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**Media Kit for Dan Berne, Author of *The Gods of Second Chances***

This kit contains the following:

* Publication Information
* Cover Art
* Novel Synopsis
* Advance Praise
* Author Bio
* Author Photos
* Illustrator Bio
* Press Release for Powell’s Launch
* Sample Author Interview Questions
* About Forest Avenue Press
* Contact Information

***The Gods of Second Chances* Publication Information**

Author: Dan Berne

Illustrator: Reid Psaltis

Cover Art: Gigi Little

Fiction, trade paper, 6 x 9

Publication Date: March 1, 2014

Publisher: [Forest Avenue Press](http://www.forestavenuepress.com/)

ISBN: 978-0-9882657-4-5

Library of Congress Control Number: 201395172

Distribution: Ingram, Baker & Taylor, and direct through publisher.

**Book Cover Art**: See attached file:

* TGOSC Front Cover.png

**Synopsis:**

Family means everything to widowed Alaskan fisherman Ray Bancroft, raising his granddaughter while battling storms, invasive species, and lawsuit happy tourists. To navigate, and to catch enough crab to feed her college fund, Ray seeks help from a multitude of gods and goddesses – not to mention ad-libbed rituals performed at sea by his half-Tlingit best friend. But kitchen counter statues and otter bone ceremonies aren’t enough when his estranged daughter returns from prison, swearing she’s clean and sober. Her search for a safe harbor threatens everything Ray holds sacred. Set against a backdrop of ice and mud and loss, this debut novel explores the unpredictable fissures of memory, and how families can break apart, even in the midst of healing.

**Advance Praise**

“Every so often a novel comes along that feels like nothing you’ve read before. Dan Berne’s *The Gods of Second Chances* is one of those, soulful and shattering in equal measure. Berne shines a light on rarely visited corners of both the world and the human heart in a page-turning story that stays with you long after you’ve reached the end. Be prepared to be amazed.”

* Karen Karbo, author of *Julia Child Rules*

“With *The Gods of Second Chances*, Dan Berne has created a world that is immediate and true, tender and tough as nails, with a protagonist, Ray Bancroft, to match. Ray’s struggle to stay afloat, to keep his family safe, is a harrowing one, full of ominous portents, dangerous adversaries, and hard-earned triumphs. Through it all, Berne navigates the treacherous waters of the human heart with a deft but unsparing touch. *The Gods of Second Chances* is a terrific debut from a talented writer.”

- Rob Yardumian, author of *The Sound of Songs Across the Water*

**Author Bio**

DAN BERNE grew up in a working-class family in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked in his way through college, with jobs in drugstores, warehouses, U-bolt factories, and cement plants. He moved to the west coast in 1979, settling in the Portland area in 1990. He has been an active member of a select writing workshop led by author Karen Karbo for ten years. His short stories and poetry have been published in literary magazines and has won a literary award from the Pacific Northwest Writers Association. Dan owns a market strategy consultancy and is currently writing a book on market transformation. He lives with his wife Aliza in Portland, Oregon. *The Gods of Second Chances* is his debut novel. More can be found at his website danberne.com.

**Author Photo**

See attached file:

* Dan Berne 1.jpg

**Illustrator Bio**

Since a young age REID PSALTIS has been fascinated by animal life and been compelled to draw. Naturally, these interests became correlated, and the natural world has consistently been the subject of his work. Whether for pay or for pleasure he is easily contented drawing anything furred, scaled, or feathered. He is a native of the Pacific Northwest, and currently lives in Portland, Oregon, where he works as a freelance illustrator while also writing and drawing his own comics. Reid’s comics and illustrations have been featured on Top Shelf 2.0, Study Group Comics, Trip City, Scout Books Good Ink Series and other independent publishers. More of his work can be seen at his website, reidpsaltis.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local Author Debuts at Powell’s**

PORTLAND, OREGON - *The Gods of Second Chances*, Portland author Dan Berne’s debut novel, will launch with a reading at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, at Powell’s City of Books, 1005 W. Burnside Ave., Portland.

*The Gods of Second Chances* features Ray Bancroft, a widowed fisherman raising his granddaughter with help from a multitude of gods and goddesses—not to mention rituals ad-libbed at sea by his half-Tlingit best friend. But statues and otter bone ceremonies aren’t enough when Ray’s estranged daughter returns from prison, her search for a safe harbor threatening everything he holds sacred.

“Every so often a novel comes along that feels like nothing you’ve read before,” said Karen Karbo, author of *Julia Child Rules*. “Dan Berne’s *The Gods of Second Chances* is one of those, soulful and shattering in equal measure. Berne shines a light on rarely visited corners of both the world and the human heart in a page-turning story that stays with you long after you’ve reached the end. Be prepared to be amazed.”

Dan Berne, whose fiction and poetry have been published in literary magazines, owns a market strategy consultancy and lives with his wife Aliza in Portland. Learn more at danberne.com.

*The Gods of Second Chances* is illustrated by Portland artist Reid Psaltis, who draws inspiration from the natural world. Psaltis’s comics and illustrations have been featured on Top Shelf 2.0, Study Group Comics, Trip City, and the Scout Books Good Ink Series. More of his work can be seen at reidpsaltis.com.

Forest Avenue Press, founded in Portland in 2012 to publish quiet fiction by Oregon writers, chose Berne’s manuscript as the first novel in its fiction catalog.

“*The Gods of Second Chances* proves that quiet, relationship driven novels don’t have to be static or slow moving,” said Laura Stanfill, publisher and founder of Forest Avenue Press. “Dan’s a master of plot, and he’s created a sense of urgency in his manuscript that keeps readers turning pages. We’ve already had a few readers report finishing the book within twenty-four hours—even canceling activities so they could stay home to read.”

For more information, see forestavenuepress.com.

**Sample Interview Questions for the Author**

1. Your novel deals with some difficult issues, such as the death of a spouse and the effects of drug addiction on a family. Are these issues that you’ve had to deal with personally?
2. Your main character Ray Bancroft is an everyday kind of guy, a crab fisherman. What attracted you to write about that kind of character?
3. Who are the writers who have influenced your style? Is there a mentor who has helped you along the way?
4. Grief is a strong theme in your novel. What is it about grief that propels your characters?
5. One of the issues plaguing Ray and his daughter Jenny is that they have very different memories of what happened in the past. Do you think that is a common phenomenon?
6. Locale and scenery are obviously important to you. How do you choose how much to devote to details of landscape and seascape?
7. You’ve chosen to have illustrations in your book. How do you think they impact the reading experience?
8. You work full time running your own consulting firm. How do find the time to write? Is it “when inspiration hits” or “butt in the chair every day?”
9. Forest Avenue Press is a small, fairly new publishing firm. What made you choose them to publish this novel?
10. What are you working on now that your debut novel is being published?

**About Forest Avenue Press: Quiet books for a noisy world**

Laura Stanfill, novelist, award-winning journalist, and freelance editor, founded Forest Avenue Press in Portland in 2012. The press publishes work by Oregon writers with a focus on quiet, character-driven literary fiction.

Dan Berne’s debut, *The Gods of Second Chances* (March 2014), is the first novel being released by Forest Avenue Press. It will be followed by *The Night, and the Rain*, *and the River,* an Oregon short story anthology edited by Liz Prato (May 2014), and *Skin Drag*, the debut novel by Portland poet Kate Gray (September 2014).

*A Simplified Map of the Real World* by Stevan Allred launched Forest Avenue Press’ fiction catalog in September 2013 with an overflow crowd at Powell’s City of Books. It was greeted with accolades and blurbs from numerous acclaimed Northwest authors, and reviews and interviews appeared in more than twenty local and regional newspapers. Stevan has appeared in seven Northwest cities, with more readings and events forthcoming in 2014, including kicking off the 2014 Mountain Writers’ Series with Robin Cody.

*Brave on the Page: Oregon Writers on Craft and the Creative Life* (October 2012), Forest Avenue’s homegrown writing anthology, spent four months on the Powell’s Small Press Bestseller List. It was named the Powell’s On Oregon Blog’s Book of the Year for 2012, chosen as a Powell’s Hawthorne Staff Pick, and recognized as a Powell’s Top 5 pick.

**Contact Information**

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