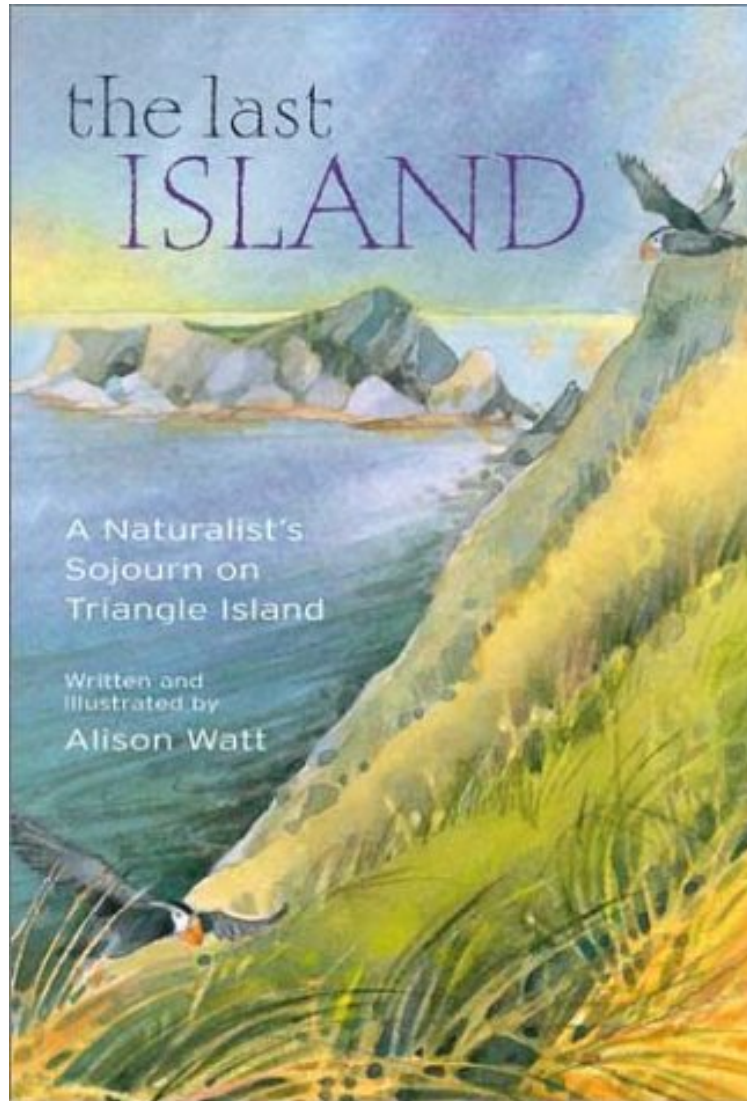


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## The Last Island: A Naturalist's Sojourn on Triangle Island

*Alison Watt*

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**Alison Watt : The Last Island: A Naturalist's Sojourn on Triangle Island** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Island: A Naturalist's Sojourn on Triangle Island:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a wonderful book. It is so well written and a ...By M. WagnerThis is a wonderful book. It is so well written and a great homage to Anne Vallee, who was an extraordinary woman with unique passion. Anyone who loves birds, the North Pacific Coast, and nature-writing in general will not be able to stop reading!

At twenty-three, Alison Watt left the comfort of a relationship and urban life to spend four months studying tufted puffins on Triangle Island, a remote bird sanctuary far off the northern tip of Vancouver Island. She spent her summer in the company of Anne Valle, a serious young biologist whose dedication to her field made her a formidable and inspiring mentor. Now, in the sixteen years since Watt last visited the island, Anne has died, and from the moment Watt arrives to do more research, she is flooded with memories of the summer they spent together. Told in a gripping diary form, *The Last Island* blends native legends, evolutionary theory, scientific knowledge and an appreciation for the delicate balance required for creatures as small as krill and as large as fin whales to survive. Watt brings the island to life, recreating through sensual detail the sounds, smells, sights, tastes and textures of this desolate bird haven. Perhaps even more importantly, she recreates the jagged inner landscape of a young woman worn and warmed by months of seclusion.

**About the Author** After completing a biology degree at Simon Fraser University, Alison Watt went on to study botany at the University of British Columbia. She has worked as a seabird researcher and as a naturalist in parks across BC. Her non-fiction has appeared in *Canadian Wildlife Magazine*; her poetry has appeared in many journals including *Event*, *Room of One's Own* and *Vintage*, the League of Canadian Poets annual anthology. She is also a painter who works and teaches out of her studio on Protection Island, near Nanaimo.