteps of his life that led to following his vision of becoming the Humphrey Bogart style manager of his own Rick's Cafe Americain in Sao Paulo. Hence, the memoir, BOSS NOVA ODYSSEY takes the reader through the many life phases of Michael Graham as he writes, edits, and rewrites his life.

Written with humor and the endearing ability to laugh at his own idiosyncrasies, this bio is honest, funny and moving. Graham has a knack for letting the reader in on his inner thoughts of impending doom that many will recognize because it's so often playing on the non-stop loop in our own heads. But there are lessons to be learned here. Lessons about living life to the fullest, facing fear and failure and getting back up, taking chances and just living life as if we only have one. And that's the take away from this book. BOSS NOVA ODYSSEY reminds us that life is an odyssey, and we chart our own destinations. Even if we get blown off track, as we will, it is up to us to return to our charted course, change courses, or anchor for a while until we can chart a clear course. It's an age-old lesson, but Graham takes us through his journey in a way that makes it seem fresh and new while reminding his readers that the journey begins with the first spark of an idea, but we have to take that first step, and if the first step leads down a rocky path, find a new one to get to where you want to go. The fun is in the adventure, but it takes work and courage. Graham shares many adventures here and lots of life lessons, but the most important one is: It's never too late to take that first step.

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## **Caitlynn Akin says**

This biography follows the life of Michael Graham a passionate entrepreneur who has made one last attempt to avoid retirement by following his dream to move to Brazil and open a restaurant. Throughout the book, Graham gives glimpse into his wide range of past careers, reflecting on how they have shaped him and brought him to where he is today. He provides an honest account of his experiences, detailing not only the successes he has had, but also the challenges he has faced. Not only was it an entertaining story, but it felt motivational as well. My personality is vastly different from that of Graham's, so it was very inspiring to read how he always embraced life and jumped with both feet in to fulfill his dreams. After reading this book, I feel ready to throw away some of my fears and take on more risks to achieve my goals.

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## **Tanya says**

A personal account of one man's journey while following his dreams, this book shares the author's struggles and successes as he tries to open a restaurant after uprooting himself and moving to a foreign country while in his 60s. The book is a great account, reminding the reader, that one can follow their dreams at any age, and that age shouldn't stop a person from living their lives. The book is very slow in the beginning but does speed up a bit as the story moves along. This is a great book for those interested in the restaurant business, or reading about the restaurant business. There are great life lessons but it could be hard to connect to based on

Graham's focus.

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## **Gerry Dee says**

### **Not my cup of tea.**

Extremely tortuous explanations of the thought behind utterances and motivations obscure a rather delightful story. Not my cup of tea. I received this book free from Goodreads Giveaways.

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