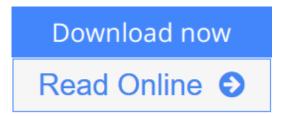


Lockwood & Co., Book Four The Creeping **Shadow**

By Jonathan Stroud



Lockwood & Co., Book Four The Creeping Shadow By Jonathan Stroud

After leaving Lockwood & Co. at the end of *The Hollow Boy*, Lucy is a freelance operative, hiring herself out to agencies that value her ever-improving skills. One day she is pleasantly surprised by a visit from Lockwood, who tells her he needs a good Listener for a tough assignment. Penelope Fittes, the leader of the giant Fittes Agency wants them--and only them--to locate and remove the Source for the legendary Brixton Cannibal. They succeed in their very dangerous task, but tensions remain high between Lucy and the other agents. Even the skull in the jar talks to her like a jilted lover. What will it take to reunite the team? Black marketeers, an informant ghost, a Spirit Cape that transports the wearer, and mysteries involving Steve Rotwell and Penelope Fittes just may do the trick. But, in a shocking cliffhanger ending, the team learns that someone has been manipulating them all along. . . .



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Editorial Review

Review

PRAISE FOR THE WHISPERING SKULL

*"In this sequel to *The Screaming Staircase* (2013), Stroud delivers another riveting narrative in which the three young psychic investigators deal with malevolent supernatural forces in an alternate London. Stroud writes with a fine ear for dialog, a wry sense of humor, and a knack for describing haunted places. Creating tension that ebbs and flows, he slowly builds the dramatic narrative to a resounding crescendo, and he makes the quieter scenes that follow just as compelling. The second entry in the Lockwood & Company series, this imaginative adventure features one of the most hair-raising chase scenes in children's friction. At the book's end, when the enigmatic Anthony Lockwood reveals a chilling secret, readers can only hope that more sequels are in the offing."? *Booklist* (starred review)

PRAISE FOR THE HOLLOW BOY

*"From the banter among the young associates . . . and the flaring of unruly emotions to the well-choreographed fight scenes involving monstrous spirits, Stroud brings his considerable storytelling skills to bear in this riveting sequel. . . . the narrative has excellent pacing, fine descriptive passages, and a wry sense of humor. An unexpected development at the story's end will leave fans wildly impatient for volume four."

**Rooklist* (starred review)

PRAISE FOR THE SCREAMING STAIRCASE

"This story will keep you reading late into the night, but you'll want to leave the lights on. Stroud is a genius at inventing an utterly believable world which is very much like ours, but so creepily different. Put *The Screaming Staircase* on your 'need to read' list!"

?Rick Riordan

PRAISE FOR THE WHISPERING SKULL

*"An occult portal and its spectral guardian nearly cut short the careers of three rising young ghost hunters in this madcap sequel to *The Screaming Staircase* (2013). For all their internecine squabbling, the three protagonists make a redoubtable team-and their supporting cast, led by the sneering titular skull in a jar, adds color and complications aplenty. Rousing adventures for young tomb robbers and delves into realms better left to the dead."

?Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

PRAISE FOR THE SCREAMING STAIRCASE

"Stroud shows his customary flair for blending deadpan humor with thrilling action, and the fiery interplay among the three agents of Lockwood & Co. invigorates the story (along with no shortage of creepy moments)."

?Publishers Weekly

PRAISE FOR THE SCREAMING STAIRCASE

"A pleasure from tip to tail, this is the book you hand the advanced readers that claim they'd rather read *Paradise Lost* than *Harry Potter*. Smart as a whip, funny, witty, and honestly frightening at times, Stroud lets loose and gives readers exactly what they want. Ghosts, kids on their own without adult supervision, and loads of delicious cookies."

?Elizabeth Bird, School Library Journal

About the Author

Jonathan Stroud (www.jonathanstroud.com) is the author of three previous books in the Lockwood & Co. series as well as the *New York Times* best-selling Bartimaeus books, and the stand-alone titles *Heroes of the Valley*, *The Leap*, *The Last Siege*, and *Buried Fire*. He lives in England with his wife and three children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carole Garner:

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