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Vol. 1 The Secret Garden



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The Secret Garden Edition
Spring 2024



WHAT'S INSIDE

About us

Meet the Editors

Lilias' Rose Vines

Crochet your own string of roses

A Garden of Stitches

Floral Embroidery Design



The Friendly Robin

Sew your own robin friend

Martha's Brown Sugar Porridge

A filling breakfast to keep you full while playing out of doors

Yorkshire Oat Cakes

A hardy addition to any meal from Mrs. Sowerby

Spiced Dough-Cakes

A sweet treat to go with afternoon tea from Mrs. Sowerby's recipe book



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What's Inside Continued

Below: Dickon's animal friends



Dickon's Fauna Friends

Printable watercolor plant stakes

Vintage Flower Prints

Flowers from the garden

Shop the Magazine

Goodies from the magazine and other exclusives

Instructions and Printables

All tutorials, recipes, and printables can be found at the end of the magazine for easier printing.

Finding Magic

Three easy ways to get started

Start your Secret Garden

Ben Weatherstaff's guide to easy flower seeds

Dickon's Flower Seed Packets

Printable seed envelopes of Dickon's favorite flowers

Bring the Garden Inside

House plants for beginners

Miniature Secret Gardens

(Almost) Pocket-Sized Magic



MEET THE EDITORS

What happens when two magic-seeking, vintage-loving, garden-growing, plant-collecting book hoarders get together? They go a little overboard and make a magazine, website, and world dedicated to those very things.

Welcome to the first edition of Leaf - where we'll look for magic in the ordinary, teach you about plants and gardening, share our favorite vintage finds and more- all centered around one children's book. Our goal is to help you reconnect with the wonder of childhood and have something you can do and share with your own children.

~Carey



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1) literature, exploration, artistry, flora



The Storyteller (Carey B.)

Growing up in a large, probably haunted, 1800-something farm house, Carey began telling stories at an early age. At first they'd take place in her favorite books, and then she began to create and write about her own worlds.

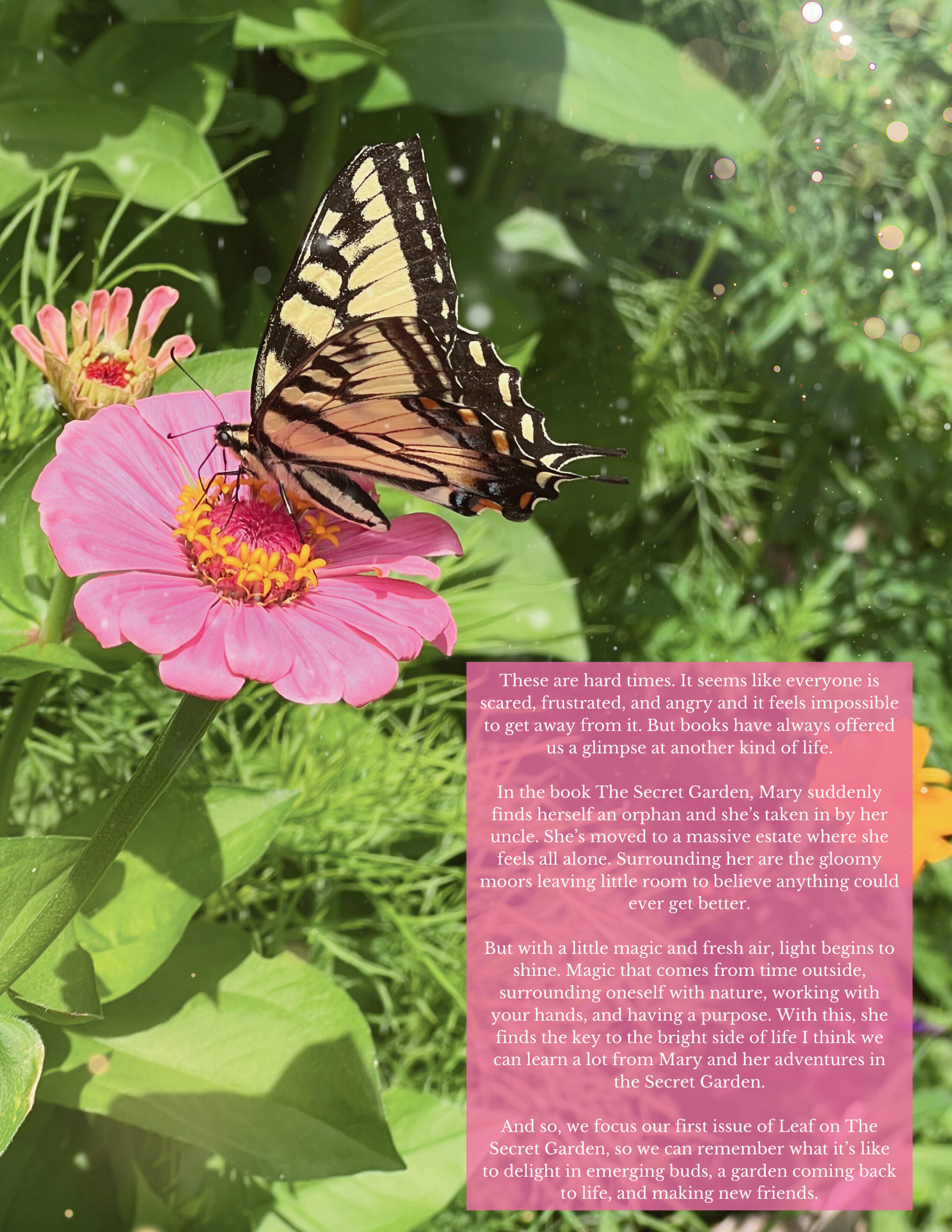
Now, she writes tales about the Wildwood, an enchanted moody forest in the world of Fable Thicket, and the siblings, Addie and George who travel there via a magical mask.



The Lady of Babbling Brook (Tiffany L.)

Tiffany once lived an unspectacular life. It wasn't until she dropped everything and moved to a Vermont farmhouse that her eyes were opened to the magic all around her.

Since then, she has made it her passion project to learn as many historic practices possible and use her knowledge of art and crafting along with a strong imagination, to build the magical world swimming around in her head.



These are hard times. It seems like everyone is scared, frustrated, and angry and it feels impossible to get away from it. But books have always offered us a glimpse at another kind of life.

In the book *The Secret Garden*, Mary suddenly finds herself an orphan and she's taken in by her uncle. She's moved to a massive estate where she feels all alone. Surrounding her are the gloomy moors leaving little room to believe anything could ever get better.

But with a little magic and fresh air, light begins to shine. Magic that comes from time outside, surrounding oneself with nature, working with your hands, and having a purpose. With this, she finds the key to the bright side of life I think we can learn a lot from Mary and her adventures in the Secret Garden.

And so, we focus our first issue of *Leaf* on *The Secret Garden*, so we can remember what it's like to delight in emerging buds, a garden coming back to life, and making new friends.

Lilias' Rose Vines

After reading this excerpt from the book, I wanted to be able to recreate the imagery that popped in my head of these climbing rose tendrils. So I thought to make a rose garland. The crochet rose has been used to adorn women's clothing and accessories since the turn of the 20th century. It's easy enough for a beginner crocheter to learn and it takes just a few extra stitch techniques to make the entire garland.



"There were other trees in the garden, and one of the things which made the place look strangest and loveliest was that climbing roses had run all over them and swung down long tendrils which made light swaying curtains, and here and there they had caught at each other or at a far-reaching branch and had crept from one tree to another and made lovely bridges of themselves."



The best part is the versatility of the garland. I put in a suggested yarn weight and hook size but you can use whatever yarn and hooks you have on hand. It's a great way to use up yarn leftover from a previous project, and you can easily shorten or lengthen it depending on what size garland you want.

~T



“Nothing in the world is quite as adorably lovely as a robin when he shows off - and they are nearly always doing it.”

Ben Weatherstaff's Seed Guide

CREATING YOUR OWN

Out of Doors Secret Garden

Gardening can be overwhelming. Do you need to worry about your soil type? What about what zone you're in? The short answer is yes, BUT there are easy to grow flowers that are less...persnickety than Mrs. Medlock.

With any garden, start first by checking your zone and choosing appropriate seeds for your area.



Zinnias

As easy as throwing the seeds down and lightly covering with dirt or hay (or both). Comes in so many colors it can be hard to choose, so get a good pre-mix of seeds. Butterflies and hummingbirds love them! They make wonderful cut flowers!

Depending on your zone, they can bloom until frost hits.



Cosmos

A tall, lanky plant with stunning blooms. Mix in with zinnias for a lovely combination! Comes in many colors, as well as single and double petals (a single petal variety show here).



Marigolds

Marigolds also come in a variety of oranges, yellows and white. They can have single petals or be big white puff balls. Bees love them and they make a great companion plant for tomatoes. (Deer do not like how they smell, so they're deer safe too).



Sunflowers

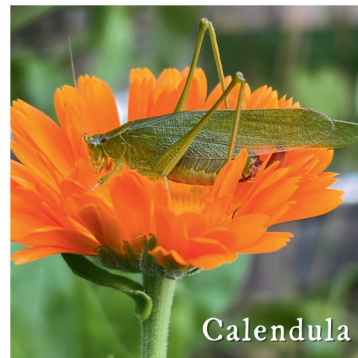
Comes in varieties that grow from knee high to over 7 ft tall.

Seeds can easily be harvested for the following year (and some you can dry, cook and eat!)



Morning Glory

These beauties grow quickly and abundantly! They are climbers so they'll need something to grow up. They can also re-seed themselves the next year- so plant them where they'll be welcomed to return.



Calendula

Comes in shades of orange and yellow, and can self-seed for the following year.

Calendula has been used for teas and in tinctures and salves for its healing properties.

DICKON'S Flower Seed Packets

"They sat down and he took a clumsy little brown paper package out of his coat pocket. He untied the string and inside there were ever so many neater and smaller packages, with a picture of a flower on each one."



There's something exciting about getting new seed packets. Like little works of art, these envelopes come in all sorts of designs, triggering the thrill of watching plants grow from a tiny little seed.

I created these seed packets with that in mind. To be actual little works of art to decorate your space, to use as an envelope for a small card, or put actual seeds in to gift to a friend.

~T



Vintage Floral Prints

These vintage floral graphics date back to the late 1700s - early 1830s and are paired with a quote from the book.

A quick and easy way to brighten up your walls for a touch of cottage core. Scour thrift shops for funky mismatched frames or go fancy with gold frames.





*To get the entire issue, visit our
website- [click here.](#)*