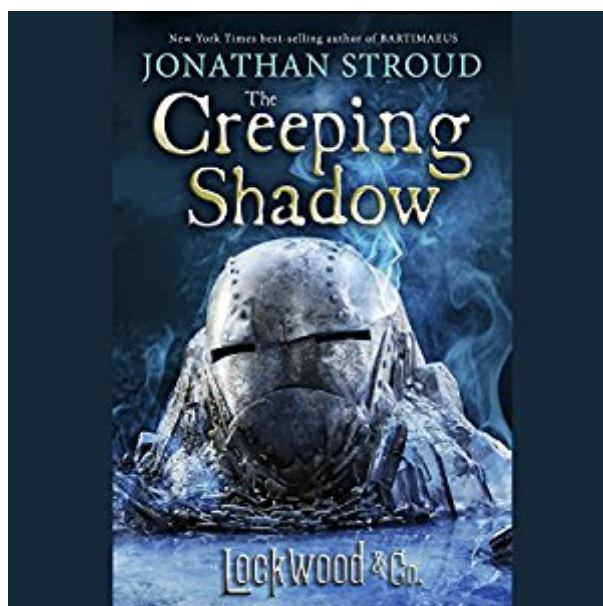


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# The Creeping Shadow: Lockwood & Co., Book 4



## Synopsis

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 cliff-hanger ending, the team learns that someone has been manipulating them all along.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've waited a year for the fourth book in this thrilling, creepy, addictive series. Once it arrived, I immediately and eagerly dove into it. Another excellent, enthralling, wonderful book by Jonathan Stroud in a remarkable series supposedly for younger readers than I am (67!) - although I think it is suitable to any age past 12 or so. Adults? ENJOY! Imaginative and brimming with spine-tingling action, ghostly and evil foes, filled with the stable of Lockwood & Co well-developed characters one truly cares about, the fourth book brings the first three books more and more woven into an engrossing, satisfying reading adventure. It is not just an action tale, but a story of what loyalty, friendship, bonds and sacrifices mean among a handful of characters in an odd, dangerous world.

didn't want it to end. As I wrote, I care about these characters and what will become of them, and I worry about 'time' and hope the author keeps the passing of book time SLOW so they don't age out of their Talents and, thus, we reedy readers have many books ahead. What a great series. The problem is that I now have to wait another year, as I did this year, for the fifth book. I am counting on Jonathan Stroud to write a fifth. He must - and many more. We need Lockwood & Co. and its world.

**\*\*Minor spoilers for previous book and beginning of this book\*\*** I'd give this installment 4.5 stars. Overall, this is another solid installment in the Lockwood&Co series. I'm assuming that because you made it to book #4, you're well acquainted with the general quality of the previous installments, and this novel is really no different. Fun, well-written and tense in all the right moments. This novel follows Lucy after her decision in the last book to quit Lockwood&Co. I didn't really enjoy this decision from the previous book, and I really didn't believe Stroud's explanation for why Lucy made this choice, but eh, whatever. This should come to no surprise then, that Lucy is pretty quickly reunited with her former co-workers on a case. Overall, the amount of time Lucy spends alone is pretty low. On one hand, this is called "LOCKWOOD & Co" so this is understandable, but I was a little disappointed that there wasn't more of an opportunity taken to flesh out Lucy's character and perhaps give her a little bit of growth through her time alone. I would say this is my only small gripe with the book - that I didn't really see any character growth in Lucy. HOWEVER, the rest of the novel is pretty interesting and follows a number of cases. The main mystery in particular was interesting and (in my opinion) a great way to introduce us to more of the mythology behind the series. AND MORE SKULL! Skull is slowly becoming my favorite character (reminds me a little of Bartimaeus actually), and there is a little more explained about him. Again, like in the last book, the character interactions are fun and witty. The characters themselves are likable, and are still growing on me. I finished this in a day, so... you can expect it to be a page turner like the others. The ending, of course, had me wanting more. Next book please?

Interesting. predictable that Lucy would rejoin, but the new revelations were surprising. I liked the ending, as usual, a startling new revelation that I'll have to wait until the next book to work out.

I tried to force myself to read the book slowly, so that it would last for some days at least, but I failed and read it all in one evening. Stroud hits me right into my weak spot with this series. I love mysteries, I love supernatural stuff, I love investigations, and Sherlock Holmes allusions are the icing on the cake. Plot-wise it leaves a peculiar feeling. Now you have overcome a formidable

enemy, and next you discover that this enemy might actually be your friend compared to what you are going to face next. Thumbs up from me. Give me more!

With yet another excellent book in the series, Jonathan Stroud shows no signs of running out of steam. Definitely if you've enjoyed the previous books you will want to get this one.

Cant wait for the next book! Love the turn the series has taken. Very well written.

This series is shaping up nicely, developing the characters and adding new ones as well as Villians to do battle with. Engrossing ghost story!

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