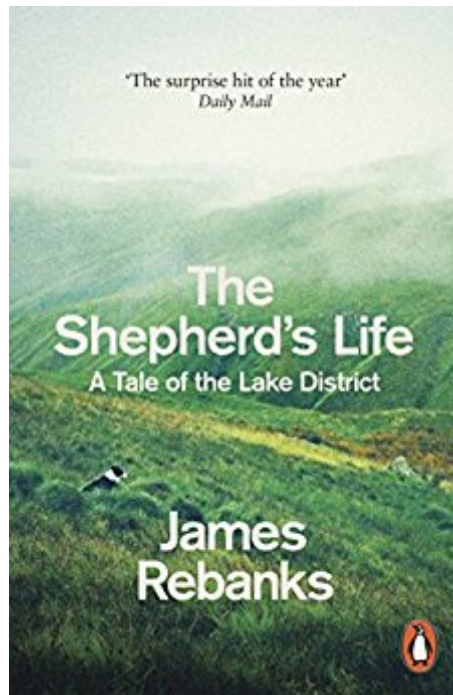




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The Shepherd's Life: A Tale Of The Lake District



Synopsis

From James Rebanks, the Herdwick Shepherd, comes *The Shepherd's Life*, a story of the Lake District and its people which could redefine the literature of rural life. Some people's lives are entirely their own creations. James Rebanks' isn't. The first son of a shepherd, who was the first son of a shepherd himself, he and his family have lived and worked in and around the Lake District for generations. Their way of life is ordered by the seasons and the work they demand, and has been for hundreds of years. A Viking would understand the work they do: sending the sheep to the fells in the summer and making the hay; the autumn fairs where the flocks are replenished; the gruelling toil of winter when the sheep must be kept alive, and the light-headedness that comes with spring, as the lambs are born and the sheep get ready to return to the fells. These modern dispatches from an ancient landscape tell the story of a deep-rooted attachment to place, describing a way of life that is little noticed and yet has profoundly shaped this landscape. In evocative and lucid prose, James Rebanks takes us through a shepherd's year, offering a unique account of rural life and a fundamental connection with the land that most of us have lost. It is a story of working lives, the people around him, his childhood, his parents and grandparents, a people who exist and endure even as the world changes around them. Many stories are of people working desperately hard to leave a place. This is the story of someone trying desperately hard to stay. James Rebanks is the Herdwick Shepherd, whose account of shepherding has a strong following on Twitter (@herdyshepherd1). His family has farmed in the same area for more than six hundred years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

During a couple of tours of the UK there were always unanswered questions about the sheep: why so many, what are the different kinds, is the wool of any use, do they really eat that much lamb, etc. This collection of essays does so much to explain the whys and wherefores. It's technical enough to satisfy the biologists among us while covering the historical and traditional and even romantic reasons for the continued presence in such numbers both of sheep and shepherds. The man is deeply in love with his countryside and its traditions and he writes so well. It enriches the experiences of the past tours and should be read before one goes. A lovely read.

A splendid book. I have had some peripheral connection with shepherding, and I found both a laugh and a knowing nod of my head on every page. I recommend it to every reader

I almost stopped reading this book after the first few chapters, but am so glad I continued reading - it gets better and better. While based in England and not a political book, it does lend some perspective to the cultural and financial differences between the 'Red' and the 'Blue' states in the US.

Honest and unpretentious. An account of a life sometimes precarious financially but always rich in its understanding of the harsh and difficult land and its many rewards. The writer's understanding of his ancient work reads like the story of a vocation and his love of his calling is never in doubt despite uncertainty and hardship. A great read and experience.

I love reading this book with a cup of coffee and my feet up. A comfortable book. Tips on sheep keeping are nicely mixed in with antidotes about life in general.

I did really enjoy this story. The very complicated raising of sheep, constantly improving the bloodline, etc was interesting. Of course, I had no idea at all of what is involved. I have been fascinated with the Lake District every since I knew of it and now see that it is WAAAAYyy more

than Beatrix Potter!

I loved this book. I read it while being on holiday in Somerset, England, after walking the coastal path through a field of sheep. It made me look at the landscape around me with a different point of view. I also love how Rebanks reflect upon the life of a shepherd, and it made me reflect upon 21st century skills as nothing new, but rather something we always been dependent upon, and rather re-invented than something new.

I loved this book, even the boring bits. It is such a man against nature, man with nature story. I was fascinated all the way and thoroughly recommend it to anyone who loves a good account of human endeavour, against the odds.

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