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The Screaming Staircase –How the Book Has Changed Me

*Change.* With a meaning as deep as a trench, it is a part of the eternity we live through and follows us every step of the way. *Change.* Whether it is a new haircut or a new school, change blankets around our life leading us to our ups and downs. In the book *The Screaming Staircase* the transformation is represented by swinging emotions within the characters. One second they are concerned, but are cheerful the next. The characters indeed show change, but how do us readers transform outside of the book and the action? How can we feel the characters’ emotions and alter our personalities when the characters are the ones facing the conflict? That is one of the best things about a book. You *can* change.

As I read page after page I felt what the characters felt; I felt like a knife was stabbing my heart when Lucy was going to purposefully kill herself and scared when the blood starts dripping in the Red Room. As I proceeded on, embarking on each of Lockwood, Lucy, and George’s adventures my state of mind evolved into a new personality.

The characters’ experiences in *The Screaming Staircase* are bone chilling. As teenage kids, they set off on hunts that may not end well. Their experience helped me realize that they are so young yet so courageous. You can learn a lot from their state of minds like the fact that courage is what will help you through to victories.

Lucy is the character in the story that I can most relate to. The main reason is that she is the only girl in the team of ghostbusters. There are stereotypes set on girls that they cannot be brave. This lack of encouragement itself drives many girls into their hiding place. I think I as well as many other girls in this world should learn from Lucy. When Lucy stepped into the Combe Carey mansion while battling her emotions, I would have run. When the blood starts to drip from the ceiling and the door was locked, I would have screamed. One of the scariest scenarios she battled was when the ghost in the can started talking to Lucy. The face in the case spoke to her. ***“Death is coming your way… you’ll never be able to turn the tide” (p.380, Jonathon Stroud).*** As a reply to this, Lucy simply turned the yellow tap that would once again make the ghost inaudible and proceeds happily upstairs to join Lockwood and George. I would have freaked out, called Lockwood, and would not have been able to sleep that night.

Lucy was most brave when she was about to give her life up to stop the screaming monks from screaming. ***“Just a couple more strides and the screaming would stop. I would be part of that silence too…I took the last steps forward and walked out over the edge… (Jonathon Stroud, p. 324 & 325)***

I have learned from Lucy and the team that courage is important for your success. It was only because of Lockwood and Lucy’s courage that they got a start on the Annie Ward mystery and solved it together. With their valor, the trio didn’t stop in the middle of the Combe Carey Mansion, roll up in a ball and cry. Thanks to their bravery, they made it out of the Combe Carey mansion alive and not as a corpse. Using their mettle, kept them from getting killed by the dead monks’ screaming.

I have to admit I can never be as brave as Lucy. I am slowly becoming more courageous, thanks to the experiences I have visualized as if it were a movie being played in my head. The characters have helped me see that you need to be bold to face many obstacles. I have indeed learned a lot from Lockwood, Lucy, and George. Their work has taught me that with valor you can accomplish anything. I have enjoyed the book’s plot a lot. If I continue to build on top of my new boost of courage, it will definitely benefit me in the coming years.

Thanks a lot,

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