



Elena Carmichael
represented by Painted Words

Hello!



I'm Elena, an illustrator and author based in Brooklyn.

I grew up outside Boston with my parents, older brother, younger sister, and three cats, all of whom were subjected to years of my homemade picture books. During the cold winters, I curled up by the fire with my cat, Appa, getting lost in stories about magic schools, wishing trees, and fairy villages.

Now, I still spend hours each day in magical worlds, but they're the worlds I create.



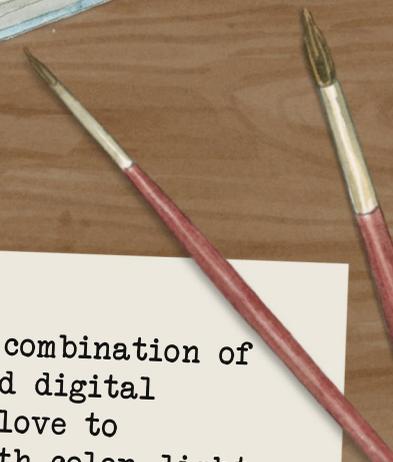
Before I started illustrating professionally, I spent years studying animal behavior, earning a BS in Biology from Rice University.

I've trained parrots and rats, analyzed guide dog behavior, and studied elephants. I've also spent many, many hours scrubbing bird poop out of cages at the zoo and staring at fruit flies in a lab. Even though those days are behind me, my love of animals (and excessive knowledge of them) finds its way into every part of my work.

This is Ernie, an eclectus parrot who I worked with at the zoo. Ernie looks like a green bean in real life, too!

All of the animals in this illustration are real species, known for their crazy colors. This is a pink fairy armadillo, the smallest (and fanciest) kind of armadillo!





My work is a combination of watercolor and digital techniques. I love to experiment with color, light, and texture in every piece I create.

When I need inspiration, I walk in Prospect Park. It's never quiet or serene, but it buzzes with people, pets, and pigeons, and I often leave with a new idea.



My favorite holiday was always Halloween. My family would transform our basement into a haunted house/escape room with puzzles and homemade decorations.



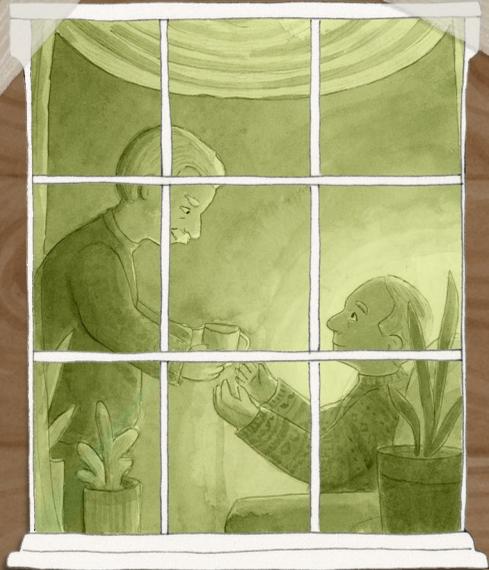
While I love drawing rainbows and kittens, I also gravitate toward spookier scenes. I like asking, "How will they get out of this?" and creating the characters with the grit to do it.



Dream Projects

- magical, fantastical stories
- stories about science, especially animal-related
- stories where characters go on a quest or a journey
- Anything with mermaids or kittens ;)





Thank you for reviewing my work!

Get in touch:

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