

Waco: Madman or Messiah?



BBC4, Weds Jan 2, 9pm

Making A Murderer uncovered a previously untapped appetite for American true crime documentaries whilst the viewing nation works its way through the 720g tin of Quality Street. This BBC 90 min two-parter is closer to Netflix's *Wild Wild Country* but again feels refreshingly counter-intuitive to the usual feelgood fare. The madman or messiah – self-proclaimed – was David Koresh, charismatic (aren't they always) cult leader of the Branch Davidians of Waco, Texas, who expanded his remit to marrying multiple 14 year-old child brides, with the consent of their brainwashed parents, before the longest siege in US history in 1993 left four government agents, 82 cult members and 23 children dead. Most chilling is the testament of nine survivors, 247 hours of previously unreleased FBI recordings of the siege and Koresh's godawful rock guitar playing.