



Lockwood & Co., Book 3: The Hollow Boy

By Jonathan Stroud

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As a massive outbreak of supernatural Visitors baffles Scotland Yard and causes protests throughout London, Lockwood & Co. continue to demonstrate their effectiveness in exterminating spirits. Anthony Lockwood is dashing, George insightful, and Lucy dynamic, while the skull in the jar utters sardonic advice from the sidelines. There is a new spirit of openness in the team now that Lockwood has shared some of his childhood secrets, and Lucy is feeling more and more as if her true home is at Portland Row. It comes as a great shock, then, when Lockwood and George introduce her to an annoyingly perky and hyper-efficient new assistant, Holly Munro.

Meanwhile, there are reports of many new hauntings, including a house where bloody footprints are appearing, and a department store full of strange sounds and shadowy figures. But ghosts seem to be the least of Lockwood & Co.'s concerns when assassins attack during a carnival in the center of the city. Can the team get past their personal issues to save the day on all fronts, or will bad feelings attract yet more trouble?

Danger abounds, tensions escalate, and new loyalties form in this third delightfully terrifying adventure in the critically acclaimed Lockwood & Co. series.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5–8—As in the previous volumes, *The Screaming Staircase* (2013) and *The Whispering Skull* (2014, both Disney-Hyperion), the latest escapades of Lockwood and Co., a ghost-hunting agency staffed by the crack team of Anthony Lockwood, George Cubbins, and Lucy Carlyle, start with a hair-raising scene of murder, mayhem, and ghostly apparitions. Narrator Lucy finds herself on shaky ground as her ability to speak to ghosts grows ever more powerful and more dangerous, while changes to the agency in the form of a tidy, Type A assistant named Holly Munroe seem to spell doom for Lucy's future with the company. Meanwhile, *The Problem* grows exponentially worse and a fading, famous department store holds more horrors than Lucy has ever seen. A series of disturbing discoveries, building on revelations in the earlier books, make it clear that there is a more malevolent human force than *The Problem* at work in London, and Lucy, George, and Lockwood are drawing ever closer to its source. As always, the descriptions of the hauntings are genuinely frightening, especially that of a spindly, humanoid creature that crawls on all fours and whispers Lucy's name. **VERDICT.** Fans of the series will anxiously await Lockwood and Co.'s spine-tingling adventures in the next installment.—Elisabeth Gattullo Marrocolla, Darien Library, CT

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

*"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 fiction. 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 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

"Three young ghost trappers take on deadly wraiths and solve an old murder case in the bargain to kick off Stroud's new post-Bartimaeus series. The work is fraught with peril, not only because a ghost's merest touch is generally fatal, but also, as it turns out, none of the three is particularly good at careful planning and preparation. A heartily satisfying string of entertaining near-catastrophes, replete with narrow squeaks and spectral howls."

?Kirkus Reviews

PRAISE FOR THE SCREAMING STAIRCASE

"...Stroud writes for a younger audience in book one of the Lockwood & Co. series and delivers some chilling scenes along the way."

?Booklist

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

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

About the Author

Jonathan Stroud is the author of two 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 two children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Mobley:

The feeling that you get from Lockwood & Co., Book 3: The Hollow Boy could be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but Lockwood & Co., Book 3: The Hollow Boy giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this publication is well-known enough. That book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this Lockwood & Co., Book 3: The Hollow Boy instantly.

Stephanie Bush:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information presently can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is from the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Lockwood & Co., Book 3: The Hollow Boy as your daily resource information.

Marvin Davidson:

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