

CURTIS BROWN

↳ THE BLACK BOOK OF SECRETS Shortlist

THE BLACK BOOK OF SECRETS by F.E. Higgins has excitingly been put on the shortlist for Waterstones Children's Book Prize. The promotion will run in Waterstones stores in January with an award ceremony taking place in the third week of Jan (date to be confirmed).

When Ludlow Fitch's parents cruelly betray him, he steals away on the back of a carriage and leaves behind the stinking City. He arrives in the dead of night at a remote village, where he crosses paths with the tall and limping figure of Joe Zabbidou - a pawnbroker with a difference. For Joe trades secrets, not goods, for cash. Employed as Joe's assistant, Ludlow records the villagers' fiendish confessions in an ancient leather-bound volume: "The Black Book of Secrets". There's the gravedigger who has been resurrecting bodies; the butcher who made a mouse-meat pie for his bullying father, with fatal consequences; the wizened bookseller who went to murderous lengths to get her hands on a priceless tome. Ludlow longs to trust his mysterious master, but he senses Joe has much to hide. But then Ludlow Fitch has his own, very dark, secrets ...

To buy this book, please click www.amazon.co.uk

To read more about the prize, please click www.waterstones.co.uk