

### **Lockwood & Co. series by Jonathan Stroud**

Series containing the novels: *The Screaming Staircase*, *The Whispering Skull*, *The Hollow Boy*, *The Creeping Shadow*, and *The Empty Grave*

If you're looking for a spooky and engaging ghost story full of action, mystery, and suspense...you've found it. If spooky isn't your cup of tea, it's best to stop reading right here because this series is full of spine-chilling hauntings and encounters. Here there be monsters, consider yourself warned.

*Lockwood & Co.* is a thrilling and imaginative young adult book series by Jonathan Stroud that seamlessly weaves together elements of horror, mystery, and the supernatural. Set in an alternate and near-futuristic England where the dead linger as vengeful spirits and only the young can sense them, the series centers around the exploits of the psychic investigative agency, Lockwood and Co. Run by the notorious Anthony Lockwood who is only a teenager himself. Together, Lockwood and his team of young ghost hunters battle some of the worst hauntings in London and solve the crimes associated with them.

I enjoyed this series. It's not my normal cup of tea, but for some reason, I've had a hankering for the spooky lately, and this series scratched that itch. The world is richly developed with compelling characters, and the series offers a fresh take on the ghost story genre which I'd never seen done before. The protagonist is a girl named Lucy Carlyle: a smart, resourceful, and relatable young woman who is determined to make something of herself in the world of Paranormal Investigation. Her dynamic relationship with the charismatic and enigmatic Anthony Lockwood drives the narrative forward with tension and an intriguing sense of wit. The other members of the agency include the cautious and meticulous researcher George Cubbins, the organized and trepidatious (yet bold when required) Holly Munro, and the sarcastic frenemy, Quill Kips (in later books) - as well as a slew of other supporting characters - add depth and humor to the ensemble.

Stroud's writing is engaging and vivid, effortlessly conjuring up spine-tingling ghost encounters and heart-pounding action sequences. The mysteries are cleverly plotted, and the pacing is brisk, making the series a page-turner from start to finish. Stroud also excels at creating a sense of atmosphere and mystery, immersing readers in a haunting version of London where danger lurks around every corner and secrets abound. This is a great book series to read around October when everyone is feeling a little spooky and adventurous. Also, the first 2 books were turned into a Netflix series which was very engaging and fun (though not meant for children). The Netflix series has unfortunately been canceled, but you can still watch the first season. It's worth checking out, in my opinion.

One of the series' greatest strengths lies in its well-crafted blend of supernatural chills and genuine emotional resonance. Stroud deftly explores themes of friendship, loss, and bravery, and infuses the narrative with both poignant moments and pulse-pounding scares. The stakes feel genuinely high, and the characters' personal growth throughout the series adds a layer of depth to the overall storytelling. You can feel them bonding as the series progresses, and you can't help but start to feel like you're part of their team too. Jonathan Stroud has outdone himself here, crafting a captivating world that will haunt readers' thoughts long after they turn the final page.