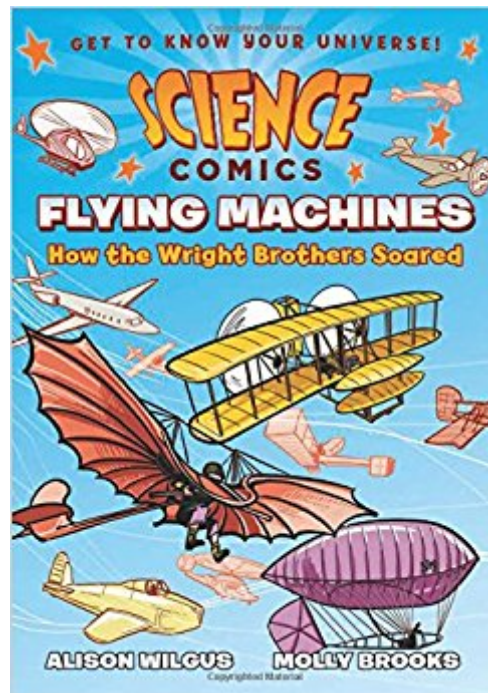




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# Science Comics: Flying Machines: How The Wright Brothers Soared



## Synopsis

Take to the skies with Flying Machines! Follow the famous aviators from their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, to the fields of North Carolina where they were to make their famous flights. In an era of dirigibles and hot air balloons, the Wright Brothers were among the first innovators of heavier than air flight. But in the hotly competitive international race toward flight, Orville and Wilbur were up against a lot more than bad weather. Mechanical failures, lack of information, and even other aviators complicated the Wright Brothers' journey. Though they weren't as wealthy as their European counterparts, their impressive achievements demanded attention on the international stage. Thanks to their carefully recorded experiments and a healthy dash of bravery, the Wright Brothers' flying machines took off.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 8

## Customer Reviews

"Like having a Time Life Science Library in comic books. Which is awesome!" Popular Science "inspirational reading for budding middle grade inventors and engineers" valuable for its broad picture of aviation's early history and for providing specifics about the technical problems the Wright brothers faced and solved." School Library Journal "An accessible and engaging introduction to the Wright brothers and how they ushered in the age of

flight." —Kirkus

Alison Wilgus is a Brooklyn-based author of comics and prose. She got her start as an animation writer on *Codename: Kids Next Door*, and her work has since been published by Scholastic, Nickelodeon Magazine, Del Rey, Dark Horse, and Tor.com, among others. Molly Brooks grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, received her MFA in illustration from the School of Visual Arts, and is currently based in Brooklyn. Her illustrations have appeared in *The Village Voice*, *The Guardian*, *The Boston Globe*, *Time Out New York*, *The Toast*, *BUST Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated* online, and elsewhere.

Have not read it yet but looks like an awesome informative book!

Brought to you by OBS Reviewer Scott  
The latest installment of Science Comics *Flying Machines: How the Wright Brothers Soared* takes the series to new heights (literally and figuratively). This volume of the graphic novel series explores the historical nature of this remarkable subject. Told from the perspective of Katherine Wright, the youngest and the only Wright who graduated from university, she teaches the fundamental principles of early aviation attempts and successes. Like most books in the Science Comics line, this graphic novel is geared toward younger readers. As a primer on the principles of flight, it shines brightly, giving a young child the principles, ideas, glossary and further readings in the field of aerodynamics and the bare basics of turbine jet propulsion. The story is well told at a fairly brisk pace. A lot of history had to be crammed into a limited number of pages. Wilgus however makes it work, giving the basic information and links to the more technical aspects. It shows solid character development of the Wrights and the French and German contemporaries. The dialogue is kept alive as the movement to different scenes and is witty and charming (and often verbose) and propels the science behind heavier than air flight. The graphic novel is limited though to the first flying machines, circa early 1900s to 1911 or thereabouts. It takes a brief look at the first jet propelled airplane, but the focus is on the early attempts in a boom industry. The artwork is cartoony in a good way. Characters are drawn distinctly and simply, with just enough detail to provide individuality. The art could even be described as airy. It's fitting for the subject materials. Shape is well defined and when details become important, Brooks delivers making the seemingly difficult concepts easy to understand. Panelation is appropriate and sometimes dissolves into montage or

ghost conversations (talking heads importing information laid out in diagrammatical fashion). Overall the art is above par, colored well and executed cleanly. Simple to detailed the art reflects what it has to in the story. Together, art and story in Flying Machines: How the Wright Brothers Soared, combine to create quite the educational experience. The graphic novel guides the young reader through the early attempts and the principles that led to modern flight. Complete with a clear illustrations of content, a glossary, further reading (both on the Wright brothers and the Wright sister) this novel is sure to appeal to the budding aeronautical engineer or jet propulsion scientists or people just interested in the early days of flight. Science Comics: Flying Machines: How the Wright Brothers Soared is a entertaining and gratifying read.

First Second's Science Comics line combines the best of everything: fascinating stories, entertaining education, and talented creators who know how to make good comics. Flying Machines: How the Wright Brothers Soared is no exception. Alison Wilgus wrote and Molly Brooks illustrated this brief history of powered flight by heavier-than-air constructions. I was charmed from the beginning, with the choice to have the story narrated by Katharine Wright, sister of the famous airplane inventors the Wright Brothers. Typical of American history instruction, I previously had no idea she existed, let alone that she was so smart, hard-working, and supportive. There's some really nice comic technique in her appearances, too, as she's drawn in the gutters between panels in a faded grey, reminding us she's our guide, not part of the scenes we're reading. The overall color scheme is shades of dark greyish blue and a warm brown. It's surprisingly effective in suggesting a richer palette and gives a feeling of the past, but not a remote one. Brooks does a terrific job keeping all the inventions believable and the characters in motion. The book covers more than just Orville and Wilbur Wright, with mentions of those who experimented with gliders and French aviators and information on the physics of flight, with plenty of diagrams. The underlying message, beyond how they proceeded with careful determination, is that of the scientific method, with observation and experimentation and small but important advances. (The publisher provided a digital review copy. Review originally posted at ComicsWorthReading.com.)

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