



## ***Mad Shepherds***

By L. P. Jacks

Published by Little Toller Books

March 2026 (UK)

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‘...a beautiful and poignant memorial.’ *Mackenzie Crook*

First published in 1910, *Mad Shepherds*, subtitled *and other human stories*, is an extraordinary book. The author, Lawrence Pearsall Jacks, was a philosopher, educator, writer and Unitarian minister, who came to live in the Vale of Evesham in the northern Cotswolds at the end of the nineteenth century. *Mad Shepherds* is a lightly fictionalised account of life in the village, which Jacks calls Deadborough, and is also a highly idiosyncratic and authentic exploration of rural life and culture. The protagonist is Snarley Bob, a shepherd, whose gruff and often rude outpourings conceal a dark wit and intelligence. As Jacks writes, ‘Mystic, star-gazer, dabbler in the black or blackish arts, he seemed in his lowly occupation of shepherd to represent some strange miscarriage of Nature’s designs.’ Full of memorable portraits of the villagers, *Mad Shepherds* is a compulsively readable, sometimes strange book about an England now entirely lost and largely forgotten. This new edition has an introduction by the actor and director Mackenzie Crook.

**L. P. Jacks** (1860-1955) was a writer, educator, philosopher and Unitarian Minister. He was a popular lecturer between the World Wars on the subjects of militarism and the need for a liberal education. He wrote over twenty books.

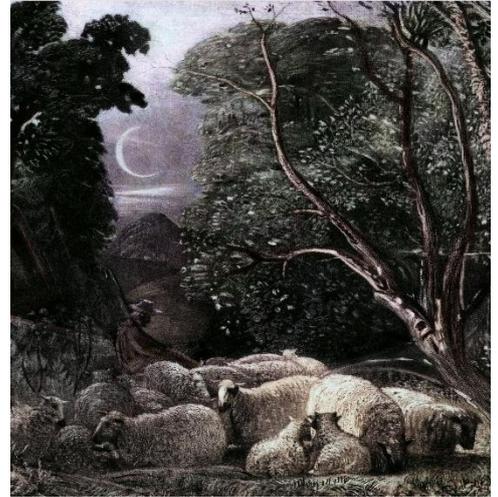
**Mackenzie Crook** is an actor, director, comedian and writer, known for his roles in *The Office*, *The Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Detectorists*, amongst others. He appeared as Ginger in Jez Butterworth’s acclaimed play *Jerusalem*.

**Cover by** Samuel Palmer (1805-1881)

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L. P. JACKS

Introduced by  
MACKENZIE CROOK



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