



MEET world-renowned  
illustrator  
John Shelley, and discover  
the inspiration behind his  
hauntingly delightful  
illustrations featured in  
**HALLOWEEN FOREST**

**Q:** *What are some of your favorite hobbies and interests?*

**A:** 1) Japan: I lived in Tokyo for twenty-one years, am bilingual in Japanese; much of my career was spent there and still travel back frequently  
2) History—a big interest in British/European history in particular  
3) Astronomy (largely unfulfilled!)  
4) Music (former DJ and club promoter, a looong time ago)

**Q:** *What was the inspiration behind the book?*

**A:** For the illustrations, memories of the woodlands of my youth, the old trees of Sutton Park

**Q:** *What makes this book special to you? What important message do you feel it brings to young readers?*

**A:** I loved working on this book as it combined my fascination of the natural world and the atmosphere of night, together with a sense of fun fantasy and wonder. It's a creepy subject, but very fun.

**Q:** *What was your favorite book growing up?*

**A:** *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Graham

**Q:** *What is your favorite memory from childhood?*

**A:** 1) Summer holidays in beautiful Cornwall with the family  
2) Exploring Sutton Park and cycling with my sketchbook around the country lanes outside my town

**Q:** *Did you have any pets? If so, which one was your favorite?*

**A:** My family had dogs and cats; I was always a “cat” person. Favorite was a black cat with a white bib, regarded by the family as “my cat” as I was the only one who he seemed to like, though actually my parents looked after him. I called him Napoleon,” but the rest of the family thought that was a silly name for a cat and just called him Blackie.

**Q:** *What inspired you to illustrate and when did you know you would become an illustrator?*

**A:** I’ve had a graphic as opposed to fine art approach to drawing since I was a child. I used to draw incessantly with a ballpoint pen, which grew into sketching from life regularly when I was thirteen. I began using crow-quill pen and India ink around then, greatly influenced by modern comic art and eighteenth-century graphic artists such as Rowlandson and Gillray. When I was around fifteen, I discovered the work of Golden Age illustrators (Rackham, Dulac, Heath Robinson, etc) and became determined to become (chiefly) an illustrator of children’s books.

For more on John Shelley’s early influences, visit  
<http://johnshelley.blogspot.com/2006/03/early-influences.html>



## **HALLOWEEN FOREST**

by Marion Dane Bauer • illustrated by John Shelley

ISBN: 978-0-8234-2324-8

E-book available

Ages 4–8 • 32 pages • \$16.95