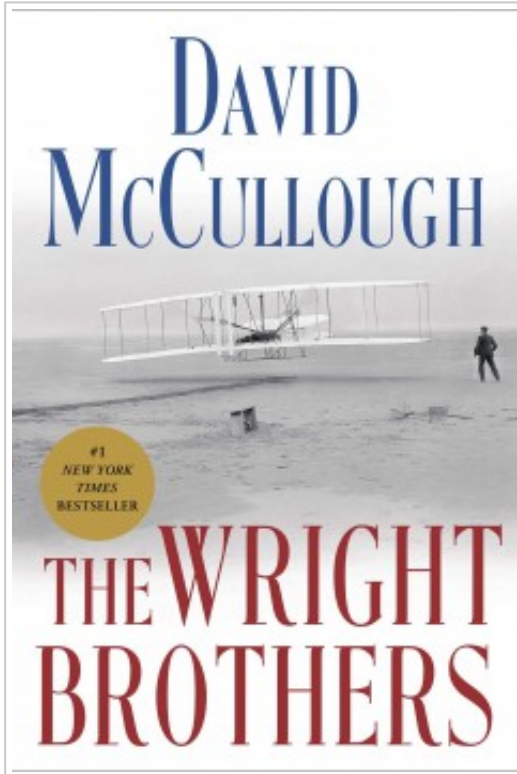


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The Wright Brothers

by David McCullough

Price: \$30.00(Hardcover)

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize David McCullough tells the dramatic story-behind-the-story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly: Wilbur and Orville Wright.

On December 17, 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur and Orville Wright's Wright Flyer became the first powered, heavier-than-air machine to achieve controlled, sustained flight with a pilot aboard. The Age of Flight had begun. How did they do it? And why? David McCullough tells the extraordinary and truly American story of the two brothers who changed the world.

Sons of an itinerant preacher and a mother who died young, Wilbur and Orville Wright grew up in a small side street in Dayton, Ohio, in a house that lacked indoor plumbing and electricity but was filled with books and a love of learning. The brothers ran a bicycle shop that allowed them to earn enough...

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What We Say

Best-selling, acclaimed historian David McCullough is in solid form on his biography of The Wright Brothers. With clear, lucid prose, he tells the story of the two men who revolutionized man-powered aviation. One surprise for those who like me don't know much more than Kitty Hawk is how hard it was for the Wright brothers to convince the world what they'd accomplished long AFTER their historic flight. The nutters and dreamers with hare-brained schemes were widespread. Even government-backed projects at the Smithsonian fell flat. Major scientists had declared genuine machine-powered flight was mathematically impossible. And then the Wright brothers did it. They're odd ducks, actually, never marrying, sober, modest and focused on their work. Mama's boys, you'd call them, if their mama hadn't died when they were young. Various mysteries remain -- Wilbur's three-year retreat from the world as a young man after a local bully attacked him, Orville's feelings of deep betrayal when his sister finally married late in life -- but their great accomplishment is illuminated. They flew and flew again and again. McCullough captures their frustrations, their accomplishments and their ultimate wowing of the world with economy and grace. It's a narrowly focused work and the brothers are so impenetrable that this won't rank as among his best. But it's popular history of the best sort. -- Michael Giltz

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