



# Sophia Library

## RESILIENCE

WE talk about resilience  
as though it is a choice

THEY live resilience  
or they die

WE talk about resilience  
as an antidote to depression

THEY can't get depressed  
terror is too close

WE talk about resilience  
in our safe country

THEY don't know if safety exist  
anywhere.....  
*Maggie Nicholls*

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Who Cooked Adam Smith's Dinner?**

*A Story about Women and Economics.*

Katrine Marçal Portabello Books 2015 [330.121 MAR]

When I picked up this book, Angela read the cover and laughed. 'We all know the answer to that one' she said. Well, I was a little off key when I guessed that it was his wife. Second prize to me – it was his mother.



The book is well written in a deceptively simple and ironically humorous tone, but it clearly and carefully links the invisibility of women and women's work, to the development of an economic theory that excludes people in its understanding of its own purpose. It is not superficial at all, sweeping across history, patriarchy, industry, war, colonialism, slavery – the whole complex web of kyriarchy – even though it is a small paperback that fits in your bag for when you have to wait in the doctor's surgery. It is a good read, and well worth the bit of effort, but don't try it if you are feeling a bit depressed. Read it when it gives you the energy to go on.

By the way, his mother was Margaret Douglas. He was totally dependent on her for his food and care for her whole life. Her husband was a Scottish MP, who died when she was twenty eight, and Adam Smith was two years old. She could only claim one third of the inheritance, her two year old son inheriting the estate. She was financially dependent on him for the rest of her life.

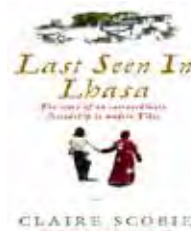
If you read nothing else, make sure you read the epilogue about her, and how we see her ghost in modern life. *Pauline Small*

### **Last Seen in Lhasa.**

*The story of an extraordinary friendship in modern Tibet.*

Claire Scobie. Rider 2006 [915.15 SCO]

This was a lovely read that took me to places I imagine myself willing to go, but know I would never have the courage to try. Walking over snowy sheer faced rocks high in the mountains, eating only a staple mush for every meal for weeks sounds exciting when someone else is doing it.



Searching for an undocumented rare red lily, in the high mountains in the border regions of Tibet, opened new worlds to Claire Scobie. A deep friendship grew between her and a Buddhist pilgrim nun, one of the handful left who still follow this way of life. The friendship was such that Claire took Tibetan language studies and returned six more times, which allowed the dimensions of depth in the relationship to be explored. She gradually came to understanding the Buddhist practices and philosophy underlying them. You will need to read it to find out more but enough to say it moved me greatly. Claire also learnt at first hand the stifling and dangerous reality of life lived by Tibetans under Chinese rule, and became a passionate advocate for their cause, once she returned to London. (She now lives in Australia). One of the sadnesses in the book, is the gradual annexation of the minds and hearts of the young Tibetans, as generational change has severed their connection from their cultural and spiritual history. That had a ring of contemporary experience in Aboriginal Australia. It was good enough to give me two pretty sleepless nights while I fought off sleep to finish it. *Pauline Small*

### **Library volunteers please!**

Would you like to volunteer in the Sophia Library? We need people to help with: dusting shelves, cataloguing and updating the database, setting up book sales and developing ideas for marketing the Library. No prior skills are required. We are a friendly group and enjoy working together in our wonderful feminist public library. Please phone Sophia on 83733781 if you are interested.

### **Book Sale:**

**Thanks to all those who bought books! The last sale was hugely successful and raised over \$600 for the Sophia Library.**

**Next Book Sale:**  
**27th October to 24th November.**  
**Hundreds of books for sale!**  
**All \$2 each.**

### **Thank you!**

To Janie Maclay who has donated Thomas Merton's journals, Volumes 1-7, to the Sophia Library (271.1 MER). She has also donated nine other books by or about Merton, including three books of his edited correspondence. These books are a wonderful addition to the Library.