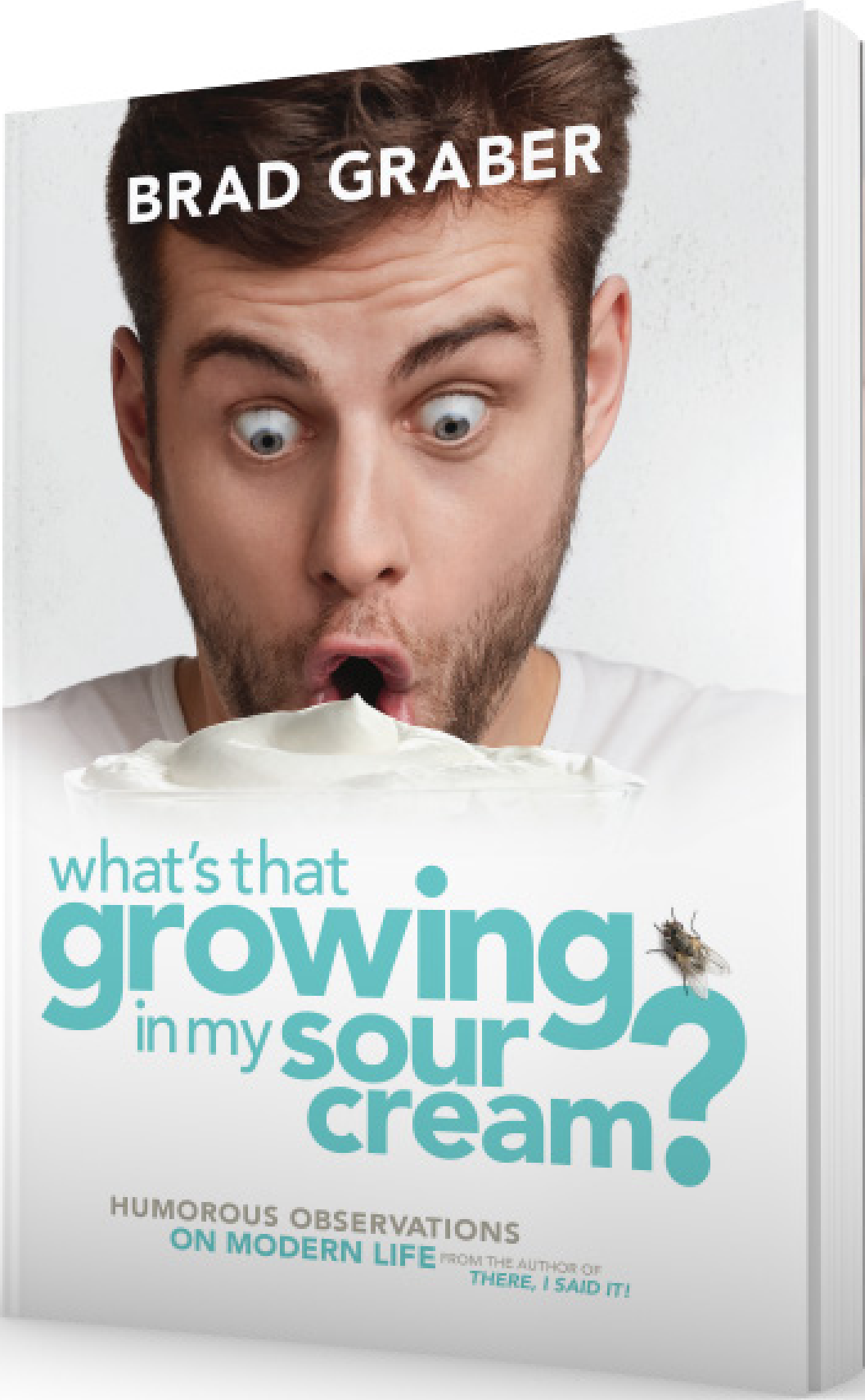


BRAD GRABER



what's that  
**growing**  
in my **sour**  
**cream?**

HUMOROUS OBSERVATIONS  
ON MODERN LIFE FROM THE AUTHOR OF  
*THERE, I SAID IT!*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WHAT'S THAT GROWING IN MY SOUR CREAM?****Brad Graber**

Brad Graber's new release, **WHAT'S THAT GROWING IN MY SOUR CREAM?** is a compilation of humorous essays reflecting on the joys, challenges, and absurdities of modern life in America. Drawn from Graber's blog, **There, I Said It!**, Graber introduces readers to his sharp observations on everyday subjects such as Facebook friends, the odd messages stuffed into fortune cookies, awkward man hugs, and mahjong. A bold new voice, Graber's humor and wit is on full display in **WHAT'S THAT GROWING IN MY SOUR CREAM?** (February 2020, ISBN 978-0-9976042-4-5, Original Trade Paperback)

From the multi-award winning author of **THE INTERSECT** and **AFTER THE FALL**, comes a unique work of funny insight certain to engage readers. Graber explores American life through a very personal lens, sharing his experiences as an author and as a gay family man. "I grew up loving Erma Bombeck and Dick Cavett. I like to think of my blog, **There I Said It!** as if they had a baby." **WHAT'S THAT GROWING IN MY SOUR CREAM?** offers readers the best of the blogs gathered together under one cover.

**What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?**

By Brad Graber

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# About Brad Graber

## Author of *After the Fall* and *The Intersect*



Brad Graber writes novels because he grew up in a family where no one ever listened to him - so he made up stories about them.

Born and raised in New York City, Brad obtained a B.A. in Biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and an M.H.A. from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. A former healthcare executive, Brad has held a number of management positions and been a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a Certified Medical Executive through Medical Group Management Association. Though he no longer works in healthcare, Brad continues to volunteer with local non-profits.

**WHAT'S THAT GROWING IN MY SOUR CREAM?** is Brad's third book. **AFTER THE FALL**, Brad's second novel, was released in May 2018, and his debut novel, **THE INTERSECT**, was released in 2016. Both novels have won multiple awards and garnered rave reviews.

Brad has lived in Highland Park, a suburb of Chicago; West Bloomfield, a suburb of Detroit; and Mill Valley, a suburb of San Francisco. He currently resides in Phoenix with his husband Jeff. He writes a weekly blog: *There, I Said it!* For more information, visit Brad's website: [bradgraber.com](http://bradgraber.com) or follow him on Twitter @jefbra1

# A Conversation with Brad Graber, Author of *What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?*

***"What's That Growing in My Sour Cream" is a compilation of the humorous essays from your blog: "There I Said It!" How long have you been writing a blog? What was the inspiration?***

I've been writing the blog since October 2016. I started it after the publication of my debut novel, *The Intersect*, as a way to stay connected to readers and to share a bit about myself. It allows me to stay top-of-mind as I continue to create fiction. But to be honest, it also allows me to reveal who I am and how I think and what's important to me. It just another tool for getting my voice heard and growing my author platform.

***Tell us about the name of the blog? How did you come up with it?***

It's an expression I've come to use a lot in my life. Usually, when I've been frustrated. Typically, it comes out of my mouth after I've said something that I've been struggling *not to say*. Something which I'm concerned might be unkind, harsh, or overly critical. Something that's really been bugging me and finally, I can't hold it in anymore. So after I say whatever terrible thing that is pressing my buttons, you'll hear me say, *There, I Said It!* As if I've finally let it go.

***You have a variety of everyday topics that you discuss in the blog. Can you share a few with us? And which is your favorite?***

I'm pretty attached to them all, but the one that stands out for me is "Why Can't We Bequeath Our Friends When We Die." That was written just after my friend Harold passed away. I'd been at the hospital with him and he was surrounded by this amazing group of people. Friends he'd had for over 40 years. And each person held a special meaning for him. And as I stood in the room and watched all the love pour forth, I thought about how wonderful it would be to actually inherit some of these wonderful people. It just seems a shame that at the end of our existence we have wills to bequeath worldly possessions but not a way of sharing the lovely people who are the real treasures of our lives.

***Why pull these blogs together into one collection? What was the motivation?***

At first, I wasn't sure that I'd do it. But then, I'd heard from readers about how much they enjoy the essays and I began to wonder if there wasn't an opportunity to gather them together and share them with a wider audience. And when I look through the collection, I realized that the blog is so much more than just the ramblings. Some of the pieces were inspirational. Some were insightful. Some, just clever and witty. That's when I realized that the collection might actually be fun to read from start to finish.

***The pieces tend to run between 350 and 500 words. Is that your preferred style?***

Let me just say upfront, if you're writing a weekly blog, 350 to 500 words feels like more than enough. First, most readers don't have the time to read every piece. Since my blog is distributed by email, I know the actual click rates. You have to keep it short. Otherwise, no one is going to read it. Also, you have to provide some sort of value-added appeal. Something that brings a smile to the reader's face. A simple

recognition of a truth that we all share. Finally, some essays are written in a matter of an hour or two, others take days of editing till I finally arrive achieve the exact point that I'm trying to make. So the commitment to the work is the same as if you're writing a novel.

***Tell us about humor. Most of the pieces have a unique twist.***

They do. And that is what I try for. To squeeze every bit of irony, sarcasm, wisdom, and wit out of each subject matter. I'm not usually asking for feedback. In other words, I'm not anticipating engagement from my audience which according to the experts makes me a poor blogger. But, I'm hoping to bring a smile to the reader. A moment of recognition. That's my goal. And it's always an added bonus when someone writes me a note letting me know that they've enjoyed a piece. That makes it all worthwhile.

***Your bio proclaims that you "grew up in a family where no one never listened to me—so I write fiction to get even." Is that true?***

I grew up in New York City in an eight-story Co-op apartment building with twenty-two families on a floor. My parents had a lot of friends and there were always people around. There was also a lot of talking at the dinner table when our extended family gathered together to discuss the issues of the day or just gossip. I was the youngest, and so I spent hours listening to these conversations, taking it all in. No one held back their opinion. You truly couldn't get a word in edgewise. These were adults with lots to say and they weren't shy about saying it. In fact, they were extremely loud. All you could do was try to stay out of the line of fire.

***Has that helped shape what is important to you as a writer?***

I learned a lot sitting at that kitchen table. I'm all about the human condition. The relationships that we form. How people show up in our lives when we need them most. How injustice presents. How good people cope with injustice. These are the subjects that fascinate me.

***What is your next project?***

I've been working on a third novel, tentatively titled, ***Boca by Moonlight***. The story of four men in their sixties and the women they love. I'm hoping to see ***Boca by Moonlight*** in print by the end of 2020.

My debut novel, ***The Intersect***, is the story of six strangers whose lives cross paths and are forever changed. My second novel, ***After the Fall***, follows the story of Rikki, a teenager being raised by her grandmother, who goes on a journey to discover the truth about her family and her mother's mysterious death.