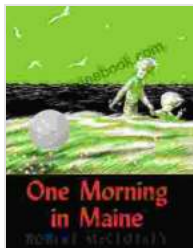


# One Morning in Maine: A Picture-Perfect Puffin Paradise

As the sun peeked over the horizon, casting a golden glow across the calm waters of Penobscot Bay, I found myself surrounded by a chorus of cheerful coos and squawks. I had arrived at Eastern Egg Rock, a small island off the coast of Maine, to witness the enchanting spectacle of Atlantic puffins.



## One Morning in Maine (Picture Puffins) by Robert McCloskey

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 10944 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 64 pages



These adorable birds, with their tuxedo-like plumage and brightly colored beaks, are a captivating sight. Their comical antics and playful nature made for an unforgettable morning of wildlife photography.

## The Dawn of a New Day



As the first rays of sunlight illuminated the island, the puffins emerged from their burrows, eager to start the day. They waddled and hopped along the rocky coastline, their webbed feet making a gentle patter against the stones.

The air was filled with the cacophony of their calls as they greeted each other and prepared for their daily fishing expeditions. The males, with their distinctive red and orange beaks, displayed their courtship dances, puffing out their chests and bobbing their heads.

## **Puffin Proportions**



Puffins are remarkably well-adapted to their marine environment. Their stocky bodies, short wings, and webbed feet make them excellent swimmers and divers.

Their beaks, which are covered in tiny serrations, are perfect for catching and holding fish. And their colorful beaks, which serve as a form of identification within the colony, fade away during the winter months when the birds are not breeding.

## **Family Matters**



Puffins mate for life and return to the same nesting site year after year. They typically lay one egg per season, which is incubated by both parents for about six weeks.

Once the chick hatches, both parents work tirelessly to feed it fish. The chicks grow rapidly and are ready to leave the nest after about 50 days. They then take to the open ocean and spend the next few years at sea before returning to their natal colony to breed.

## **Puffin Paradise**



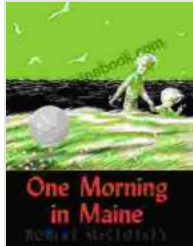
Eastern Egg Rock is a sanctuary for puffins and other seabirds. The island is protected by the National Audubon Society and is off-limits to visitors during the breeding season from April to August.

This protection has helped the puffin population to flourish on the island. Today, there are an estimated 10,000 pairs of puffins nesting on Eastern Egg Rock, making it one of the largest puffin colonies in North America.

### **A Morning to Remember**

As the sun began to set on my morning at Eastern Egg Rock, I couldn't help but feel a sense of awe and wonder. I had been privileged to witness the beauty and resilience of these magnificent creatures.

The puffins of Maine are a testament to the power of nature and the importance of conservation. May they continue to thrive in their island paradise for generations to come.



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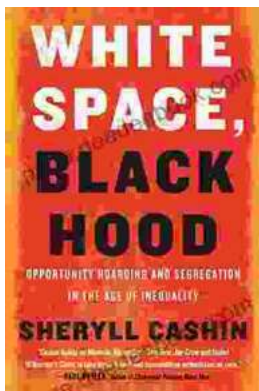
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