



## The Bone Magician

By F. E. Higgins

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Pin Carpue is on his own in the world. His mother is dead and his father is missing after being labeled a suspect in a rash of murders. Pin finds a job working for the local undertaker as a body watcher, making sure people are really dead before they're buried. The body he's supposed to be watching tonight is currently surrounded by three people engaged in a most unusual ceremony. An old man, a bone magician, and his young female assistant are waking a woman so her grieving fiancé can have one last goodbye with her. Pin can't believe it will work, but then the dead woman sits up and speaks.

Pin is determined to discover how the magic works. He cannot believe they are raising the dead. He cannot believe his father is a murderer. Then Pin himself nearly becomes the killer's next victim.

As this mysterious tale unfolds with delicious creepiness, Pin will learn more about the bone magician, the girl Juno, and a hideous creature called the Gluttonous Beast that is kept in a local tavern where people pay for a glimpse.

Once again, F.E. Higgins delivers a story that is full of intrigue and suspense.

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## **The Bone Magician** By F. E. Higgins Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6–10—Left to survive on his own in the pestilent and crime-ridden city of Urbs Umida after the disappearance of his father (a suspected murderer), Pin Carpue's trustworthy nature earns him employment as a corpse watcher, assuring his skittish employer that the dead are truly dead. But Pin's seemingly straightforward job becomes more complicated when he is drugged at his post and subsequently witnesses two cloaked figures raise the body in his care for a final communication with a loved one. A series of coincidences leads Pin to seek lodging in the same boarding house occupied by these mysterious individuals—a bone magician named Benedict Pantagus and his troubled assistant, Juno—who also present their corpse-raising spectacle at the city's most notorious tavern. Lonely Pin is soon drawn to Juno and the secrets of her herbs. He strikes a deal with her that they will leave the abominable city together if he is able to divine the secret of bone magic. In tantalizing subplots involving a series of murders, a caged Beast, a dashing phrenologist, a potato-throwing dwarf, and a hideous journalist, Higgins explores the question of spectacle and what constitutes an honest wage. The cast of unusual characters and their interrelated stories carry readers along swiftly to an ending that begs for a sequel. Budding fans of Poe or Dickens will be entranced by this atmospheric novel.—*Jayne Damron, Farmington Community Library, MI*  
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From [Booklist](#)

This “paraquel”—meaning it takes place in the same world, but follows a different thread—to Higgins’ excellent *Black Book of Secrets* (2007) drips with the same lightly fantastical, heavily Dickensian atmosphere. Young Pin Carpue works as a corpse watcher, standing guard in the morgue for three days to ensure that the deceased really are dead and not just sleeping. There, he encounters a “bone magician” and his pretty young assistant, who claim they can briefly animate the dead so that the living may ask them questions. All the while a madman killer roams the grimy streets, spreading fear among the populace. While the bone magician conceit might not be as clever a device as the secret pawnbroker from her first book, there is still no end of picaresque charms, creepy turns, and beguiling cast members (most hilariously the poetry-reciting dwarf who turns to potato-throwing when he discovers it’s a more viable line of work). More stories from this unique world are likely on the way, though there’s no telling in what direction they’ll bend. Grades 5-8. --Ian Chipman

Review

Praise for *The Bone Magician*:

"Higgins is a mastermind at creating a creepy world where children still maintain some sense of hope."--VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

“The cast of unusual characters and their interrelated stories carry readers along swiftly to an ending that begs for a sequel. Budding fans of Poe or Dickens will be entranced by this atmospheric novel.”--*School Library Journal*

“This ‘paraquel’ --meaning it takes place in the same world, but follows a different thread--to Higgins’ excellent *Black Book of Secrets* (2007) drips with the same lightly fantastical, heavily Dickensian atmosphere...there is still no end of picaresque charms, creepy turns, and beguiling cast

members..."--*Booklist*

"In this standalone companion novel to *The Black Book of Secrets*, British author Higgins deftly balances the exceedingly harsh circumstances with wry humor, sly commentary on class issues, and a protagonist who has enough wisdom to recognize the fact that his optimism is perhaps misguided but who manages to retain it anyway."--*The Bulletin of The Center for Children's Books*

Set in Urbs Umida, where 'merely to be born was considered the first step towards dying', *The Bone Magician* . . . is a deliciously dark Gothic thriller-cum-Holmesian-whodunit, the writing so atmospheric that the fumes from the noxious River Foedus, where the murder victims end up, seem to seep off the page and swirl round the reader.—*The Telegraph*, UK

Young readers with a taste for the macabre will find it deliciously scary.—*The Guardian*, UK

Praise for *The Black Book of Secrets*:

"The story's vaguely Dickensian atmosphere is exquisite . . . a smart, peculiarly thrilling book that is sure to appeal to readers ready to sidestep the goody-goody Harry Potters of adventure fiction."—*Booklist*, Starred Review

"*The Black Book of Secrets* has it all: danger, adventure, theft, murder, body snatching, poisonings, a touch of humor, and enough mystery to keep you guessing until the very end. . . . An enjoyable story that begs for a sequel."—*PW Children's Bookshelf*, "Galley Talk"

"Higgins creates a fascinating novel peopled with colorful characters and imbued with clever plot twists . . . and the novel's climax is both excellent and surprising."—*Voices of Youth Advocates*

"Wonderful. Anyone looking for the next big thing has come to the right place. Higgins has created a uniquely grim fantasy world that more than holds its own with Dickens or Peake. Her characters are brilliantly realised and the story grabs at the reader with hooked talons."—Eoin Colfer

"A fantastic debut . . . don't let this book remain a secret!"—John Webb, *Waterstone's Children's Fiction Buyer*

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Joanna Weekley:**

Here thing why this *The Bone Magician* are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. *The Bone Magician* giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no reserve that similar with *The Bone Magician*. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your method home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of *The Bone Magician* in e-

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**Sheree Gonzalez:**

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**John Keys:**

Many people spending their time period by playing outside along with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by examining a book. Ugh, think reading a book can actually hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like The Bone Magician which is having the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's view.

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