FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Molly Ellis, Vice President, Executive Director of Publicity
Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group
molly.ellis@macmillan.com

Balzer + Bray Moves to Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group
The legendary duo to take on their new roles in April

February 15, 2024 (New York)- Jen Besser, President & Publisher, Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, announced today that Alessandra Balzer and Donna Bray will bring their celebrated imprint, Balzer + Bray, to MCPG, effective April 15. The duo will be SVP and Co-Publishers and their imprint will pursue vibrant, groundbreaking titles–from picture books to middle grade, to young adult fiction, and graphic novels.

“The only word is thrilled,” said Besser. “Balzer + Bray has been an inspiration in the world of children’s publishing. As a team, Donna and Alessandra are formidable. They have a passion for finding stories that resonate with readers, and their books have been enriching my own reading life for years. I could not be more excited for them to bring their talents to Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.”

Since launching in 2008 with Harper Collins, Balzer + Bray has become a trailblazing force in the publishing industry. Widely recognized for their critically acclaimed, commercial titles, the imprint has published more than 50 New York Times bestsellers and launched the careers of many of today’s most notable authors and illustrators.

Donna Bray is the editor of #1 New York Times bestseller The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (a Printz Award and Coretta Scott King Award Honoree), Stonewall Honoree and New York Times bestseller Imagen, Obviously by Becky Albertalli; Kirkus Prize winner America Redux by Ariel Aberg-Riger; and the New York Times bestsellers Pax by Sara Pennypacker, and the Emmie & Friends series by Terri Libenson.

Alessandra Balzer is the editor of #1 New York Times bestseller Dumplin’ by Julie Murphy, Coretta Scott King Award winner Nigeria Jones by Ibi Zoboi, Stonewall Award Winner Only This Beautiful Moment by Abdí Nazemian, National Book Award finalist and Morris and Pura Belpre Honoree The Lesbian's Guide to Catholic School by Sonora Reyes, as well as the New York Times bestseller I Am Enough by Grace Byers, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo.
High profile awards for Balzer + Bray titles include a Newbery Honor for *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga, Caldecott Honors for *Mel Fell* by Corey L. Tabor and *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen, as well as recognition by the National Book Awards, Geisel, Printz, Morris, Coretta Scott King, Stonewall, Pura Belpre committees among many others. Many of Balzer + Bray’s titles have also been adapted into critically acclaimed films.

“We’re incredibly excited to move our imprint to Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, whose high-quality, award-winning list we’ve long admired. At Macmillan, we plan to continue Balzer + Bray’s mission of publishing bold, innovative books that appeal directly to kids in a fresh way, inspire conversations, and reflect a wide breadth of experiences,” said Balzer and Bray in a joint statement. “We are grateful to our brilliant authors and illustrators, as well as our beloved colleagues at HarperCollins, who have contributed so much to B+B’s success over the years.”