

LEVELED BOOK • I

# *Fantastic Flying Machines*



Written by John Meyer and Elizabeth Austin

**MULTI  
level  
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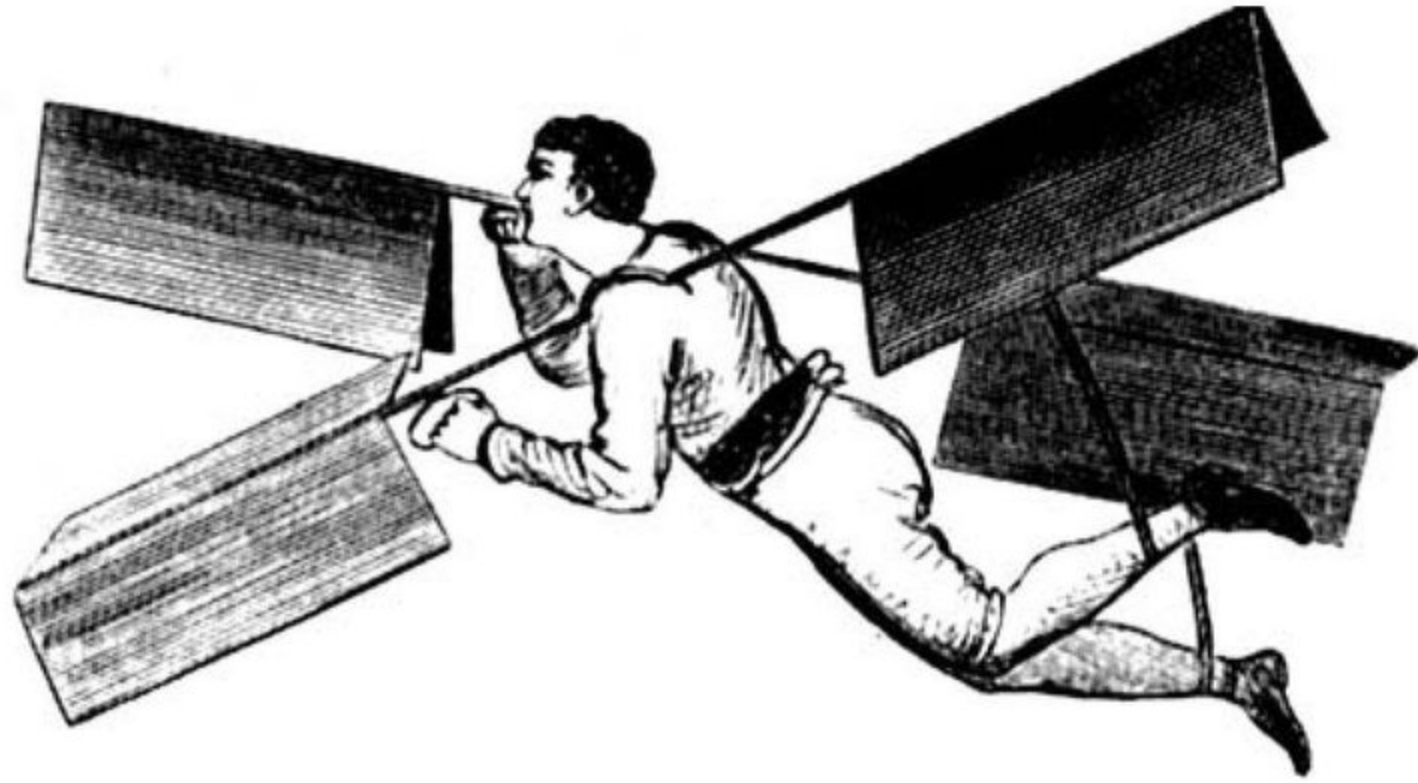
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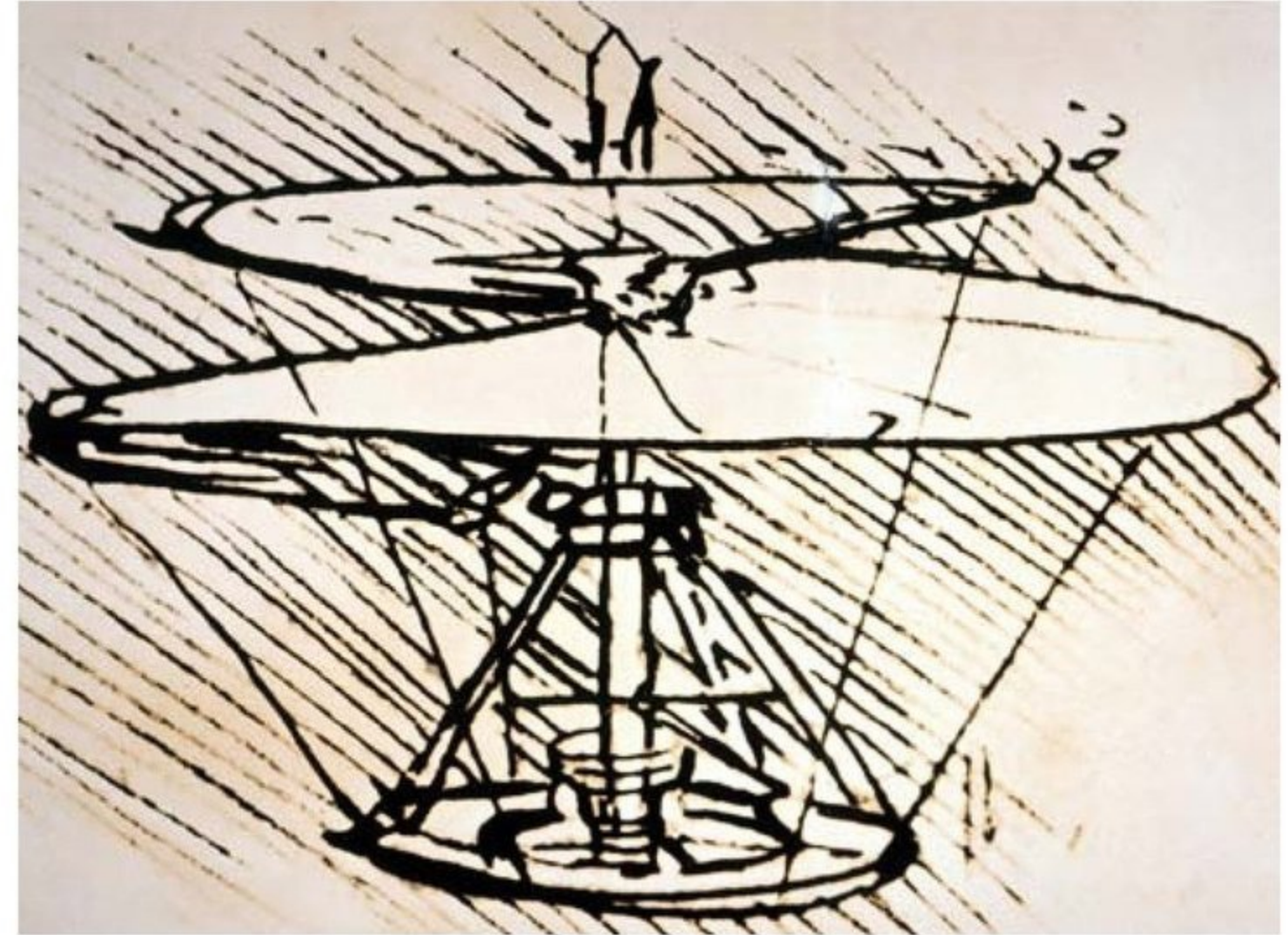
## ***Introduction***

What if you could fly like a bird? Where would you go? What would you see?





These wings flapped when the person moved his arms and legs.



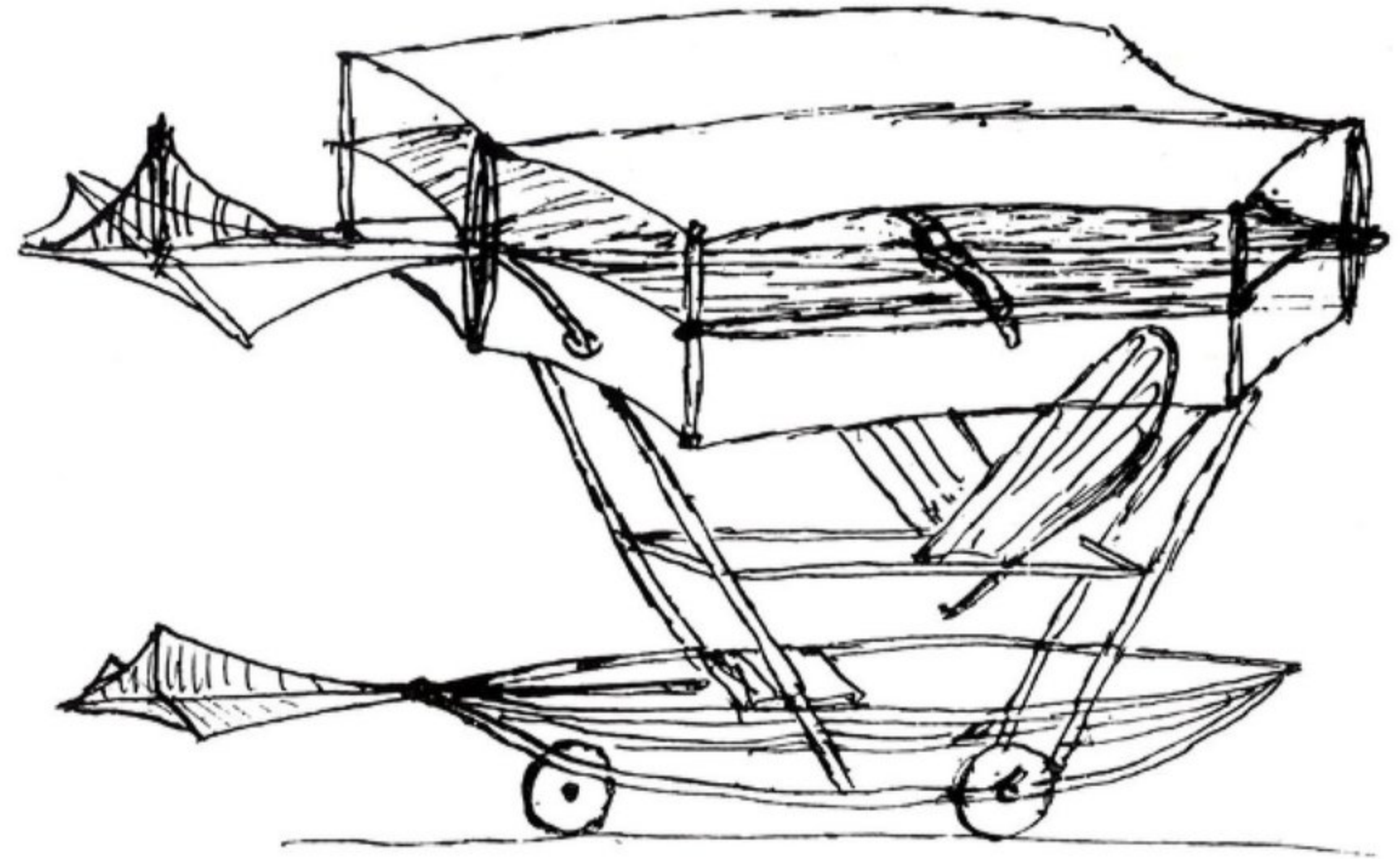
Leonardo da Vinci's helicopter drawing

People always wanted to fly. Some made wings out of wood.  
One artist drew a plan for a helicopter hundreds of years ago!





George Cayley built the first glider that carried a person.



A drawing of one of Cayley's first gliders

## ***History of Flight***

Two brothers made the first hot-air balloon.

Other people built strange gliders.



Wilbur Wright watches his brother Orville make his famous flight.

Airplanes use engines to stay in the air. The Wright brothers built the first airplane that worked. People could fly!





This commercial airplane carries hundreds of passengers around the world every day.

## ***Airplanes***

Airplanes have changed a lot since the early days of flight. Now, large planes can carry your family on vacation.





A Navy jet fighter takes off from an aircraft carrier.



Jet gases form streaks of cloud in the sky.

Some planes today use strong jet engines.  
They help planes fly high and fast.



A Navy plane with four propeller engines

Planes that fly low or slow often use propeller engines. Propeller blades spin like a fan's blades.



Planes carry things  
quickly over long  
distances.  
Planes carry cargo  
all around the world.



This plane can carry 132,000 kilograms (291,000 lbs) of cargo.





A helicopter ambulance carries sick and injured people.



A helicopter lands on top of a building.

## ***Helicopters***

Helicopters fly differently from planes. They can fly in any direction. They can take off straight up and can land almost anywhere.





Rescue helicopters save people on the ocean.

Flying in a helicopter saves time. Helicopters are used to quickly help people who are lost or hurt.





Beautiful balloons fill the sky.



Hot-air balloon passengers ride in a basket.

## ***Blimps and Balloons***

Hot-air balloons are quiet. They are pushed by the wind. Unlike other flying machines, you can't steer them.





Blimps are often used to film sporting events.



Riding in a blimp gives an amazing view.

Blimps are like long balloons.

Blimps have engines and are steered by pilots.

Have you seen a blimp?



## ***Other Ways to Fly***

There are many ways to fly.

A hang glider drifts on a breeze.

A hot-air balloon can take you  
for a ride.

Airplanes fly everywhere.

Where would you like to fly?



A hang glider soars over a beach.



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Front cover: The Proteus, a very high-flying observation airplane

Back cover: A military helicopter

Title page: The Lockheed Constellation, used to carry the U.S. president in the 1950s

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