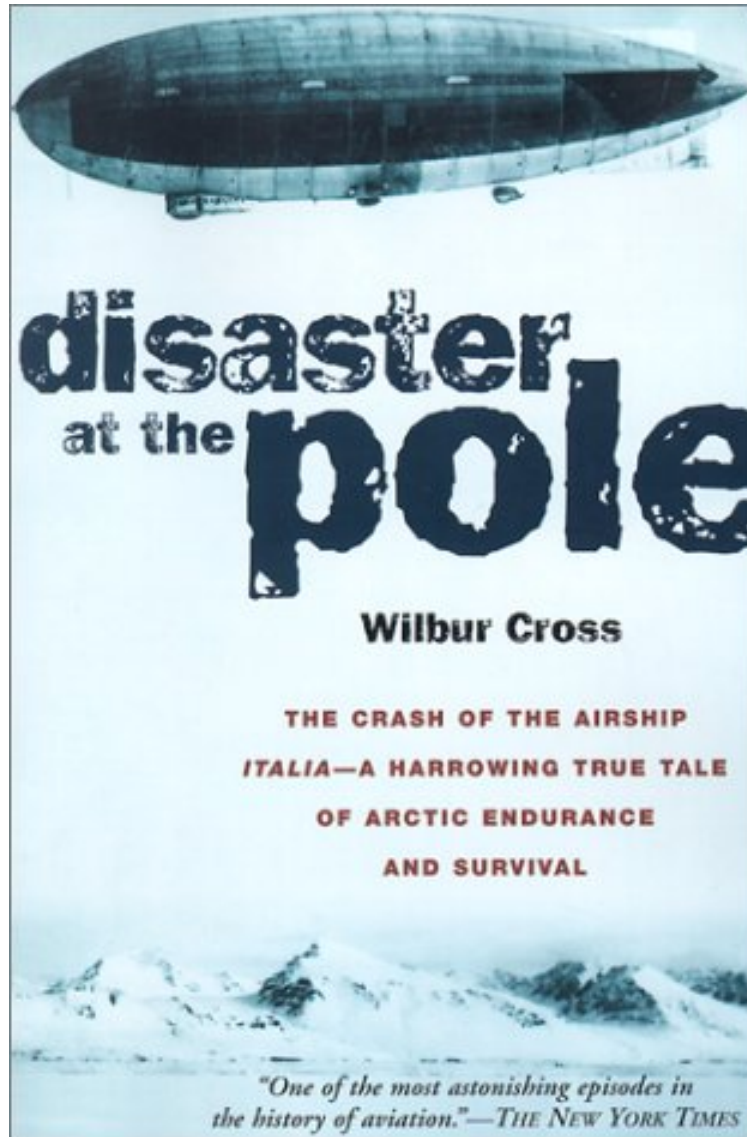


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## Disaster at the Pole: The Crash of the Airship Italia

Wilbur Cross

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**Wilbur Cross : Disaster at the Pole: The Crash of the Airship Italia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disaster at the Pole: The Crash of the Airship Italia:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Always wanted to know about "Italia" ...By D. Powers I've read several 'disaster' exploration books, i.e. "Endurance", "The Wreck of the Medusa", "Batavia's Graveyard", etc., and this one is good also. I vaguely remember the 1960's film, "The Red Tent", with Sean Connery Peter Finch (I had to look that up) when I was a kid. The book is pretty straight forward, describing the political atmosphere of the time

(rising Fascism), Umberto Nobile's airship career, the events leading to the crash, the attempts to smear Nobile, and the rescue efforts, which were courageous, sometimes tragic, and, admittedly, why I read these books. BTW, the author actually interviewed Nobile. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great details on a true story By Doug If you love history and the men who 'pushed the envelope' to discover or travel to parts of earth for the first time, you will enjoy this read. Takes place in 1928. It's sad how the Italian government of 1928 'Duce' treated Mr. Nobile. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Gripping, Well-Written Tale By tgfabthunderbird I had only heard bits about the crash of the airship Italia back in 1928, and now I am fully informed upon reading this book. Cross wrote a well-researched, engaging book, conducting interviews with many of the survivors, including its leader, Umberto Nobile. It is detailed without being bogged down in minutiae or with too many personal editorializations. A brilliant engineer, Nobile flew to the pole in the Norge along with renowned explorer Roald Amundsen. Cross is quick to point out the extreme dislike the two had for each other, though when Italia crashed, Amundsen was among the first to set out for him (and it would cost him his life). Nobile became the tool of Mussolini's Fascist dictatorship and its intrigues-- Cross pulls no punches in describing the jealousy and petty bickering that affected Nobile's efforts and nearly cost the expedition their lives when rescue efforts by the Italians were half-hearted. There are some really interesting and heroic characters here, those that risked their lives to search for Nobile and his men. The horrors they all went through are well-documented. Somehow, Nobile avoided false charges of cowardice and managed to keep his career going. At the end, he seemed to also retain his dignity. A great read, with a lot of real heroes that make ours of today seem mere shadows.

The true story of the harrowing wreck of the dirigible Italia during a polar expedition and the heroic rescue attempts to save her and her crew.

"An intriguing, at times even heart-stopping account." --Publishers Weekly