



QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS WITH SAMUEL J. HALPIN

What inspired you to write The Peculiar Peggs of Riddling Woods?

My undying love for strange folklore, and of course my own indescribably wonderful grandmother.

Which book or fairytale gives you the shivers?

A favourite fairytale which always drove a chill through my spine was Pengersec and the Witch of Fraddom (spellings vary), where a malevolent witch is banished to float up and down on the seas in a tub.

Do you have a favourite anagram?

“Astronomer” when rearranged becomes “moon starer”. Isn’t that charming?

What sort of sweet would you pick from Bonhilda Bonhoeffer’s shop?

Definitely a Dried Sourapple Skin. My tongue is tingling at the thought.

Have you ever met a miniature pig?

Never. I’m waiting for someone to introduce me.

What’s the best costume you’ve ever dressed up in?

At school, I once dressed as the Mad Hatter and won a prize for my efforts. I’ve never felt prouder in all my life.

How do you come up with your ideas?

Sometimes they come out of nowhere, like cats in the night. Other times I might read a strange little quip and I start to boil and brew it in my head, until when I finally bottle the idea it’s become something else entirely.