

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Strange Star** by Emma Carroll

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



**Georgie Docwra, age 11**

***This story is gripping, thrilling and slightly scary!! Superb!***

*When I first heard that I could review 'Strange Star' I was very excited as I have read all of Emma Carroll's books before. This book was the most thrilling out of all of them.*

*'Strange Star' is about a girl called Lizzie who knocks on the door of a Lords house when he has guests and they are all telling ghost stories. She knows one of the Lords guests, Mary Shelley and thinks that she has taken her sister. The story is about Lizzie trying to find her sister. At the end something surprising is revealed!*

*I like this book because it is unlike anything that I have read before. There are different people's stories within the book but they all flow and join together.*

*My favourite character was Lizzie because she looked after her little sister Peg and her friend Mercy when they were worried or hurt.*

*I would rate this five stars, couldn't be better!!*

**Amina Hassan, age 10**

*Sad, exciting story.*

***I was spellbound. Your blood is sure to freeze. You are sure to be excited sad and shocked. Follow Lizzie on her journey of freedom***

**love and bravery, if you have the guts!**

*This book is a story that will keep you spellbound with its sad, exciting story. I can assure you your blood will FREEZE, whether you intend to do it or you don't intend to. Your emotions will be twisted with fear, hatred and happiness. Follow Lizzie in her tale of bravery, love, freedom and much more only if you have the guts, just like Lizzie. So sit back and relax, you will not be able to put the book down. I DARE YOU! DO IT!!!!!!!*

**Mia Pearse, age 10**

*When I finished reading it I really wanted to read it again because it is such an amazing book.*

*'Strange Star' is a very mysterious book. It's a story about Lizzie who has been blinded by lightning and is battling against evil scientists who try to experiment on her. From the way that it is written, you can kind of imagine the scene in your head! When I started to read the first page I was a little confused but then I read further and it was so exciting, it's like every page brings a new problem! At some times in the book it's very sad and miserable but at other times it's happy and fun. **When I finished reading it I really wanted to read it again because it is such an amazing book.** I hope there is a sequel! #redmaids*

**Aminah, age 11**

***'Strange Star' by Emma Carroll is one of the greatest books I have ever read!** I have not read anything like it. I loved it a lot. It was a little bit scary but I loved that and it made the story feel like real life!*

**Ava Sorrell, age 9**

***'Strange Star' is an amazing book for anyone who likes mystery, murder and mayhem!!!!***

*A life lost, an ability taken and a tragic story, and all because of a strange sort of star in the sky.....Felix, one of the many servants of Lord Byron, is asked to serve the guests at his Master's scary story gathering. As Lord Byron's story comes to an end, there is a knock at the door. He opens it to find a girl outside. She has come a long way and now Felix must listen to her story. **'Strange Star' is an amazing book for anyone who likes mystery, murder and mayhem!!!!***

**Sam Harper, age 11**

*It is a dark and stormy night in 1816. At the Villa Diodati in Lake Geneva, Lord Byron has issued a challenge to four people to gather at his villa and tell their most terrifying ghost story. When a strange knocking starts at the door, the servant boy Felix answers only to find what looks like the body of a young girl. But once Lizzie is brought inside and revived she accuses one of the guests, Mary Shelley, of taking her sister, Peg, against her will. The guests and Felix listen eagerly as Lizzie tells her tale. The Midwinter's Eve festival in her village, with all of its old traditions and superstitions, and the arrival of a strange scientist at nearby Eden Court seem to be the start of it all. Lizzy has a terrible accident. Struck by lightning, she is blinded, badly scarred and lucky to survive but there are other mysterious events too. Whole flocks of farmyard ducks and chickens have been disappearing with not a feather left behind and bite-marks have been appearing on horses rumps. And then Peg goes missing. Lizzie searches for her sister in Eden Court, where strange experiments are taking place, and eventually her search brings her to the Villa Diodati but Lizzie is not alone, someone has followed her there.*

*I only know a little bit about the story of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' but 'Strange Star' has made me want to learn a lot more. **This creepy tale full of strange goings on will chill you to the bone and I loved the way it keeps you guessing right until the end. If you like a good scary story you'll love this.***

**Olivia Lawrence (Derry Hill Book Club), age 10**

***Mysterious, fantastic, gripping.** I normally take three weeks to a month to read a book, but I read this faster than normal because I found it exciting.*

*I really enjoyed this book. It was scary at points but not too scary. I like the middle and the end because in the middle you know something mysterious is happening and at the end it is all revealed. In the end I was not expecting it to be like that. At some points it was actually quite sad. It was also inspiring too. I would highly recommend this to a friend.*

**Jack Smith, age 11**

***This book is full of tension and I couldn't put it down!** The story is set in the 1800's and is about a young black servant named Felix. With the help of Mary Godwin and Lizzie Appleby he finally earns his place in London as a*

normal person instead of being considered a freak show because he's black. It all starts when Lord Byron hosts a ghost story night at his manor. All of the sudden there is a knock at the door and they find a girl lying on the step. Once she awakes we learn her name is Lizzie Appleby and she begins to tell her tale of escape and troubles. But remember every story has its villains. Read the book to find out this one's! **This book can be scary so watch out when reading at night!**

<https://smithyboysbookreviews.wordpress.com>

**Rose Hopkins, age 10**

***Emma Carroll weaves a wonderfully gothic tale. A Frankenstein-like story but with many sudden terrors, shocks and twists.***

*Numerous (some hidden) villains appear everywhere (and not all are human!). Emma Carroll gives a tale that really does freeze the blood.*

**Bethany Urquhart, age 10**

***I have really enjoyed reading Strange Star by Emma Carroll. It is very good and pulled me into the story as it grasped me from the first page.*** The book is full of surprises and some characters aren't what they first appear to be. I like the way, it in some ways, it shows sometimes superstitions aren't just superstitions ;sometimes they are fate.☺☐☐ My favourite character is Mercy because she is changeable, however she's always there for her friend Lizzie even though things may not be happy or 'normal'. She and Peg - Lizzie's little sister - are always by her side, even when her eyesight is taken and Lizzie isn't 'normal' any more.

**Toby Crawford, age 8**

***A mesmerizing book based on the true tale of four writers in Switzerland back in the time of the Georgian era, 1816. I thoroughly enjoyed the mysterious unravelling plot.*** The host of the evening, Lord Bryon has a young servant called Felix. When he opens the door to a stranger he also opens the door to a world of adventure.

**Joshua Zinkin, age 11**

***A really gripping and haunting read that suits all children aged 10 and over, who want a rich story and amazing characters.***

*This book enthralled from the outset as it starts in 1816 with a group of famous poets/writers vying to tell each other the most bloodcurdling ghost story while a nasty storm gathers outside. In the midst of their storytelling, there is a banging on the door and a girl is brought in, and revived and starts to tell her own story.*

*Lizzie, the girl is called, and her story actually takes up the bulk of the book, which comes as a surprise, but is so spellbinding and interesting that you don't want it to stop. She tells of her home in Somerset and the strange happenings once a scientist moved into the big house in the village.*

*There are lots of mysteries to unlock, but the characters were really compelling, from the servant at the Villa in the beginning of the story, to Lizzie and her sister, to the scientist at the big house. There are many twists and lots of intrigue. But also, some really good themes like that of not judging someone by their appearance and how science is open equally to girls and boys. It also bases itself on the story of Mary Shelley writing Frankenstein and makes you interested in that original story too. It was a gripping read.*

[www.MinervaReads.com](http://www.MinervaReads.com)

**Edward Bailey, age 11**

***Cracking read! 'Strange Star' is one of the best books I have ever read. Almost horror but nice to read at night. I WANT ANOTHER INSTALMENT!***

**Rosie Watch - Teacher**

*I have been under pressure from my students to read this at speed as one or two of them in particular are avid Emma Carroll fans, loving Walking On Air AND Frost Hollow Hall. Although these two books had an air of mystery, I feel this one was in another league and whilst I found it exciting, I think the plot and the characters are almost too mysterious and the plot a little too creepy and sophisticated for my 10 year olds. **Maybe it's me growing up with Frankenstein movies that made the writing that much more graphic, but it wasn't a book to take to bed!** The descriptions of both Switzerland and London were so atmospheric and sinister. It will be interesting to see what*

*they think without that legacy.*