

FEED MY SHEEP

Written by

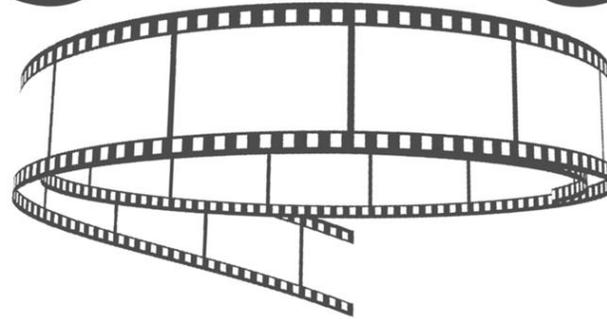
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Based on, his short story by the same name

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AWARD WINNER
**CHRISTIAN
FILM FESTIVAL**



Scott Ennis
Best Script / Feed My Sheep

27 August 2016
Date



Rich Collins

Film Festival Director

EXT. SHEEP FARM - EARLY 1900S - DAY

ABRAHAM, mid 30's, sheep rancher dressed in work clothes, focuses on a sheep giving birth. Suddenly, a loud noise comes from inside the barn, followed by pained CRIES of a young boy.

Abraham reluctantly pulls himself away from watching the sheep and goes to the barn.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

ISAAC, Abraham's pre-teen son, lies on the floor with his leg twisted horribly beneath him.

ABRAHAM

It's going to be okay, Isaac.

Abraham hurries over to help his son.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SMALL HILL - DAY

SARAH, Abraham's wife, mid 30's, sits on a blanket next to Isaac, who's wearing a set of braces on his legs.

She serves him a picnic lunch, but she's occasionally distracted by the beautiful landscape around them.

SARAH

Here's some of your favorite soup.

Isaac reaches for the soup, but isn't able to remain steady and drops the bowl.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Oh, my dear boy! I'm sorry, I should have set it down where you could reach it. You stay still now and let me clean up this up.

Sarah quickly scoops up the liquid mess with a cloth. Isaac sighs heavily.

ISAAC

I'm sorry, mom. I know this is your favorite place and now I've ruined it.

SARAH

Hush now, it's not your fault.

Sarah smiles warmly to her son.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Abraham sits in a rustic, single-room house next to a bed where Sarah, clearly on her sickbed, lies awake.

Sheep can be heard outside, and occasionally seen in a large pasture, through a window next to Sarah's bed.

Isaac, now with a crooked leg, hobbles around the room. Sarah reaches out to take Abraham's hand while watching Isaac struggle to walk around the room.

SARAH

He's a precious boy. Have I spoiled him too much?

ABRAHAM

No. I promise I'll take care of him as good as you have.

SARAH

But you are so busy with the sheep.

ABRAHAM

He's more important than the sheep.

SARAH

Just don't spoil him like I did. Promise me you'll teach him how to value himself. Give him confidence.

ABRAHAM

I promise.

Together, Sarah and Abraham watch as their son hobbles across the room. A sad expression faintly crosses over Sarah's face.

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Abraham, rough but kind-looking, sits across the table from Isaac. Both are dressed in ranch work clothes, and eat breakfast in quiet.

Abraham seems distracted by Isaac's leg brace that hangs near the bed. He puts his utensils down and looks over at Isaac.

ABRAHAM

I need to go over to the settlement today. I may be gone for a few days. While I'm gone I'll need you to care for the sheep. I'll need you to feed and water them.

Isaac appears apprehensive. He stops eating, then stands to walk over to Abraham's side. He limps on his left side as he walks and his left arm hangs loosely at his side.

ISAAC

But dad, I've never tended the sheep without your help. What if I'm not strong enough? What if I'm just a no-good cripple, like the other kids say?

ABRAHAM

(smiling kindly)

I know better than those kids. If you do all that you can, it will be enough.

Isaac stares out the window at the pasture. He still looks slightly apprehensive about the situation.

EXT. SHEEP FARM - DAY

Isaac stands alone with the sheep, shrugging his shoulders as if attempting to relieve a large weight.

He looks back and forth between the sheep and the empty feeder and watering trough.

Sheep CRY out because they're hungry.

Isaac limps into the barn and fetches some food to fill the sheep's feeder.

The sheep continue to BLEAT in hunger as Isaac makes several trips to fill their feeder.

Once the feeder's full, Isaac sits down near the sheep to rest. As he watches them eat, he hears Abraham's words in his mind.

ABRAHAM (V.O.)

If you do all that you can, it will be enough.

EXT. SHEEP FARM - LATER

The sheep are CRYING again because they're thirsty. Their water trough is empty.

Isaac limps to the well and fetches water to fill the sheep's trough. He makes several trips to the well to fill the sheep's watering trough.

Isaac stops at the well, hangs up the bucket, and looks tiredly toward the sheep.

ABRAHAM (V.O.)

If you do all that you can, it will
be enough.

DISSOLVE TO:

The sheep are full at last as they lay down peacefully for the night.

INT. FARMHOUSE - EVENING

Isaac is so tired from his labors of the day that he eats his supper and goes to bed right away.

INT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Isaac awakens to the sound of the sheep CRYING once again.

Isaac lies in bed and rubs his arms and legs, sore from his work of the previous day.

ISAAC

(mumbles)

I'm so tired. The sheep will have
to wait until I am rested.

A beat passes as a look of shame crosses over Isaac's face.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But these are father's sheep. He
would never leave them to cry in
hunger.

Suddenly Isaac cries himself, blending with the sheep's
CRIES.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

But I'm so tired. It's so hard to
lift and walk with my weak side.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

And I am only one boy. How can I
ever do enough for all these sheep?

ABRAHAM (V.O.)

If you do all that you can, it will
be enough.

Isaac stands up determinedly and sets out to fetch food for
the hungry sheep in the barn.

EXT. SHEEP FARM - LATER

Isaac once again hauls water from the well to fill the
sheep's watering trough.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Isaac is too tired to eat his own supper and goes straight to
his bed to sleep. He yawns the whole way there.

INT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Isaac awakens to the noise of the sheep CRYING again. He
buries his face in his hands.

Isaac cries out with frustration.

ISAAC

Father, I'm so tired and sore and
hungry. Where are you, father?
Why have you left me all alone?

ABRAHAM (V.O.)

(softly)
If you do all that you can, it will
be enough.

Isaac sighs deeply as he pushes himself out of bed.

EXT. SHEEP FARM - DAY

WIDE ON SHEEP FARM

From atop a hill and over the pasture, Isaac appears very
small as he limps to the barn to fetch food for the sheep.

Next, he goes to the well to fetch water for the sheep.

Isaac stops and looks up towards the hill as if he hears something.

He spots fluffy clouds drifting by calmly over the top of the green hill. The sun bursts forth brilliantly from behind a large white cloud.

ABRAHAM (V.O.)

(softly)

If you do all that you can, it will
be enough.

EXT. SHEEP FARM - NIGHT

It's very late into the night when the sheep have had enough to eat and drink, finally settling down to a peaceful sleep.

Isaac's so tired that he lays down and falls asleep in the pen with the sheep.

EXT. DREAMSCAPE - LATER

An ANGEL picks Isaac up, carries him away in his arms and lays him down on a soft, comfortable cloud.

INT. FARMHOUSE - MORNING

Isaac awakens to the CRIES of the hungry sheep, but he is lying in his bed and Abraham is standing over him.

Isaac beams a smile and throws his arms around his father's neck.

ISAAC

Oh father, I am so weary. I am
hungry and sore and I do not think
I can do any more.

ABRAHAM

(smiling kindly)

Follow me.

He leads Isaac out of his bedroom.

EXT. SHEEP FARM - LATER

Isaac follows his father to the sheep pen as Abraham opens the gate.

ABRAHAM

Go and stand just inside the gate.

The sheep are all gathered expectantly at the feeder and water trough on the other side of the pen. When Isaac enters the pen, they all turn and flock around him.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Now, let's walk.

Abraham and Isaac walk together along the road, which leads to a green pasture.

When Isaac looks behind, he's surprised to see all the sheep following orderly and quietly.

Abraham opens the gate to the pasture, which is a beautiful deep green, full of grass and clover with a small clear stream of fresh water flowing through its center.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Go into the pasture a little way.

Isaac obeys Abraham without question.

The sheep follow Isaac into the pasture and immediately begin to graze on the rich, green grass. They also drink from the clear, fresh stream.

Isaac smiles with astonishment and relief.

ISAAC

Thank you, father. I don't think I could have cared for your sheep much longer.

ABRAHAM

My son, these sheep are yours now. All that was mine is now yours. You must care for them.

ISAAC

But father, I was failing. If you had not returned when you did, the sheep would have gone hungry.

Abraham remains patient and kind, nodding with a faint smile.

ABRAHAM

Son, I told you that if you did all that you could, it would be enough. I knew just when to return. I know that you did all that you could.

(MORE)

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

I know that it was enough. And now
you should know it too.

ISAAC

(puzzled)

I don't understand.

ABRAHAM

You have loved these sheep and
cared for them. You did all that
you could for them. The sheep know
that too. That's why they came to
you when you entered their pen.
That is why they followed you along
the road. These sheep know that
you will always love them and care
for them. Now that they know you
and trust you, all you have to do
is lead them to a green pasture and
they will feed themselves.

ISAAC

I'll always do all I can for them!

Isaac turns and throws his arms joyously around Abraham's
neck.

FADE TO BLACK.