

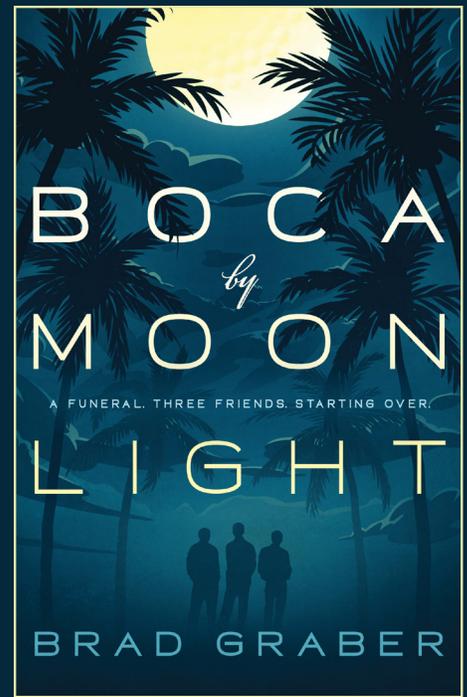
# BRAD GRABER

Author of: *Boca by Moonlight*

## READER'S GUIDE

### Introduction

George is struggling. A recent widower, he's uncertain how to navigate through the rest of his life now that his wife is gone. Fortunately, he has his golf buddies. When one of them suddenly dies, George is pressed to pay for the funeral expenses even though his finances are severely stressed due to medical debt incurred by his late wife's illness. Determined to find the executor of the estate, George goes on an emotional journey that will deepen his friendships and reveal the cracks in his own family relationships.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brad Graber writes novels because he grew up in a family where no one listened to him—so he made up stories about them. Born and raised in New York City, *Boca by Moonlight* is Brad's fourth book. His debut novel, *The Intersect*, and his second novel, *After the Fall*, have each won multiple awards and garnered rave reviews. *What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?* is a compilation of Brad's humor essays from his bimonthly blog *There, I Said It!* Brad currently lives in Phoenix with his husband, Jeff.

1. George portrays a certain exterior façade to the world. How does George's exterior differ from his emotional interior? Is George aware of the conflict? Are there examples in the novel that highlight that differing perspective?
2. What about George's experience resonated with you? Are you aware of other widowers who are struggling after losing their wives? What specifically does George seem to be struggling with? What about Herbie and Benny? How are their struggles similar?
3. George is dependent on his wife to navigate the relationship with his children. How would you describe George's relationship with his children? Is there an expectation today that men are more involved in rearing children? Is that a generational shift?
4. George's two buddies, Herbie and Benny, have failed marriages. What insight do these two characters bring to the story? How do you think their experiences shape George's perspective?
5. When Willy's family fails to show at the funeral, George and his buddies are forced to cover the expenses. They then start the process of trying to find the executor of the estate. Have you ever been to a funeral where family members failed to show? What were some of the reasons? Have you ever been involved with working through an estate? Or searching for an executor?
6. George comes to see his deceased wife as the glue that has connected him with his children. What were your thoughts on that circumstance? How is the maternal instinct different than the paternal instinct? What does a father bring to the relationship with a child that is different than a mother?
7. The author introduces a series of characters as George goes on the journey to find the executor. Many of the relationships are with the opposite sex. Some are intimate; others casual. How did you react to the couplings? Is it different for men vs. women?
8. Eleanor is a complicated character. Describe her strengths and weaknesses. Do you see her as a good match for George?
9. Sylvia brings an element of buzz to the story. How would you describe her role in moving the plot along? Do you see her as a good match for George? How would you describe her friendship with Eleanor? Do you recognize that "kind" of friendship?
10. The story is set in Boca Raton, Florida. Have you ever been there? What kind of reputation does the city have among your friends? Is it someplace that you might visit?
11. George ultimately comes to a decision about his life and opts for a new way forward. Why do you think George has decided to reach out to Carole?
12. Did you find *Boca by Moonlight* to be entertaining? Were there moments of recognition, where you shared a similar thought or experience with one of the characters or situations?