

## Top customer reviews from Amazon



Yvonne Glasgow

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Food, passion, and retirement.

April 22, 2018

Format: Kindle Edition | Verified Purchase

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.



Amazon Customer

[4.0 out of 5 stars](#) Living the dream?

April 18, 2018

Format: Kindle Edition | Verified Purchase

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.



Kat Kennedy

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Humorous and honest memoir about pursuing dreams no matter the obstacles

May 5, 2018

Format: Kindle Edition | Verified Purchase

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.



David L. Bufkin

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Have you ever dreamed of opening your own restaurant?

April 14, 2018

Format: Kindle Edition Verified Purchase

In your dreams your place would be different from the rest and perfect in every way, You would be the celebrated bon vivant, debonair confidant of your rich and famous patrons, If this is your dream, I implore you to read this book! This is a classic fish out of water story -- at times laugh-out-loud hilarious and at others poignant --but always fascinating. It is the story of the collision of cultures -- and careers The author, born to English parents, but thrust into both American and Brazilian culture in his youth describes a remarkable odyssey through several distinctive and unlikely jobs. Corporate salaryman. Restaurateur. Political Fixer. Ad man. And restaurateur again. His wry and always self-deprecating voice makes this an easy and rewarding read. This book is certainly a refreshing change of pace to the countless and forgettable "see how brilliant I am" efforts by today's tech-genius entrepreneurs. This is a story full of the drama and richness of real life and how it can throw curve balls into the best laid plans. But how humor and grace can always prevail.



Jessica

[5.0 out of 5 stars](#) Absolutely delightful.

April 19, 2018

Format: Kindle Edition Verified Purchase

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 in pointing 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 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.

[4.0 out of 5 stars Inspiring Entrepreneurial Tale](#)

By [Bycmakin17](#) on April 25, 2018

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

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.

[4.0 out of 5 stars Follow your dreams!](#)

By [AZUTCA](#) on April 28, 2018

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

Boss Nova Odyssey is a story about one man's life journey in pursuit of his dream of creating and owning a world-class restaurant. He envisions a sleek, classy Pan-Asian eatery populated nightly by A-listers and beautiful people. Unlike most of us who forsake our dreams for conventional lives, Michael Graham has the courage and confidence to walk away from highly successful non-restaurant careers that seemingly serve as a means of further solidifying his vision and fueling his desire to get back to his dreams. As one might imagine, the journey is one of starts and stops, ups and downs, and overwhelming waves of emotion, but onward it goes. Imagine: East Coast collegian to ski resort restaurateur to campaign manager, advertising executive to restaurateur, fondue forks to giant wok, Salt Lake City to NYC to Washington DC to Sao Paulo, Brazil and back to SLC.

While Graham's journey is an entertaining ride through life, behind everything is his search for something much more than is offered by even the best of restaurants or the executive level careers. A good and fun read.

[4.0 out of 5 stars Chasing the dream...the hard way.](#)

By [Ken Verdoia](#) on April 25, 2018

[Format: Paperback](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

Graham takes the reader on an occasionally-hilarious journey into a life filled with ambition, challenge, and the pursuit of unlikely dreams. None more instructive and tortured than his bold step into the unknown of launching a high-end restaurant in Brazil, without a mastery of the language or local culture. The result is a fun, if uneven, telling of the classic "fish out of water" tale. Graham is at his best when he lets his dry and effective wit capture the absurdities of reaching for dreams while stepping in daily reality. What emerges is a satisfying consideration of what motivates an individual's nearly insatiable desire to take the next, if unlikely, leap off the cliff of stability into the great unknown of challenge and opportunity. The reader may find their own lessons as they join Graham on his journey.

[5.0 out of 5 stars Following your bliss isn't always blissful... but it's the only life worth living](#)

By [J Zig](#) on April 22, 2018

[Format: Paperback](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

Boss Nova Odyssey is hugely entertaining, surprisingly educational and ultimately inspirational. Michael Graham's adventure is hilarious. It's hard to believe this is his first book, because he tells his crazy story with more wit and irony than most books I've read from the best and funniest travel writers.

He has that gift for making others enjoy his suffering. The setting is exotic, but sometimes it's the daily annoyances we've all experienced that Graham elevates to catastrophic proportion. And when it's all done, and you reflect on the sum total of this one man's trials and tribulations, you realize that what he has really done is turned catastrophe into triumph. Once you stop laughing you realize that there is a

simple but profound message here — don't stop laughing.

Highest possible recommendation. Read this book and encourage Michael Graham to keep the Odyssey going!

[5.0 out of 5 stars Provides the Perfect Checklist To Pursue Your Dream and Then What Happens When Reality Strikes](#)

By [Gerald Simmonson](#) April 21, 2018

[Format: Paperback](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

Best non-fiction novel I have read in years! You can't make this stuff up. The personnel journey is a story unto itself and speaks to all of us of a certain age that have a drive to remain 'relevant' in a society that continues to make judgements despite past accomplishments. But the story becomes especially enjoyable when Michael describes his foray into the restaurant business. I suspect many out there have flirted with this dream and Boss Nova is the reality of one individual to pursue that dream. The details of that reality are worth the read alone. For those of you who have had the opportunity to travel to Brazil and experience the culture, Boss Nova will give you an added payback of insight into the culture and over the top enjoyment. I have ordered additional books, so my friends can enjoy.

[5.0 out of 5 stars Very Fun Read, U Won't Regret It](#)

By [James Nathan](#) on April 22, 2018

[Format: Paperback](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

A friend turned me on to this book and I'm so grateful that he did. Michael seems like your average Joe Don Draper ad man until he comes up with the wacky idea that somehow he will succeed opening a restaurant in a country where he doesn't know a lick of the language and where they dislike the cuisine he insists on serving. This quick read shares all the fun (miserable for him) twists and turns with sweet romance thrown in for good measure. Looking forward to reading his sequel.

[5.0 out of 5 stars A wonderful read!](#)

By [customer](#) on April 30, 2018

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

A wonderful read! Graham's description of his adventures in Brazil are laugh-out-loud funny. He has the gift of seeing the humor in any situation - and he encountered a lot of them in his quest to open a restaurant in a country whose language he did not speak. His perseverance despite all the setbacks was inspiring, and his adventure ended with an unforeseen gift. Looking forward to his next book.

[4.0 out of 5 stars Boss Nova Odyssey is an excellent read. It starts a little slow but after ...](#)

By [Lucky Severson](#) on April 23, 2018

[Format: Kindle Edition](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

Boss Nova Odyssey is an excellent read. It starts a little slow but after a few pages it zips right along with one adventure after another leading to one grand one, and a rebirth. Well worth your time.

[5.0 out of 5 stars Joys and defeats—will stay with you like a satisfied smile after a perfect meal](#)

By [Liz Burgess](#) on April 21, 2018

[Format: Paperback](#) [Verified Purchase](#)

Witty, self-deprecating and charming, this story —with its ups and downs, joys and defeats—will stay with you like a satisfied smile after a perfect meal. Kudos!

[5.0 out of 5 stars A human and humorous account of a life well spent](#)

By [Gary Hawthorn](#) on April 22, 2018

[Format: Kindle Edition](#)

Boss Nova Odyssey is a funny title for an even funnier book where the escapades just keep coming and the pages just keep turning. A perfect companion for the upcoming beach season.

Get aboard Graham's magic carpet as the Boss Nova opens his first restaurant in Snowbird Utah and, decades later, his last in Sao Paulo Brazil. The reader is transfixed by the misadventures, wondering

what this restless soul will decide to do next—what quirky observation will pop up on the next page.

Graham's humor is most entertaining when he aims at himself. To wit, he confesses: "...I understood absolutely bloody nothing..." about the Portuguese language. An admission that makes his quest to open his Sao Paulo restaurant the equivalent of climbing Everest without oxygen and in sandals. Then he asks: Why should my ignorance of their language "...stand in the way of my vision and my gifts to the beautiful people of Brazil?"

The appeal of Boss Nova stems from recognizing traces of Graham in ourselves or knowing someone kind of like him. Graham observes: "Spontaneity was my most loyal pal; I was the kind for outrageous ideas for fun you couldn't resist or for that matter, for better or worse, ever forget."

The book's plentiful content reflects Graham's attraction to "...people with the potential for big stories in them...who know how to experience life...are willing to explore....and take a risk or two along the way."

However, what makes one marvel the most are the cojones on this guy: Never discouraged by the mismatch of his skill set to his next great idea. His lack of trepidation—and sometimes common sense—in the way he bulls ahead to make his grand vision a reality.

The "shoulda coulda woulda" crowd will end Boss Nova Odyssey envying Graham the Man. They will then thank him for sharing a life well-spent—for writing such an honest and funny book.

[5.0 out of 5 stars Brave, funny coming-of-age meets midlife crisis story -- a hilarious, compelling inspiration for the rest of us](#)

By [CStokes](#) on April 30, 2018

[Format: Kindle Edition](#)

Loved, loved, loved this. First of all, it did something few books can do--it held my attention through a couple cross country plane trips and made the trips seem to fly by. Also, I found myself laughing out loud on the plane. Wow. I was inspired, moved, horrified and sad at moments, and mostly just thankful that the author, Michael Graham, had the guts to both live through these myriad life adventures and to tell the world about them. His willingness to share the failures and successes of this bold life was inspiring to me and has left me reflecting on the stones I have hesitated to turn over. I am left thinking it is never too late. His writing takes us through the twists and turns of his life in a style that reminds me of the charming meandering streets of an old Italian village with interesting moments and stories to tell around each corner. I loved that about it. Also--the squirrels! Thank you, Mr. Graham, for making me smile, laugh, and cry a little. Can't wait for the next Odyssey!

[5.0 out of 5 stars Wonderfully Entertaining](#)

By [Robert M. Smith](#) on April 21, 2018

[Format: Kindle Edition](#)

In the style of Bill Bryson, Graham has written a hilarious recounting of his adventures in following his dream to become the self-assured and debonair Humphrey Bogart, master of Rick's place in a romantic land. To the enormous amusement of his readers his journey from Park City Utah to Washington D.C. and finally to Sao Paulo, Brazil is a series of well-intentioned plans gone awry. While Graham may not be Bogart, he is a very entertaining storyteller. In this well written, fast moving series of laugh-out-loud vignettes, you also learn some fascinating details about local cultures, the restaurant business and exotic food. Great fun!

[5.0 out of 5 stars Travel, business and love -- what's not to like?](#)

By [Maura](#) on April 21, 2018

[Format: Paperback](#)

Could be the next Hallmark movie!