

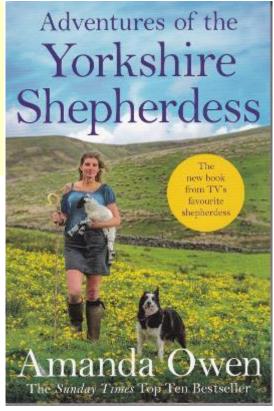
THE BOOK SHELF reviews of books

reviews of books read recently by members



Adventures of the YORKSHIRE SHEPHERDESS By Amanda Owen

AMANDA OWEN is a remarkable wife to husband, Clive, mother to nine children and carer for over 1,000 sheep. How Amanda finds time in an exceptionally busy life to write, not just one book but a series, is a mystery to me. This book is one of the series and it was first published in 2019. It goes hand-in-hand with the TV series but I recommend that if you enjoyed the TV series you read Amanda's books too.



Amanda and Clive, with considerable help from their children, run a tenant farm called 'Ravenseat' in a remote part of the Yorkshire Dales. Every day on the farm the family face a number of tough challenges and by pulling together they usually overcome them. Amanda and Clive approach parenting their children with a style of 'tough love' that is rarely found in the modern world but there can be no doubt that it works at 'Ravenseat'.

The children are happy and bonded together by the need for them to give mutual support if life's challenges are to be dealt with in the best way. An example of this is the passage in the book that explains how the brutal winter of 2018 took a heavy toll on Amanda and the rest of the family but they survived. But there are many amusing, light-hearted episodes recorded too such as the time house martin's claimed one of Amanda's bras as a nest.

The part of the book I enjoyed most was the record of Amanda buying a nearby farmhouse that she found was on the market. This was seen as a step towards giving the family more financial security because Clive and Amanda only rent 'Ravenseat'. The farmhouse needed much done to it and all did not go to plan but I shall not spoil your discovery of the details. Buy the book and read for yourself.

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JOHN CRAIG