

A FUNERAL. THREE FRIENDS. STARTING OVER.

BOCCA

*by*

MOON

*a novel*

LIGHT

BRAD GRABER

**MEDIA KIT**

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# BOCA BY MOONLIGHT

*By Brad Graber*

Brad Graber's new novel **BOCA BY MOONLIGHT** is the story of George, a widower, who struggles to acclimate to life as a single man in Boca Raton. In his sixties, George is faced with retirement, the loss of his wife, and a gap in communication with his children. Tensions peak when George attends the funeral of a golf buddy and is persuaded to chip in for the funeral when the check to the mortuary bounces and the family fails to show. Along with his buddies, Herbie and Benny, George goes on a journey to find the executor of the estate, and along the way, discovers important lessons about life, friendship, and becoming a caring father in Graber's third novel, **BOCA BY MOONLIGHT** (November 2021, ISBN 9780997604269, Original Trade Paperback.)

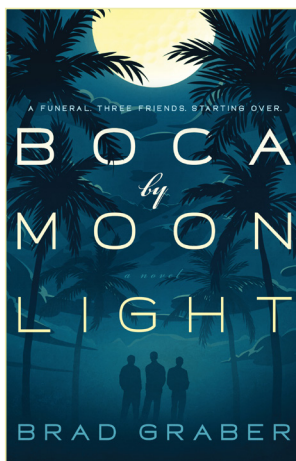
From the multi-award winning writer of **THE INTERSECT**, **AFTER THE FALL**, and **WHAT'S THAT GROWING IN MY SOUR CREAM?** comes a novel that rips aside the façade of one man's life leaving readers to contemplate the value of friendship and family.

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## ABOUT BRAD GRABER:

Brad Graber is the award-winning author of *The Intersect* and *After the Fall*. His third book *What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?* has received a 2020 National Indie Excellence Award for humor. Brad writes a monthly blog: *There, I Said It!* He currently lives in Phoenix with his husband, Jeff.

For more information, visit his website: [www.bradgraber.com](http://www.bradgraber.com) or follow him on Twitter @jefbra1.



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*By Brad Graber*

**Publication Date:** November 2021

**ISBN:** 978-0-9976042-6-9

Original Trade Publication & E-Book

**Price:** 17.99

396 pages

Who Is  
**BRAD GRABER?**



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.

*Boca by Moonlight* is Brad's third novel. Brad's debut novel *The Intersect* was released in 2016. His second novel *After the Fall* was released in 2018. His collection of over seventy essays, *What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?*, was released in 2019. Brad has won multiple awards and garnered rave reviews on each publication. Brad also writes a bimonthly humor blog: *There, I Said it!*

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 the Medical Group Management Association. Though he no longer works in healthcare, Brad continues to volunteer with local non-profits.

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.

For more information or to join Brad's email list, visit Brad's website: [www.bradgraber.com](http://www.bradgraber.com) or follow him on [Twitter @jefbra1](https://twitter.com/jefbra1)

## A CONVERSATION WITH BRAD GRABER, AUTHOR OF *BOCA BY MOONLIGHT*

**Boca by Moonlight is a novel about George, a recent widower, who struggles to come to grips with his life after his wife dies. What captured your interest in telling this story?**

The men in my family outlive the women. I've watched as they've struggled to move on with their lives. Each family member has handled the situation differently, but it's given me insight into the different ways men cope with loss. It's also revealed how dependent men are on the women in their lives for emotional and family support. I wanted to explore that need, including how men navigate dating as well as shore up their friendships. Finally, some widowers face challenges with their adult children. Especially when the emotional core of the family, the mother, is no longer present to guide those interactions. These seem to be universal struggles that aren't often covered in contemporary novels. I thought it would be an interesting change to dive into these topics.

**The story at first seems to be about George. But then, the death of George's friend, Willy, drives the plot forward as the novel transitions into something of a mystery. A hunt for the executor.**

Willy's family fails to show for the funeral. And the check to the funeral home has bounced. Suddenly, George and his golf buddies, Benny and Herbie, are on the spot to pay for the funeral expenses. At first, they're put out, annoyed about the turn of events. Irritated that they had to shell out cash to bury their wealthy friend. They're determined to search for the executor of the estate. Not only to be reimbursed but to find out what actually happened to create the chaos. But the executor is elusive. As are the details of what they know about their friend Willy, and in turn, what they know about each other's lives. In short, the funeral serves as the launching point. It forces them to come together to face up to the realities of their lives. Have they made good choices? Who can they rely upon in a crisis? How solid are their friendships?

**Is George based on yourself?**

Each of my characters is an extension of me in one way or another. After all, I'm the one behind their creation. But as the story evolves, I slip away, and my characters step forward, fully alive, and very independent. George is unique unto himself. But he does share qualities of the men that I have known who have been widowers. But none of them are the template for George. George is unique.

**Herbie and Benny are George's good friends. What attracted you to those characters? How do they play off of George?**

George is kind, but emotionally distant. Herbie has no boundaries and is willing to tell George exactly what he thinks. No matter the consequences. Benny, is a tenderhearted, big lug. He hides his pain even as he struggles. The three are male personas without being stereotypical. Each character helps illuminate a bit more about George. And as the novel progresses, they too get a chance to travel along George's rich arc of self-discovery.

**Eleanor shows up as the woman that George is ultimately interested in. What do you want readers to take away from her role in the story?**

Eleanor isn't exactly how she presents. She's a mass of contradictions. She at first appears down to earth, but is a vessel of secrets and misinformation. Through her relationship with George, we come to understand George's strengths and weaknesses. And she becomes a mirror of George's choices. Choices about how he might want to live his life. Eleanor chooses one path while George opts for another.

## A CONVERSATION WITH BRAD GRABER, AUTHOR OF *BOCA BY MOONLIGHT*

**Sylvia rounds out your cast of key players. What is it about Sylvia that makes her an important component of the story?**

Sylvia is the source of all knowing in Boca Raton. A Realtor, she's dialed into the secrets and workings of the town. Even as she befriends Eleanor, she warns about the struggles of being a single lady. And she is in a unique position to connect the story. It's through Sylvia that Eleanor meets George. It's through Sylvia that George experiences another side of Boca Raton. Sylvia's glib and wise. Two irresistible qualities. And in many ways, she's a victim of her own persona. Still, a fascinating character.

**Are any of the characters based on people you know or have met?**

There's always a "seed of truth". That's where the inspiration comes from. But my characters are not based on real people. My job is to make sure that the characters are constantly interesting. That doesn't happen in real life. And when I was writing this novel, I made a serious effort to write against type. Meaning, that when I thought of someone who might be in the role, I opted to change them up. Offer a twist that might surprise the reader.

**George, Herbie, and Benny, spend a lot of time trying to find the executor of the estate so that they might be reimbursed for paying for their friend's funeral.**

Correct. The executor is the red herring or the McGuffin which drives the external plot. But in the end, it is the internal plot, George's evolution, and Herbie and Benny's, that matters. The need to find the executor drives much of the interaction and allows us to learn about the characters. But in the end, the money isn't important. It's how the friendships evolve that shines through.

**What is one lesson you'd like readers to take away from the book?**

We all get to choose how we go through life. And there will be moments that are bound to shake us into a new perspective. What we might think is an absolute truth, may just be a truth of the moment. What worked for us in the past, may not work going forward. Change comes to us at all ages.

**What is your next project?**

I've started the sequel to my debut novel *The Intersect* - the story of six strangers whose lives cross paths and are forever changed. I'm hoping to have that novel completed by 2023. I continue to promote my second novel *After the Fall* which 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. I'm also creating a Speaker's Series based on my third book, a collection of over seventy essays, *What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?* Finally, I continue to write a bimonthly humor blog: *There, I Said It!* So I'm definitely keeping busy.

## CHARACTERS OF *BOCA BY MOONLIGHT*

### GEORGE ELDEN

George is a widower who is discovering life as a single man. He's handsome, yet unaware of his effect on the opposite sex. He's spent most of his married life focused on his career to the detriment of the relationship with his children, Peter and Carole. As a widower, he now realizes that his wife, Jeanette, held the family together. In her absence, George struggles to communicate with his children.

### HERBIE

Herbie is George's ex-brother-in-law, best friend, and owner of a successful pediatric practice. He's got a sharp wit and a fast tongue, quick to point out George's flaws. After four failed marriages, Herbie is a wise warrior, though he's no longer eager to step into the relationship fray. Instead, Herbie plays the field refusing to commit to a new relationship.

### BENNY

Benny is a former college athlete and a successful endodontist. A large, imposing man with a gray beard, Benny is a sports fanatic. He's divorced, which has left him somewhat fearful. Despite his imposing size, Benny is a gentle soul, still spouting the wisdom that he learned as a child from his grandmother.

### ELEANOR

Eleanor is a wealthy widow. She has no connection with her children. A loner, Eleanor sees herself as a victim of circumstances, unaccepting of the role she plays in her choices. She struggles to find her place in life, willing to be manipulated by others, but unwilling to open up about herself.

### SYLVIA

Sylvia is a sassy, successful, "got all the answers" Boca Raton Realtor. She goes through men like fish glide through water. Sylvia evokes self-confidence and has the style and flair to back it up. She worries that her life choices might have left her with a career that is growing stale.

### BOCA RATON

Boca Raton is a city on Florida's southeastern coast which is known for its golf courses, parks and beaches, and the outdoor shopping area of Mizner Park. It is the home of the very exclusive Boca Raton Resort & Club, a tony Waldorf Astoria property, accessible only to residents, members of the golf club, or guests of the hotel.

