

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Sale April 8, 2008

**DELACORTE PRESS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS ANNOUNCES THE RELAUNCH
OF FRANCINE PASCAL'S *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING SERIES SWEET VALLEY HIGH®
WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST TWO BOOKS IN THE SERIES**

Sweet Valley High® #1: *Double Love* and Sweet Valley High® #2: *Secrets* will carry a combined first printing of 100,000 copies and have been revised to appeal to today's reader.

New York, NY (March 14, 2008)—Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers, an imprint of the Random House Children's Books division, announced today that it will reissue the popular and bestselling series **SWEET VALLEY HIGH®**. Created by Francine Pascal in 1983, the series, which follows the lives of Southern California identical twins Jessica and Elizabeth Wakefield, was an instant success that sold 60 million copies and spawned seven series spin-offs as well as a television series. Long before *Gossip Girl* and *The A-List*, **SWEET VALLEY HIGH®** dominated shelf space on all teen and tween readers' shelves. Now it is poised to be embraced by a new generation of readers, and will feature a brand new cover look and revised material that today's teens can relate to. The relaunch begins with the publication of *Double Love* and *Secrets* on April 8, 2008. Each title will carry a first printing of 50,000 copies and will retail for \$5.99.

"These classic stories about high school, friendship, love, and family stand the test of time," says Beverly Horowitz, VP & Publisher, Bantam Delacorte Dell Books for Young Readers. "**SWEET VALLEY HIGH** novels deal with issues and situations familiar to young adults of all decades. A whole new generation of readers can see how the 'good girl' and the 'bad girl' make their choices. It's a wonderful way to see how the other half think and feel! The twins have always represented the best and worst parts of kids finding their way in the world."

Although they are identical twins, the similarities between Jessica and Elizabeth Wakefield are external only. Jessica is a cheerleader, and a schemer, and always gets exactly what she wants, no matter the cost. Elizabeth is cerebral, a reporter for the school's Web site and beloved by all her classmates. In *Double Love*, both twins seem to be falling for star athlete Todd Wilkins. Jessica thinks she and Todd would be perfect together, but Todd seems to like Elizabeth more than her. And Elizabeth likes Todd, too. Jessica's not used to losing, even to her sister, and mild-mannered Elizabeth is about to give her sister the fight of a lifetime. In *Secrets*, Jessica is in the prime position to be crowned homecoming queen. Enid Rollins, her sister's best friend, is the only person standing in her way. When Jessica uncovers Enid's darkest secret, will she use it to solidify her win?

SWEET VALLEY HIGH® will appeal to new readers as well as those adults nostalgic for their past and looking to rekindle their relationship with the Wakefield twins. Updates to the text include the addition of cellular phones, e-mails, and blogs, things virtually unknown to readers twenty years ago. But the drama, action, and situations that Sweet Valley's teenagers face remain the same as those felt by today's teens. The series relaunch will continue with the publication of books 3 and 4 in August 2008, and books 5 and 6 in December 2008.

Readers who think that gossip only happens in New York City will be surprised to find that it began in the halls of **SWEET VALLEY HIGH**.

FRANCINE PASCAL is the creator of many books for young adults including Sweet Valley High® and its spin-offs, Sweet Valley Twins, Sweet Valley Kids, SVU, and Elizabeth, as well as Fearless. She lives in New York City and the South of France.

Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers is an imprint of Random House Children's Books, the world's largest English-language children's trade book publisher. Creating books for toddlers through young adult readers, in all formats from board books to activity books to picture books to novels and narrative nonfiction, the imprints of Random House Children's Books offer publishing programs that bring together world-famous franchise characters, multimillion-copy series, and top-flight award-winning authors and illustrators. Random House Children's Books is a division of Random House, Inc., whose parent company is Bertelsmann AG, a leading international media company.

SWEET VALLEY HIGH® #1: *Double Love*
(978-0-440-42262-4 (0-440-42262-0) / 240 pages)

SWEET VALLEY HIGH® #2: *Secrets*
(978-0-440-42263-1 (0-440-42263-9) / 176 pages)

by Francine Pascal

Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers paperbacks / On sale April 8, 2008
\$5.99 / \$7.50 Can. / Ages 12 & up

Visit us on the Web at www.randomhouse.com/teens and www.sweetvalley.com.