

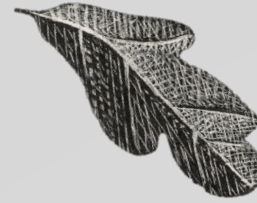
Bambi Turns 100! But What Is The Story Really About?

Follow-up to
A Conversation with Fairy Tale and
Children's Book Scholar and Translator
Dr. Jack Zipes

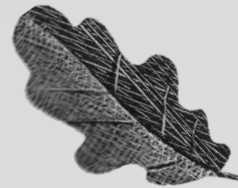


The Film Society of Sinai Free Synagogue
Mount Vernon, NY

SALTEN & ZIPES. *THE ORIGINAL BAMBI: THE STORY OF A LIFE IN THE FOREST*. TRANSLATED BY JACK ZIPES FROM FELIX SALTEN'S *BAMBI: A STORY OF A LIFE IN THE WOODS* (1923). COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS. ILLUSTRATIONS COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY ALENKA SOTTLER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

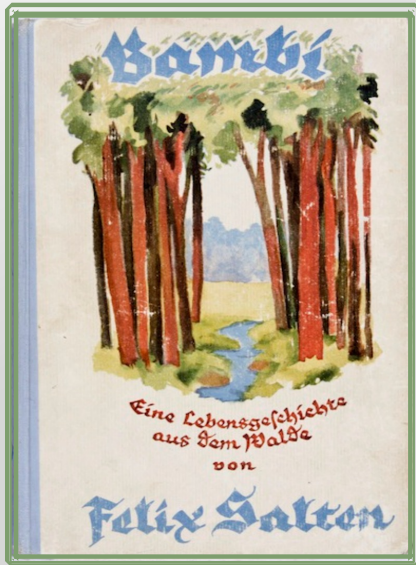


Illustrating *Bambi*

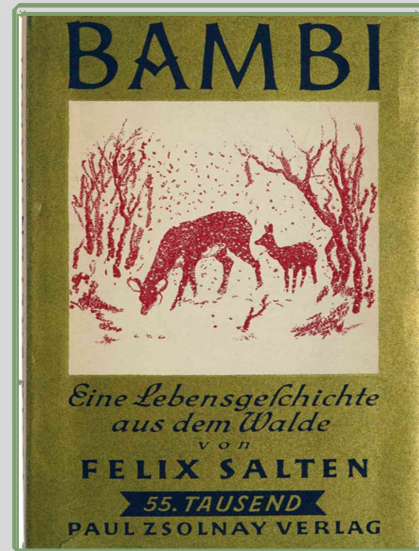


Bambi: A Story of a Life in the Woods, by Felix Salten

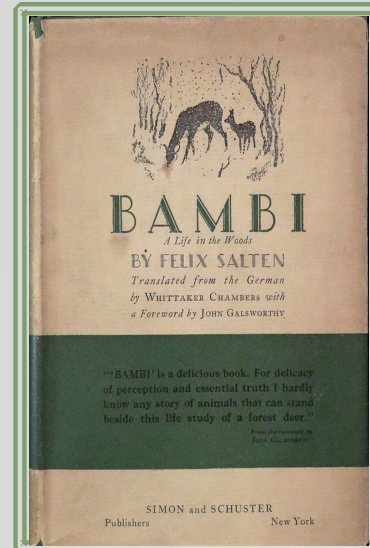
1923 edition



1926 edition



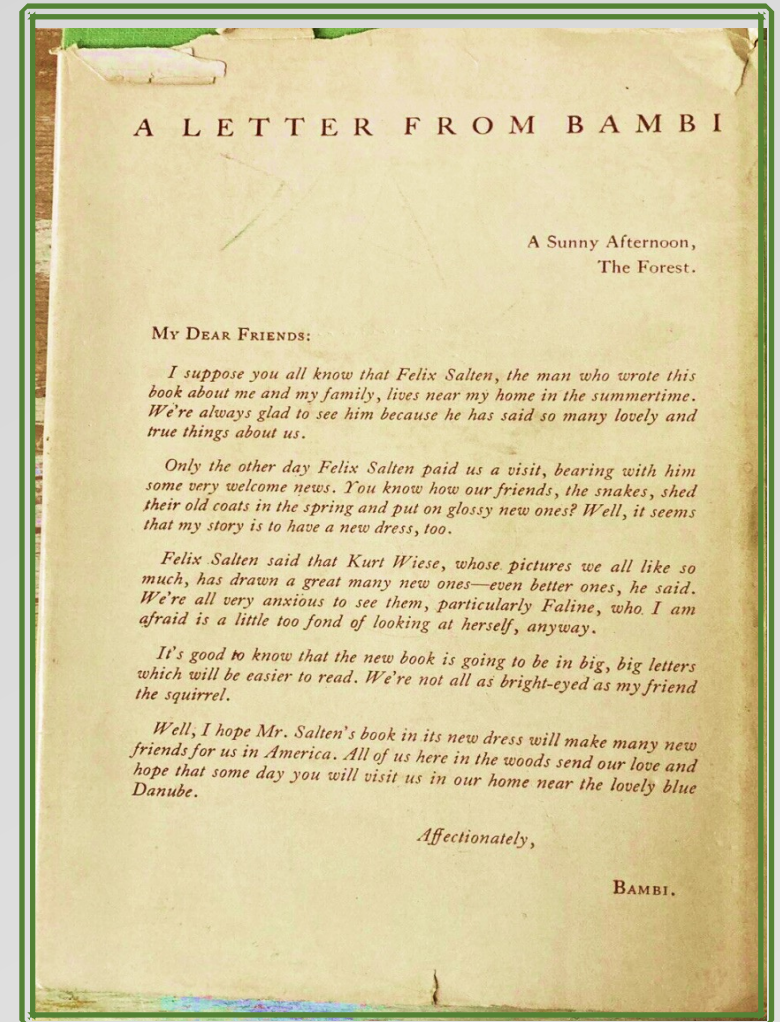
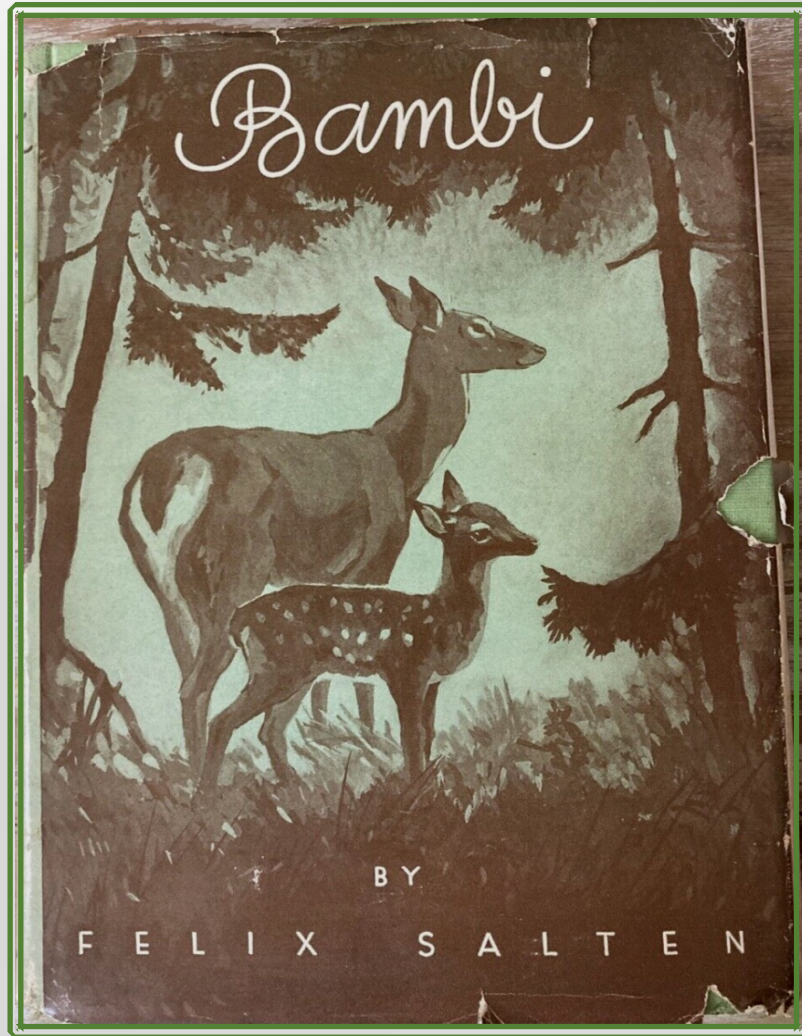
1928 edition translated by Whittaker Chambers
(first English translation)



All three 1920s editions are illustrated by Kurt Wiese

"Bambi is a delicious book. For delicacy of perception and essential truth, I hardly know any story of animals that can stand beside this life study of a forest deer." John Galsworthy, foreword to the Whittaker Chambers translation.

1931 English Translation by Whittaker Chambers
Illustrated by Kurt Wiese (lithographs)



Kurt Wiese (1887 - 1974)

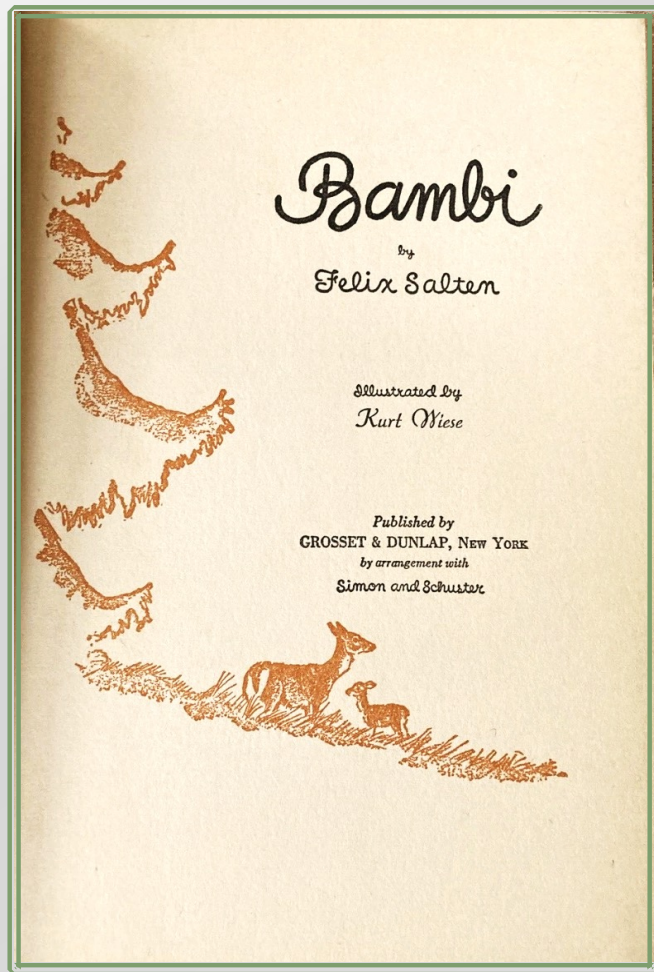
Kurt Wiese was born in Germany. As a young man he lived in China, where he was captured by the Japanese at the outbreak of World War I and turned over to the British. Wiese spent five years as a prisoner, mostly in Australia. Entranced by the animals and the landscape, he found that he had a gift for illustration. After the war he lived in Brazil for a time before immigrating to the U.S. in 1927 and settling in New Jersey.

“I married and bought a little farmhouse at the edge of the woods which cover the rocky banks of the Delaware River about twenty-five miles above Trenton, New Jersey. It’s a good life. I can sit at my window and the animals come to me. They make me understand how they live.”

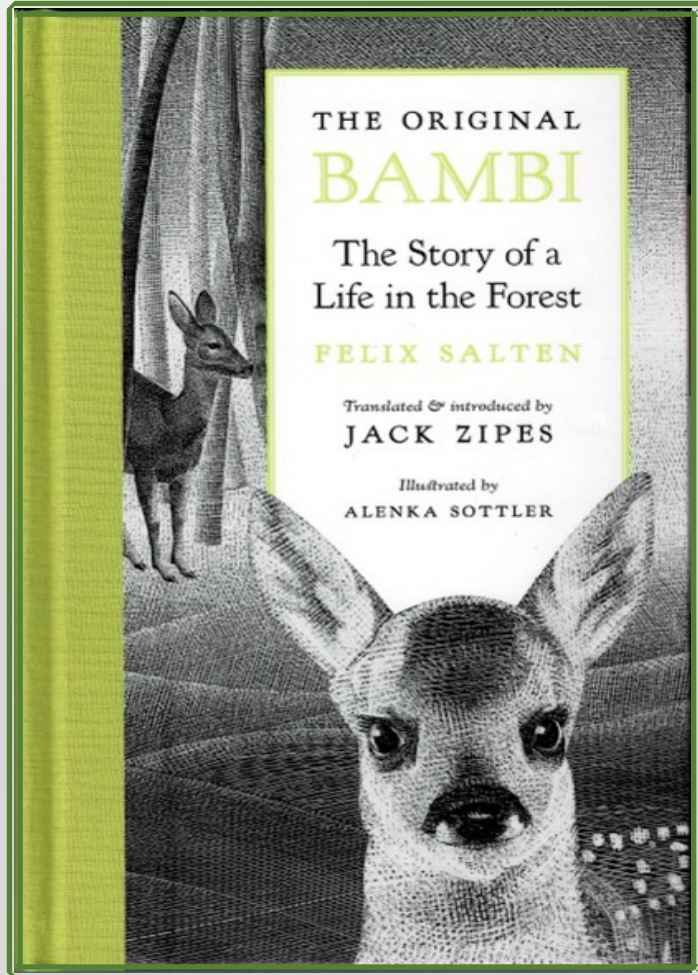
Kurt Wiese, Illustrator
Bambi (multiple editions)



1931 English Translation by Whittaker Chambers
Illustrated by Kurt Wiese (lithographs)



2022 English Translation by Jack Zipes
Illustrated by Alenka Sottler



Two Concepts

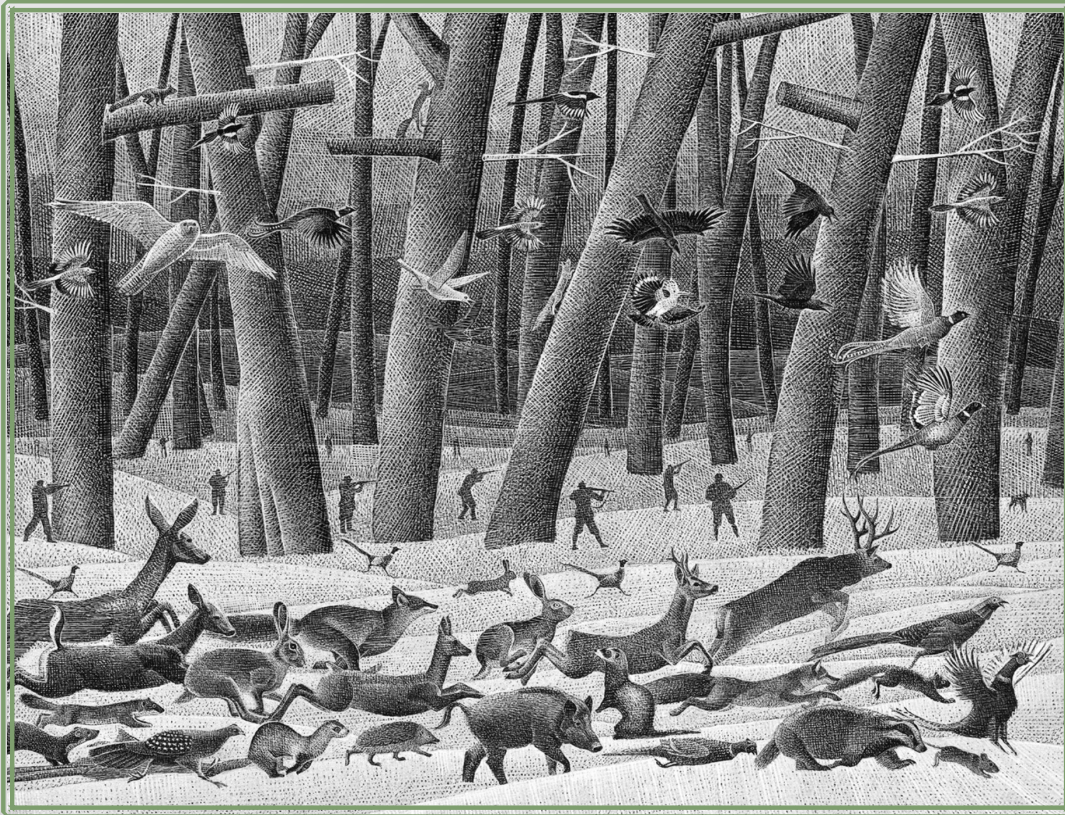
“I developed two concepts. In the first one, which is now done, I let the text play a big role, while the illustrations are meant to encourage the reader’s own experience of what is written. In the second concept, *on the other hand*, I strongly emphasize the hidden context of the text. The forest becomes Vienna. We see Bambi and the other forest animals being chased through the streets for no reason.”

Alenka Sottler, Illustrator
Bambi: The Story of a Life in the Forest

The Animals Flee From Man in the Forest

CONCEPT 1: ENCOURAGING THE READER'S OWN EXPERIENCE.

THIS ILLUSTRATION IS IN THE BOOK.



SALTEN & ZIPES. *THE ORIGINAL BAMBI: THE STORY OF A LIFE IN THE FOREST*, PP 78-79. TRANSLATED BY JACK ZIPES FROM FELIX SALTEN'S *BAMBI: A STORY OF A LIFE IN THE WOODS* (1923). COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS. ILLUSTRATIONS COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY ALENKA SOTTLER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CONCEPT 2: EMPHASIZING THE HIDDEN CONTEXT. THE FOREST BECOMES VIENNA (NOTICE THE BUILDINGS ON THE RIGHT). THIS ILLUSTRATION IS NOT IN THE BOOK.

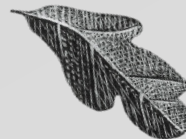
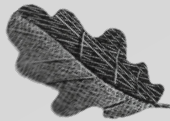
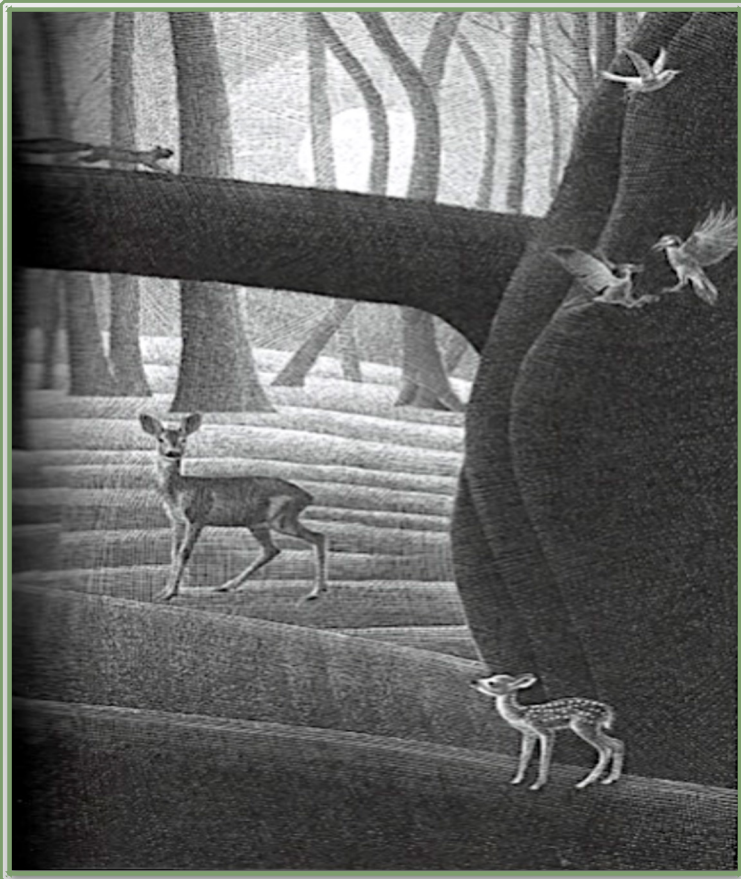


HUNT, WITH PHOTO FROM THE ÖSTERREICHISCHE NATIONALBIBLIOTEK KARTENSAMMLUNG. COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY ALENKA SOTTLER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Bambi and His Mother

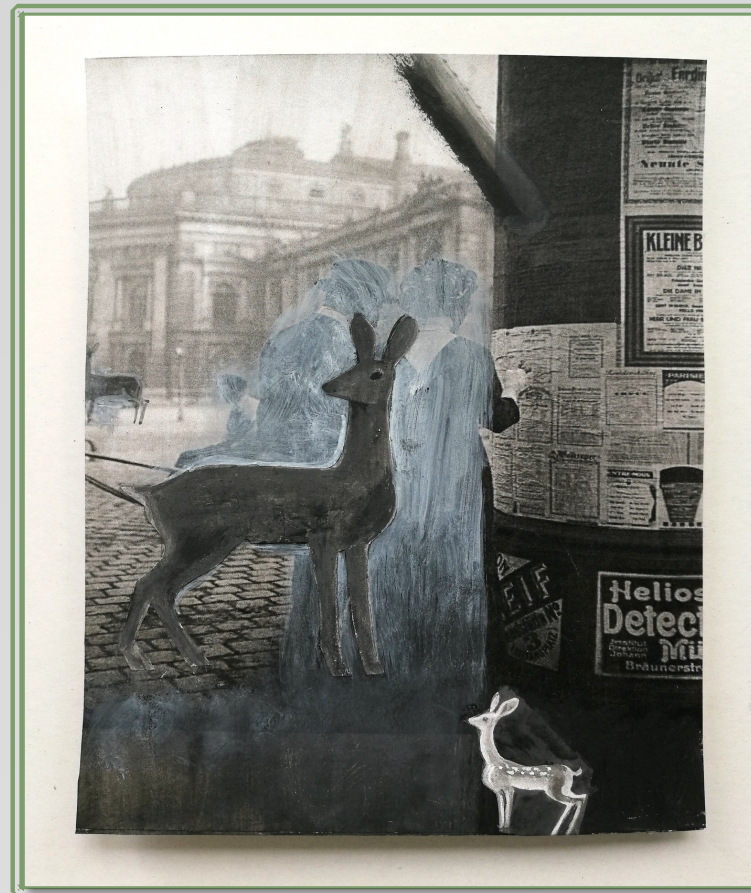
CONCEPT 1: ENCOURAGING THE READER'S OWN EXPERIENCE.

THIS ILLUSTRATION IS IN THE BOOK.



CONCEPT 2: EMPHASIZING THE HIDDEN CONTEXT. THE FOREST BECOMES VIENNA.

THIS ILLUSTRATION IS NOT IN THE BOOK.

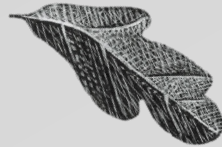
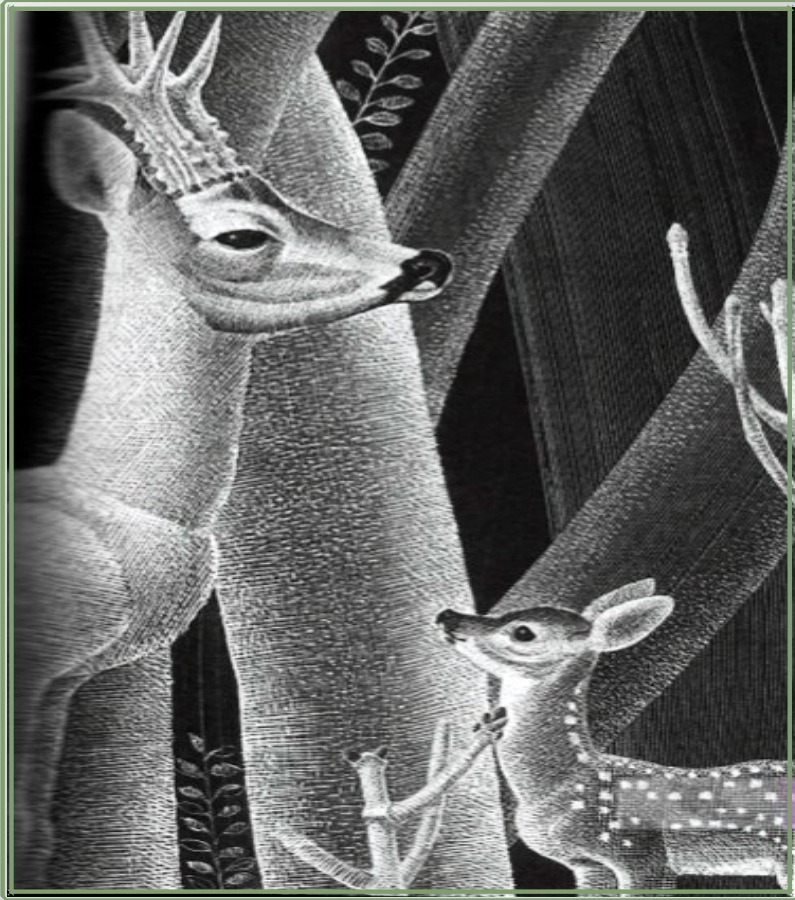


“In this sketch, I really turned everything upside down. I tried the idea that the forest would replace the streets, houses and squares of Vienna in the story, followed by forest animals. Basically, it would discover what Felix Salten had hidden. This is how the scene looks when interpreted as Bambi waits for his mother to check that it is safe to come to the meadow.” A.S.

Bambi and the Prince of the Forest

CONCEPT 1: ENCOURAGING THE READER'S OWN EXPERIENCE.

THIS ILLUSTRATION IS IN THE BOOK.



SALTEN & ZIPES. *THE ORIGINAL BAMBI: THE STORY OF A LIFE IN THE FOREST*, P 43. TRANSLATED BY JACK ZIPES FROM FELIX SALTEN'S *BAMBI: A STORY OF A LIFE IN THE WOODS* (1923). COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS. ILLUSTRATIONS COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY ALENKA SOTTLER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CONCEPT 2: EMPHASIZING THE HIDDEN CONTEXT. THE FOREST BECOMES VIENNA.

THIS ILLUSTRATION IS NOT IN THE BOOK.



"Illustration via a 1920 Vienna street photo." A.S.

ILLUSTRATIONS COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY ALENKA SOTTLER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Bambi and His Mother: The Forest Becomes Vienna

Additional Illustrations by Alenka Sottler (not in the book)



“This illustration represents the idea of combining two images into one, a true photograph of Vienna, and an illustration of a scene from the Salten novel.” A.S.



“This sketch combines the scene when Bambi comes to the edge of the clearing with his mother, and a photo of a large Vienna square acting as analogy.” A.S.



Felix Salten
1869 - 1945



Photo by JOE KLAMAR/AFP via Getty Images

