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The Glorious Flight: Across The Channel With Louis Bleriot July 25, 1909



Synopsis

Winner of the Caldecott Medal, this stunningly illustrated book depicts Louis Bleriot's historic first cross-Channel flight.

Book Information

Age Range: 4 and up

Lexile Measure: 0460 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Viking Press; 1st edition (1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670342599

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Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Alice and Martin Provensen certainly had a good run in the early 1980s. First there was their Newberry-winning-Caldecott-Honor-attaining, "A Visit to William Blake's Inn" (which I'm not a fan, but oh well) and then their very own Caldecott winning, "The Glorious Flight". If you were randomly scanning the shelves of your local library and you stumbled upon this book, you might consider it an early picture book. The story's muted color schemes and simple characters give it a particularly classic feel, unlike anything else you might find in contemporary tales. This may not be THE most exciting book in the world (the Provensens excel in moods and tones rather than fast-paced adrenaline rushes) but there is a lovely feel to it that outweighs its occasional lapses into deadened flatness. Voila, Monsieur Louis Bleriot (who, for purposes that remain unclear, is referred to here as a very un-French "Mr."). A well-to-do man of France in 1901, Bleriot lives a contented existence with his spouse, five children, cat, dog, and cockatoo. Just your average bourgeoisie. All that changes one day when up above the city streets Bleriot spots a remarkable new invention. It's a great white airship circling the skies. Suddenly, much like Toad in "Wind in the Willows", Bleriot is entranced

and mesmerized by the contraption. Says our hero, "I, too, will build a flying machine". The book chronicles his various attempts, each growing more sophisticated as Bleriot himself grows more learned. Finally, he enters a contest to be the first man to fly across the English Channel and, after some tense moments, succeeds and wins. Says the text, "Truly, it was a glorious flight". Indeed. It's a nice story too.

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