

J. Michael Blumer, Author  
*The Book of Second Chances*

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Date

Name

Title

Library

Address

City, State, Postal



Dear

I'm a local author of "The Book of Second Chances," the first book in a young adult fantasy series, "The Secret Books of Gabendoor." I'm available to work with library book clubs or to participate in special library events.

I have several topics for use in presentations, seminars, or workshops that can be conducted at your location. A list of sample topics is enclosed. I also enjoy interacting with book clubs before, during and after they have read my novel.

I have a wealth of materials to make a library visit fun and educational. I have prepared a "Book Club Kit" which I loan to libraries as part of my involvement. The kit includes enough copies of my book for each book club member, along with reader and facilitator versions of a professional study guide.

"The Book of Second Chances" has been well received by parents who have read the story with or to their children, early chapter readers, and young adult book clubs with members from 9-13 years old. Information about my book, study guides, and more, can be viewed at my web site: [www.gabendoor.com](http://www.gabendoor.com).

If any of your branch locations are interested my participation, they may contact me by phone or email. I would be happy to meet with them to discuss the possibilities.

Attached are:

- A library media kit including a letter of recommendation from the Caboolture Shire Library, Queensland, Australia.
- A sample of free materials available for use during library author events.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Blumer  
Author



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# *The Book of Second Chances*

*Book one in the series: The Secret Books of Gabendoor*

by J. Michael Blumer

## Library Media Kit Contents

Recommendation Letter

Press Release

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Tip Sheet

*Book of Worlds at my command  
Open to a distant land.  
Show the place and mark it well  
That called to me from hidden spell.*

*The story in this chance begins,  
Found in pages locked within.  
Open them with words of care.  
What you seek is waiting there.*



# Caboolture Shire Libraries



—dream learn explore—

June 2006

Dear Mike,

I am the facilitator of a youth book club held once a month at our local library. We have called ourselves the Book Factory and consist of both boys and girls from 9-13 years of age.

We have been lucky enough to review your new book “The Book of Second Chances”. This book has been the first book that all members have completed, filled out the review and all enjoyed! After a year this is a great result.

The book club members enjoyed the descriptive characters, the places traveled to, both in the dream slip world of Gabendoor and in the real world. We had “laugh out loud moments” and even some tears. Lots of questions have been asked about what will happen in future books.

I have had parents ask if they can read the manuscript because their children have been so engrossed in it. Even an English teacher has been reading it, wondering what sort of book can get a boy reading and hanging out for the next book in the series.

This is going to be a very successful series as it is suitable for boys and girls, young adults, adults, and parents. The characters are likable (or not as the case may be), easy to get involved with, and the descriptions of events (including on the first page) hold you spellbound.

As a parent, book club facilitator, and children’s services library assistant, I can recommend this book and the books to come as a “Great Read.” Just make sure that you can find time to read without interruption as it is “unputdownable” as one member said.

*Fiona McCulloch*

Fiona McCulloch  
Children’s Services Library Assistant  
Caboolture Shire Libraries



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NEW TITLE INFORMATION

# What Would You Risk for A Magic Second Chance?

**The life of two thirteen year olds is about to change forever when they discover a world of magical creatures, wizards, spells and a very special book.**

**TITLE:** The Book of Second Chances

**SERIES TITLE:** The Secret Books of Gabendoor

**AUTHOR:** J. Michael Blumer

**SUMMARY:** Hillary and Windslow must choose between saving the distant world of Gabendoor from an evil wizard and reversing an accident that confined Windslow to a wheelchair. With an odd assortment of companions, Hillary and Windslow struggle to solve the mysteries of the magic Book of Second Chances. It's their only hope to defeat the wizard and his creatures.

**RELEVANCE:** Magic, wizards and fantasy worlds, yet real life teens who face disabilities, family issues, and sibling rivalry. A delightful adventure with lessons for everyone about second chances.

**AUTHOR'S CREDENTIALS:** J. Michael Blumer is the author of *The Book of Second Chances*, *The Book of Broken Promises* and *The Book of Twisted Truths*, the first three novels in a five novel series: The Secret Books of Gabendoor, a fantasy world set in another dimension.

**Early Review:** "A great book for young adults, teens, and early chapter readers. A fun book for parents to read with their children. Our book club loved it!"

--Melissa Richards, Librarian, Queensland Australia

**PRINT RUN:** 35,000

**GENRE:** Young Adult, Fantasy

**ISBN:** 1-59092-317-0

**PUB DATE:** September, 2006

**PRICE:** \$14.99

**PAGES:** 288

**TRIM:** 7.5 x 5.25

**BINDING:** Trade Paperback

**ILLUSTRATED:** No

**RIGHTS:** Worldwide

**EDITOR:** Cris DiMarco

**DISTRIBUTOR:** Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Others

**MARKETING BUDGET:** \$35,000

**TOUR:** Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Stillwater, Duluth, Rochester, Seattle, Portland, Charlotte, Hudson, Madison.

**DIVISION:** Blue Works



## J. Michael (Mike) Blumer

Novelist • Author • “Alternative Life Form”

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J. Michael Blumer, or “Mike” as he prefers, has written since high school, jotting down his muses and thoughts in simple journals. In college he turned toward the corporate world after dropping out of a creative writing course because of a “D” he received on a paper. The assignment was to write about a true life experience. He wrote about an adventure with a friend. The professor said that Mike had a creative and dramatic flair, but doubted the truth of the story.

After many years in the corporate world, Mike turned back to writing thanks to encouragement from his family. His children had dubbed him an “alternative life form” because of his creative child rearing techniques such as making his sons sing their arguments.

His venture back into writing began with an adult fantasy series he intends to finish after the “Secret Books of Gabendoor.” He has an alter ego, Mike the janitor, custodian of a virtual pub on the Internet called the Serendip. It’s a place where characters hang out to discuss and gossip about their authors. Mike the janitor “...ain’t one of them uppity writer types.” He simply takes care of the pub, living in the cellar with a few bats as companions and feeds the unnamed dragon that doubles as the Serendip’s mascot and part time bouncer. Mike (not the janitor) has written several short articles about the janitor’s antics in and out of the Serendip.

At night, Mike is a writer, and continues work on his “Secret Books of Gabendoor” series. He maintains two web sites for young writers to give them the early encouragement for their writing that he never had. The two sites are the Little Dipper and the Dragon’s Inn. During the day he is an official starving artist working at a Ford automobile dealership. Mike is married to a second grade school teacher which explains why his marriage has lasted so long. His wife knows just how to handle him.

Mike currently resides in Stillwater, Minnesota with his wife, Jane and their golden retriever, Nova.

You can visit his web site at [www.gabendoor.com](http://www.gabendoor.com)



## Dream-slip to the world of Gabendoor

An interview with J. Michael Blumer,  
author of *The Book of Second Chances*

**Your main characters are a bit unusual. Why a boy in a wheelchair and a stepbrother and sister?**

I wouldn't call them unusual, just not what you normally find in fantasy books. I've always admired the accomplishments of people with disabilities. They have adventures everyday. Why not in my book? Today there are so many "blended families." I thought the challenges of being in a step-family were something readers could relate to.

**The idea of a book that can grant second chances caught my attention. What made you think of it? Is there a second chance you've always wanted?**

Actually I'd missed a chance to have a sixth grade English class review some of my work as a homework assignment. I didn't have anything written for young adults. I chided myself for missing the opportunity. Then I realized I could still find a young audience to give me feedback. I missed my first chance but created my own second chance. So I wrote the first chapter and named the story *The Book of Second Chances*.

**Are you saying you didn't have an idea thought out for the story when you started writing?**

Yes. Writing this book was different and fun. I never knew what was going to happen in the next chapter. It's as if the characters were on an adventure and I was just writing it all down for them as it happened.

**Your main characters, Windslow and Hillary go through a lot of changes. Do you think that's something young readers will relate to?**

I think it's something all readers can relate to. We all change and grow through experiences. For Windslow and Hillary they began the story without a lot of confidence or self-esteem and they both carried a lot of guilt. It's not something they actually thought about. By the end of the story they do realize how much they have changed and see new possibilities for their futures. In the real world it feels good to see a young person suddenly "blossom." It felt good to do that with the characters in my story.

**I liked your shadow creatures, like the Tellagain who makes little old men tell the same story over and over again. I think my father-in-law is haunted by one. Where do you get your ideas from?**

The Tellagain is my favorite too. One of my in-laws is famous for asking, "Did I tell you about the time I..." Even if you answer, "Yes" he tells you the story again. The idea came from him. When I came up with the tellagain name I was going to write it down. I couldn't find my pen and had just put it down. My wife said that another shadow creature snatched it away and I named it a "Scritch." Soon, I had a whole list of shadow creatures.

**The Sallyforth Triplets made me laugh. The idea of one triplet who always tells the truth, one who always lies and one who fits in-between led to some terrific situations. Where did that idea come from?**

Molly Folly, Nelly Never and Tillie Truly are my personal favorite characters. When my children were little, mysterious things would happen, like a broken vase that no one seemed to know anything about. I'd say, "Well if it wasn't one of you, then it who was it? Nelly Never?" They'd all nod. For some reason I'd been thinking about that, took the idea and created the Sallyforth Triplets.

**Your characters dream-slip in their sleep to the world of Gabendoor. When you dream-slip do you actually go there?**

That's a question a lot of readers ask. The answer is yes and no. If you were in the middle of a dream-slip adventure in another world, and your parents looked in your bed, they'd see you sleeping there. But, you'd also be in Gabendoor or another place having your adventure. It's almost like being someplace in your dreams. You're both places.

**What about dangers. If you got injured in a dream-slip would your injury be there when you woke up?**

For the characters in the story, the answer is yes. But they have the actual magic of the Book of Second Chances. The dream-slip wrist bands I hand out to readers have their own special spell, with some protective magic. So for readers, the answer is no. If you have one of my special dream-slip wrist bands, you're safe no matter how wild and exciting your adventure is.

**Dream-slipping sounds fun. How do you get a dream-slip wrist band?**

I hand them out at book signings. There's more information at my web site, [www.gabendoor.com](http://www.gabendoor.com).

**I don't want to give the ending away, but your story teaches a subtle lesson about second chances. Is that something you did on purpose or did it just end up being there?**

It was a conscious decision. Growing up, I liked reading Aesop's Fables. There is a good message in each story. I wanted to do that too, but in a subtle way. Being a parent, I wanted to include things that a parent or teacher could discuss with their children. But I didn't want to preach. I wanted the message to be behind a story that was fun to read on the surface.

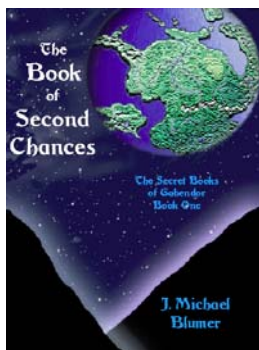
**At the end of the Book of Second Chances, you leave a few things open, hinting at another adventure. Do you have another book planned?**

Yes, I do. A great bunch of young readers gave me feedback on the Book of Second Chances. They made some requests for the next book. That gave me the idea for the next title. It's called the Book of Broken Promises.

**But if the next one is The Book of Broken Promises does that mean you've kept your promise or broken it?**

You'll have to wait for the book for that answer.





SHUSH! I'm in the middle of an  
adventure.

## Dream-slip **Tip Sheet** for *The Book of Second Chances*

### ***Tips & FAQ's for a Successful Dream-slip...Tonight!***

**Have you shown up for an adventure in your pajamas? Try this.** As you're falling asleep, think of what you want to be wearing. The magic of your dream-slip band will take care of the rest.

**Avoid unnecessary delays.** If you get caught without your dream-slip passport, you could wake up early and miss out on a fabulous adventure. To prevent potential problems, keep your dream-slip passport under your pillow or close to your bed.

**Haven't been on a good adventure lately? Check your spell.** Your spell may have worn off. Reactivate your dream-slip wrist band by repeating you spell. Refreshing it every other month will insure you have great dream adventures.

**In the middle of an adventure without the right equipment? Pack before you go.** You never know what you might need on a great adventure; maybe a piece of rope, or climbing shoes. Don't get caught unprepared. You don't actually need to pack. Jot down on a piece of paper all the equipment you'd like to take on your adventure. Keep the paper near your bed. When you need something on your dream-slip, anything on your list will be there for you.

**I'm wearing my band but haven't been on an adventure.** Don't worry. You have adventures in your dreams and you don't always remember dreams. So you won't always remember your adventures. If you wake up feeling great, chances are you had a great adventure you just didn't remember.

**Are there different kinds of dream-slip bands, like in *The Book of Second Chances*?** Yes there are. To see some of the different types and what they do, go to the Gabendoor web site at [www.gabendoor.com](http://www.gabendoor.com).

**Can I make my own dream-slip band?** Yes you can. Just make sure you activate it with the magic of the dream-slip spell. You can find the spell at [www.gabendoor.com](http://www.gabendoor.com).

**I'd really like an official purple dream-slip wrist-band. Where can I get one?** Attend one of J. Michael Blumer's book signing events. He hands them out there. If you happen to bump into him on the street, ask him for the one he wears. He'll gladly give it to you. To see where Mike is scheduled for a book signing or other event, check the Gabendoor web site at [www.gabendoor.com](http://www.gabendoor.com).





# Promotional Support

## *The Book of Second Chances*

ISBN 1-59092-317-0

The author, J. Michael Blumer, or “Mike” as he prefers, will work with your organization to select a grouping of handout, display, and promotional items appropriate for your venue.

### **We want your event to be a success!**

**Bookstores:** Items are available before, during and after Mike’s appearance. Posters and other printed material can be customized to feature your business.

**Libraries and Schools:** “Loaner Kits” are available which include a canvas book bag with multiple book copies, a study guide and a special facilitator’s guide. Mike is available for single and multiple visits with your reader groups and is available for extended online Internet discussions.

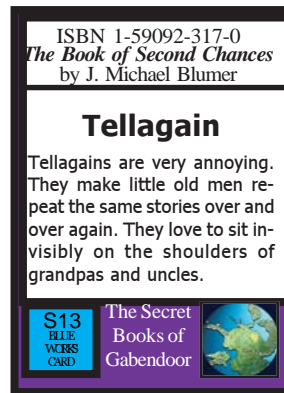
**All:** Mike is an experienced public speaker, instructor and story teller. He has developed a six session class on fantasy writing that can be adapted for short, single session workshops, or presentations.

**The following items are for use to insure the success of every book related event.**



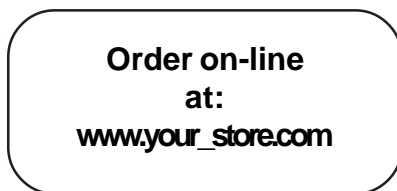
**Dream-slip silicone wrist bands:** Outside embossed, “Dream-slip.” Inside embossed, “www.gabendoor.com.” Packaged with dream-slip card. Gives definition of dream-slipping. Includes dream-slip activation spell on back. Provided with each purchase at book events.

**Trading Cards:** Total of 18 trading cards featuring characters and places from the book. Set includes three limited edition cards. All but limited edition cards can be downloaded from publisher and author web site. Handout for book events. Free limited card with purchase at event.



**Business Card sized data CD:** Contains short multimedia presentation about the world of Gabendoor and complete Gabendoor web site. Includes printable poster, door hanger, trading card sheets, dream-slip passport and more. Free counter handout to promote book.

**Poster:** Gabendoor poster with rating block, reviewer quote, ISBN, and web site address. **Poster Stickers available** to promote book store or other web site for specific promotions. Poster can be downloaded from publisher and author web site. Available as handout, and to promote book events.



Promotional Support (continued)



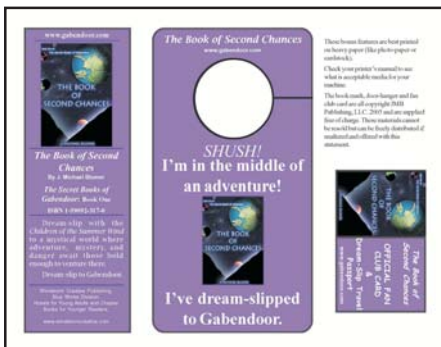
**Foam Bookmark:** Foam bookmark with information about The Book of Second Chances, ISBN and web site. Multiple colors with decorative cord and plastic star bead. Handout to generate interest at book events.

**Dream-slip Passport:** Business card sized official Gabendoor Dream-slip passport and Fan Club card. Counter handout item.

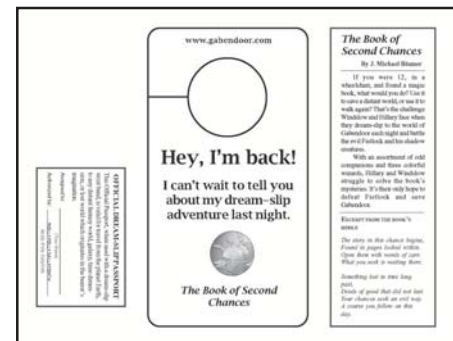


**Business Cards:** Include basic book information including ISBN and web sites. Counter handout item.

**Foam Door Hanger:** Two sided foam door hanger. Front side: "Shush! I'm in the middle of an adventure. I've dream-slipped to Gabendoor." Back side: "Hey, I'm back from Gabendoor. I can't wait to tell you about my dream-slip adventure last night." Special handout used to draw crowds and engage readers at book events.



**Printable Door Hanger, Book Mark and Dream-Sip Passport.** Available for download at publisher and author web site.



Promotional Support (continued)



**Bookmark Tree:** Decorative wire tree display stand to hold foam bookmarks at events. Display prop.

**Gabendoor Globe:** Wrought iron globe on stand painted to be the world of Gabendoor. Display prop.



**Small Treasure Chest:** Decorative chest for tabletop display. Holds trading cards, book marks and other small items. Display prop.

**Large Treasure Chest:** Decorative chest for floor display. Holds extra copies of The Book of Second Chances. Display prop.



**Book Club Canvas Bag:** Graphic of book cover and text, "Book Club Kit." Sturdy canvas designed to hold multiple books and discussion guide. For use with library and other book clubs.

**Classroom Kit Canvas Bag:** Graphic of book cover and text, "Classroom Kit." Sturdy canvas designed to hold multiple books and discussion guide. For use in school classrooms.



## Promotional Support (continued)



**Study Guide:** Book Club and Classroom study guide designed by education professional. Probing questions for discussion, suggested follow-up research and fun activities. Facilitator version and reader versions. Available for download from author and publisher web sites.

**Trading Card Easel:** Plastic display easel displaying Gabendoor trading cards. Display prop. Individual cards are used as handouts.



**Reviewer Easel:** Plastic display easel with quotes and pictures from young adult book club in Queensland, Australia. Display prop.

**Book Cover Easel:** Plastic display easel holding front and back cover of *The Book of Second Chances*. Display prop.



**Display Table and Cover:** Folding 6 ft. table with crushed velvet cover and gold fringe border. Used to hold above promotion and display items at events.

**Not Shown** (Display props.)

**Bound Manuscript:** Spiral bound, 8.5 x 11 inch, single spaced copy of *The Book of Second Chances* in manuscript form, to show various manuscript forms.

**Unbound Manuscript:** Manuscript in submission form. 8.5 x 11 inch, double spaced, single sided pages to show various manuscript forms.

**Manuscript Proof:** Two-per-sheet, single sided prints of actual book pages prior to street printing and binding. Used to show various manuscript forms.