

God own's country – Review

Set on a **sheep** farm amid the Yorkshire dales, Francis Lee's *God's Own Country* is a simple romance that explores the damaging **isolation** of life in the country and – in particular – the toll that can take on a young man who has **shrunk** away from any form of **intimacy**.

Life on the family farm is mostly about “getting on with it” for young **farmer** Johnny Saxby, who's plainly **miserable**. Johnny numbs his daily frustrations with **binge** drinking and casual sex, until the arrival of a Romanian **migrant** worker for **lambing** season **ignites** an intense relationship that sets Johnny on a new **path**.



This is writer-director Francis Lee's debut and comparisons to Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain* are inevitable. But where *Brokeback* was **sweeping** Wyoming vistas and **homophobic** backlash, this **enigmatic** little film says it all in razor-sharp close-ups and minimal words, where one small **gesture** speaks volumes about love and **redemption** in this unforgiving land. It is so full of affection and tells so much even when the characters say very little in their scenes together, moving us with the intensity of their growing feelings for each other in a mostly silent, **restrained** way.



A stunning love story that in its finest moments is pure **poetry**. It combines gritty realism with **poignancy**, the result is a film that is exceptionally moving.

A remarkable debut from a director who clearly excels in close studies of human **fragility**. Regardless of who or what you are, this film will stir up emotions you had forgotten you even had. A highly recommendable rare and special film.