

MICHAEL N. GRAHAM

Escaping the Confines of Reason, But Not Abandoning the Dream

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to own a restaurant? Not a burger joint, but a talked-about, place-to-be-seen kind of place with witty patrons, innovative cuisine, and glittering ambience? Sure, you have. But, because you are a stable, rational person, you quickly abandoned this silly daydream.

I have written a book about someone who, escaping the confines of reason, didn't abandon the dream. Not once but several times. That person is me.

The book—"Boss Nova Odyssey"—traces the four Boss Nova—"the new boss"—experiences in my life: creating and running a restaurant at Snowbird, Utah; becoming the Chief of Staff to a Governor; being involved in the advertising business in New York City; and finally, my ultimate dumb idea, opening a restaurant in Sao Paulo, Brazil without speaking one word of Portuguese.

Was this to be the icing on the cake of a colorful and successful career that included stints as a CEO of a division at one of the world's largest advertising agencies and as the country's youngest chief of staff to a state governor? Or had I simply created a recipe for a spectacular disaster from someone running until the AARP hunted him down? Was I battling the dilemma and fear of aging, becoming totally irrelevant and did anything of this wild idea make sense?

I wanted to write a story of one man simply following his dreams and detailing his adventures and misadventures in his pursuit of 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 opening the restaurant of my dreams, this memoir that tells these stories in a casual, laugh-out-loud and self-deprecating way.

The last part of the book I strongly believe is a dilemma that many face as they approach the age of 60. Today there is a premium on youth as those older seem to mainly get in the way and rarely seem to have much to offer to most. I faced that reality and dealt with it in

my unusual way. Most of the book is dedicated to something poignant and that was my search for something more poignant: meaning, fulfillment and love.

It took me two years to organize my (sometimes painful) memories into a narrative, and the process was frustrating, enlightening, and demanding, but one that I am so proud to have accomplished. And now it is off to see if anyone other than myself—and our cats—find the story interesting and fun to read—hope so.

[Find "Boss Nova Odyssey" at Amazon](#)