

For hundreds of thousands of years Great Auks thrived in the icy seas of the North Atlantic, bobbing on the waves, diving for fish and struggling up onto rocky shores to mate and hatch their fluffy chicks. But by 1844, not a single one of these magnificent birds was alive. In this stunningly illustrated non-fiction picture book, award-winning author and illustrator Jan Thornhill tells the tragic story of these birds that weighed as much as a sack of potatoes and stood as tall as a preteen's waist. Their demise came about in part because of their anatomy. They could swim swiftly underwater, but their small wings meant they couldn't fly and their feet were so far back on their bodies, they couldn't walk very well. Still the birds managed to escape their predators much of the time until humans became seafarers. Great Auks were pursued first by Vikings, then by Inuit, Beothuk and finally European hunters. Their numbers rapidly dwindled. They became collectors' items their skins were stuffed for museums, to be displayed along with their beautiful eggs. (There are some amazing stories about these stuffed auks one was stolen from a German museum during WWII by Russian soldiers; another was flown to Iceland and given a red-carpet welcome at the airport.) Although undeniably tragic, the final demise of the Great Auk led to the birth of the conservation movement. Laws were eventually passed to prevent the killing of birds during the nesting season, and similar laws were later extended to other wildlife species.

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The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk has ratings and 58 reviews. Manybooks said: A perfect and simply amazing marriage of informative narrative and evoca. A picture by Jan Thornhill about the Great Auk, a magnificent bird that went extinct in TORONTO, Nov. 21, Jan Thornhill's 'The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk' wins \$ TD Canadian Children's Literature Award. Thornhill, Jan The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk; written and illus. by Jan Thornhill. Groundwood, 44p. ISBN \$ R*.

Hundreds of thousands of great auks once swam in cold northern waters, but these birds have all disappeared owing to a tragic intersection of. 14 Jul - 21 sec - Uploaded by Agnes Kruglova The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk. Agnes Kruglova. Loading Unsubscribe from Agnes Kruglova. The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk. Jan Thornhill. Toronto, ON: Groundwood Books /House of Anansi Press, 44 pp., hardcover & pdf, \$ The Hardcover of the The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk by Jan Thornhill at Barnes & Noble. FREE Shipping on \$ or more!. Summary: Tells the tragic story of the Great Auks, including unique characteristics , life cycle, their final demise and how it led to the birth of the conservation.

The story of the Great Auk, a bird of unique anatomy and behaviour, is truly a tragic one, and Jan Thornhill takes great care to ensure the details.

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