



LAST SEEN IN LHASA
by Claire Scobie (Rider, £7.99)

Anybody who's ever been interested in the "lost world" of Tibet will be fascinated by this account of Claire Scobie's love affair with the country and her intriguing relationship with Buddhist nun Ani.

Claire, an award-winning journalist, first set foot in the country

on an expedition to search for a rare red lily in the Himalayas. Her journey took her to Pemako where few westerners have set foot and where the legend of Shangri-la was born.

The search for the lily becomes somewhat secondary when she meets wandering nun Ani.

Though language difficulties meant the pair were unable to communicate directly, they nevertheless forged a meaningful and lasting friendship.

It led Claire (pictured left) to return to Tibet time after time, in

search of her own meaning of life.

The relationship between Claire and Ani, Claire's inner soul-searching and the glimpses of Ani's life, are absorbing in themselves. But the reader is also given a fascinating insight into the fast-changing way of life in Tibet since its annexation by the Chinese and that country's attempted annihilation of a unique culture.

Very sad in parts but also very uplifting.

★★★★ Deborah Knox