



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 21, 2017

Simon Boughton to leave Macmillan Children's Publishing Group after 17 years with Roaring Brook Press

Jennifer Besser to join Macmillan Children's Publishing Group as Senior Vice President and Publishing Director for FSG Books for Young Readers, Roaring Brook Press, and First Second

Jon Yaged, President & Publisher, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, announced today that after 17 years with Roaring Brook Press, Simon Boughton will be leaving Macmillan. Boughton currently is serving as Senior Vice President and Publishing Director for FSG Books for Young Readers, Roaring Brook Press, and First Second. He has been in Children's publishing at Macmillan in various roles since 2004.

The success of these imprints will continue in the very talented hands of Jennifer Besser who will be joining Macmillan on October 30 and assuming Boughton's role.

Besser was most recently Publisher of G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group. She was responsible for publishing the blockbuster 5th WAVE series by Rick Yancey and editing the Newbery Medal winning, and Caldecott Honor winning, LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson, as well as seven bestselling novels by Marie Lu, including LEGEND. She's worked with many award-winning and bestselling authors including Maile Meloy, Adam Gopnik, Holly McGhee, Pascal LeMaitre, Alexandra Boiger, Harlan Coben and many others. Prior to leading Putnam, she was at Disney-Hyperion Books, where she edited an impressive list of writers, including Rick Riordan and Melissa de la Cruz.

"I am ecstatic to have Jen join MCPG," said Jon Yaged. "She has impeccable taste, consummate grace, and is just plain fun to be around. She is the perfect addition to lead Roaring Brook, FSG BYR, and First Second into the future."

"I'm incredibly grateful to the inspiring group of colleagues, authors and illustrators who made Penguin Random House a home. As hard as leaving home is, I'm thrilled to join the Macmillan Children's Publishing Group and to be part of such a vibrant, talented team," said Jennifer Besser.

Simon Boughton founded Roaring Brook Press in 2000, and joined Macmillan in 2004 when Macmillan acquired Roaring Brook Press. He has published a long list of critically and commercially acclaimed authors and illustrators under FSG Books for Young Readers, Roaring Brook Press, and First Second, including Nick Bruel, Vera Brosgol, Jack Gantos, Marie Rutkoski, Erin E. Stead, Philip C. Stead, and Gene Luen Yang. He has served as both editor and publisher for Caldecott medalists Mordicai Gerstein and Eric Rohmann; Caldecott Honoree Lane Smith, Printz-award winner Marcus Sedgwick, and Newbery Honoree Steve Sheinkin.

"It's been a pleasure and education to work with such a creative, dynamic, and hard-working group of people. I wish everyone at Macmillan continued success in the future," said Simon Boughton.

"It has been a privilege working with Simon. He leaves a legacy of acclaim, distinction, and quality publishing that extends from the founding of Roaring Brook Press to his oversight of FSG BYR, to the stellar growth and accomplishments of First Second Books. He will be missed," said Yaged.

###

Macmillan Publishers is a global trade book publishing company with prominent imprints around the world. Macmillan publishes a broad range of award-winning books for children and adults in all categories and formats. U.S. publishers include Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Flatiron Books, Henry Holt & Company, Macmillan Audio, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, Picador, St. Martin's Press and Tor Books. In the UK, Australia, India, and South Africa, Macmillan publishes under the Pan Macmillan name. The German company, Holtzbrinck Deutsche Buchverlage, includes among its imprints S. Fischer, Kiepenheuer and Witsch, Rowohlt, and Droemer Knauer. *Macmillan Publishers is a division of the Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, a large family-owned media company headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.* www.macmillan.com

Contact:

Allison Verost

Vice President, Marketing & Publicity

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

646-307-5738

Allison.Verost@macmillan.com