

October

Lazy days

BOOKS > TV > FILMS > LETTERS > PUZZLES

Here's looking at ewe, kid:
Addicted to Sheep follows
a sheep-farming family
in Upper Teesdale



THE RISE AND FELS OF A SHEEP-FARMING FAMILY

An engrossing study of the Hutchinsons and their flock of Swaledale sheep in the Pennines

FILM ADDICTED TO SHEEP

DIRECTOR: MAGALI PETTIER

LIMITED NATIONWIDE CINEMA RELEASE

WWW.ADDDICTEDTOSHEEP.COM

Five years in the making, this independent documentary follows the Hutchinson family and their love affair with the Swaledale sheep they farm in the stunning North Pennines. "Swaledale sheep are one of the worst addictions known to man," Tom tells the camera, and despite the long hours and unstable

nature of the job, the whole family is besotted with the sheep and their unique way of life.

The audience experiences the brutal reality of hill farming and, for those unfamiliar with the way of life, the film may get uncomfortably close. Tom delivers a stillborn lamb in gruesome detail and Kay is unflinching as she breaks the legs of the plucked turkey she is preparing on the kitchen table. They are, in their own words, "desperate for money" but it is clear they count themselves extremely lucky to live where they do.

Narrated by the family, the film invites us into the landscape that the Hutchinsons call home. The fells of Upper Teesdale are a tough but beautiful corner of England and the strength of the local community is touching. The Hutchinson children, who are out on the farm as much as their parents and adore where they live, add a humorous and emotional side to the film.

It might be less glamorous than Adam's Farm, but this unhurried, intimate, honest film is unmissable.

Beth Rowland, reviewer