

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Jamie Bamford, age 11

You can't put down 'The Screaming Staircase'. You instantly feel part of it. The characters' fears are your fears; their happiness is your happiness; you see what they see. Recommend for brave 9+.

'The Screaming Staircase' by Jonathan Stroud was a book I could just not put down from the word go. In this book you follow Lockwood & Co.'s ups and downs. Every new page brought another twist, scare, surprise or adventure. This story is one you can dive into and really feel part of. The characters' fears are your fears; their happiness is your happiness and what the characters are seeing is what you are seeing. Reading this book is like visiting a different dimension, which is mostly the same as ours but with a couple of big differences; like the fact that there are ghosts (Visitors) everywhere, then you get called for dinner, back to reality, and it turns out you're not in a cool ghost hunting agency planet but actually just in your house on your non-ghostly planet. This is a book that as soon as you've finished reading it you will want to read it again and again and again. A book I would definitely recommend to anyone, over the age of 9, who likes adventure, horror and a good, thick plot: though it's not for the faint-hearted. Get this book and dive into the world of Lockwood & Co. and hopefully you will enjoy this book just as much as me.



Sam Harper, age 11

Like 'Ghostbusters' with an extra dimension, there's action, twists, turns and mystery. 'The Screaming Staircase' was impossible to put down.

No one knows why, but the country is plagued with ghosts. The infestation started 50 years ago and now people need to constantly protect themselves and their homes with lavender, iron, salt, silver and running water. But the ghosts are becoming more and more dangerous and, as a result of this, hundreds of Psychic Investigation Agencies have sprung up across the country. Lockwood & Co. may be one of the smallest and shabbiest agencies when Lucy Carlyle joins them as an operative but Lucy has a Talent, Listening, which hasn't yet faded as she is still young. Lockwood, Lucy and George have won their first interesting case however, after apparently neutralising the source, they set fire to the client's house which doesn't go down well. They now owe the owners £60 000, and fast. Upon returning home they discover that Lucy actually stole the source of the ghost from the site in the form of a gold necklace. This leads them into an old murder investigation which, when they solve, gives them publicity but not the money they need. Fairfax, millionaire owner of Fairfax Iron, offers to repay their debts if they spend the night alone in the dreaded red room, but what are his motives? Can he really be trusted and will Lockwood & Co survive unscathed?

This is like 'Ghostbusters' with an added extra dimension. There's lots of action, twists and turns and the mystery kept me guessing until the end. The glossary was extremely informative and I loved the dashing character of Lockwood. 'The Screaming Staircase' was impossible to put down.

Kevin Goodall

With a puzzling murder story to solve they will have to use all of their brains to get out alive or die like the last team that went in did. I can't wait for the next book to come out.

The screaming staircase is a fantastic book all about ghosts that are haunting all sorts of places all around England! When Lucy Carlyle tries to find a company that employs ghost hunters she finds Lockwood and co, the smallest ghost hunting squad in London. After a few tricky tests she joins the team and start their ghost hunting in a small house. But when the mission gets out of control they end up burning the house down and now they have to save up a total of 60,000 pounds in four weeks. When they hear of an offer to claim some

money they take it and arrive at the most haunted place in England. They have to stay a whole night whilst trying not to get killed by ghosts.

Poppy Milburn, age 10

This book involves so much energy, excitement and fear. You actually feel that you are entering the book, feeling all the characters' emotions for yourself.

'The Screaming Staircase' is by far one of my favourite books! It totally hooks you in so much so that you can't put the book down. This book is unpredictable, you may think you know what's about to happen but your guess is never right.

Lockwood and co. are a great team of agents. They deal with of all different types of ghosts from grey haze, lurker and gibbering mist. The agents Lucy, George and Lockwood are tougher than steel, braver than knights in armour and quicker thinking than you can believe is possible.

In this book you will find a number of nightmare giving ghosts, many iron chains and lots of salt scattered around the place! Really this book is super hard to put down. I creepily recommend it.

Daisy Pritchard-Williams, age 11

I highly recommend it to readers over 9 because for anyone younger it would be scary.

I really liked the book Lockwood & Co. All the other agencies in the book had grown up supervisors but Lockwood & Co didn't have any supervisors so that means that kids don't always need grownups.

They were about 14 or 15 though.

I thought that if the chapters went in this order instead: 'Before', 'The Ghost', 'The Necklace', 'The Hall' and 'And After' it would make more sense, but I did understand it.

My favourite character was Lucy Carlyle she was very brave and I liked that she was special. I did think the words that were used such as, visitor (a ghost), type one (a weak ghost), type two (a strong ghost) etc. were a bit confusing, but I think they were very clever.

Apart from that I give it a 10 /10

PLEASE write more Lockwood & Co books!!!!!!

Amelia Corrick-Gough, age 14

This book kept me on the edge of my seat, and is all I can think about! I love this book! I can't say a bad word about it. In my opinion, this book is up there with the 'Harry Potter' series. Watch this space!

Cora Willans, age 9

*Although I didn't understand most of the story I thought that the topic on which the book was about was very interesting. **I would say this book should be read by confident readers only as it was a fairly scary book.** I didn't enjoy this book very much as it was very hard to understand and I didn't know if the next chapter of the book was a new story.*

Edward Bailey, age 10

A cracking read! Jonathan has really outdone himself! It couldn't be better!

The description in the book really shines out as Anthony Lockwood takes his place in London! I like the way the author make the visitors sound as real as if they're standing right in front of you (guess you have to leave the light on then!) From simple murders to disturbed houses this is an amazing read!

Jenna Welch, age 10

*Join Lockwood & Co. on a spine-chilling adventure as they investigate a murder and fight off ghosts at the same time. **This hair-raising book chilled me to the bone but surprisingly contained a rather large amount of sarcastic humour.** Also the glossary in the back proved very useful. The way the author has written this book is just fantastic and I love the personalities he gives to all of the characters especially Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and Anthony Lockwood. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good spooky story. I would also recommend this book for older readers.*

Callum Broomfield

I couldn't put this book down and ended up reading it late into the night. The ideas were great and the book was well written with a

good pace and strong, well-drawn characters and I would look forward to reading a second book by Jonathan Stroud.

Lockwood and co. is a book which will make you think. How will the small but energetic crew at Lockwood and co. Pay off the debt on a house that was destroyed in the process of a ghost attack.

Rating 10/10

Traviss Chaytors, age 12

Absolutely brilliant... but do not read on your own just before bedtime!

This is the first book I have read which freaked me out! I just had to keep reading on to find out what was happening because the story was just so good but each time I did I was waiting for the scare of my life! I loved this book, especially the character of Anthony Lockwood, because it was like reading a much cooler version of Sherlock Holmes. I can really recommend this book for the older reader who doesn't mind jumping at a few of the scenes in the book! I now can't wait to read more.

You can follow Traviss on Twitter: @gingeryiply

Rose Hopkins

Lockwood & Co is funny and scary at the same time – the perfect mix. *The descriptions of George are hilarious ... but rude (in a jokey way). Lockwood at first seemed cold but ended up doing everything he could to save Lucy.*

I love the ghost buster theme and it has a wonderful twist. *The front cover alone made me intrigued to know what happens in the book; the contents confirm that it's great.*

Llew Harrison, age 8

Lockwood and Co. are not any ordinary detective agency, they solve ghost crimes. Can they give Inspector Barns sixty thousand pounds in four weeks or else Lockwood and Co will close down? At the same time they have a serious crime to solve - the screaming staircase!

The action starts straight away and I was gripped until the very end.

This is the spookiest book I have ever read but it is also very funny.

So read if you dare!

Can't wait for the next Lockwood and Co book!