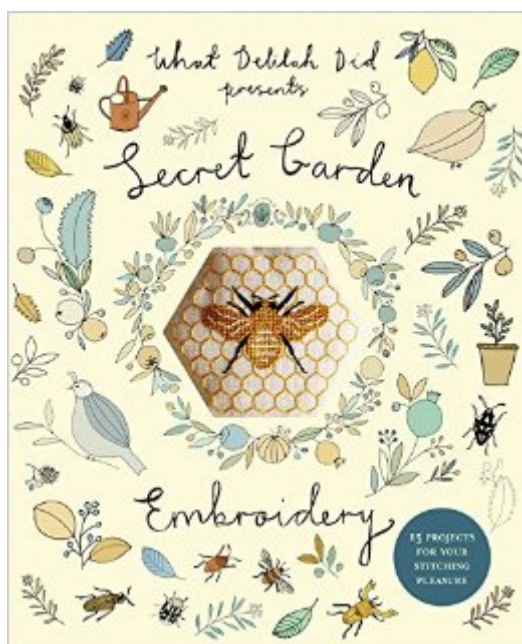


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# Secret Garden Embroidery: 15 Projects For Your Stitching Pleasure (What Delilah Did)



## Synopsis

Welcome back to the magical world of What Delilah Did! Picking up where Storyland Cross Stitch left off, this enchanting stitchery guide follows Delilah as she comes upon a secret garden right next door and meets its lively and eccentric owner. All the embroidered projects here capture the flora, fauna, and other wonderful curiosities that fill Delilah's newly discovered horticultural haven. Using a range of techniques, you can stitch birds, bees, blooming flowers, and other colorful, nature-inspired items.

## Book Information

Age Range: 6 and up

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## Customer Reviews

What Delilah Did is the work of Sophie Simpson, who started the company in 2010. She sells her work through her website [whatdelilahdid.com](http://whatdelilahdid.com) and in Liberty, London, following success at their Best of British Open Call. Her first book was Storyland Cross Stitch (Collins & Brown).

I don't have the previous book-- Storyland Cross Stitch: 15 Projects and a Free Gift for Your Stitching Pleasure--so I'm unfamiliar with Sophie Simpson. It's weird that the author is given as "What Delilah Did" which is the author's online business and blog and the very first mention of this is on page 142. Page 143 is the Acknowledgements page and on the very last page, 144, is the publishing info. I don't think any other of my huge library of books is like this. So what is this book all about? It states it has 15 projects and, wonderfully, 4 of the largest projects have charts on folded

paper tucked into a small envelope on the back of the book. I far prefer *Rebecca Ringquist's Embroidery Workshops: A Bend-the-Rules Primer* which also includes a stamped piece of fabric in the back of the book. The main reason for this is that the biggest pattern given is for a dreadful bunny head surrounded by a simple oval border with a few flowers. It's entitled "Miss Millicent's Hare" and has a stitch count of 116 x 147: on 32 count linen, it will be a little over 7 x 9 inches. The entire bunny is stitched with one color of mocha with the exception that the one eye is black. Well...there are black eyelashes and whiskers. But the entire border is just as boring: in black and the 2 sets of flowers in one color of Kreinik gold braid. It's displayed as a framed picture on page 31 so at least you can tell if you like it. It's good that an estimate of 23 hours of stitch time is given. (For me, this would produce an amazing waste of one day in my life I'd never get back.) I'm not really impressed with the whimsical story given in page-long segments at the beginning of each of the 15 projects. But that's just me. I find her directions to be very clear and she gives an excellent photo display and text for materials and supplies needed. While the beginner techniques shown are pretty good, the stitch guide would be greatly improved if the nine stitches were shown over more than three pages...they're too small if you're not already familiar with the stitch. I like it that the three chapters are Bud (Small Projects for Beginners), Blossom (Mid-Sized Projects for Improvers--really like that term) and Bloom (Large Projects for Practised Stitchers). (Yes, she spells them "practised" and "jewellery" and "colour" because she's English.) The templates for each project not included in the patterns in the envelope are in the back of the book. The projects included are mostly 3-dimensional and range from a simple book mark to a jewelry roll to a really pretty band sampler cushion. The single most unusual thing about the book is her preference for stitching on felt using waste canvas--9 of the 15 projects including the large cushion. (Being from Britain, she prefers pure wool felt so be careful about moths if you use it.) It's dicey for me if I pick up a book and am not instantly drawn to do at least one project. Sadly, none of these spring out to me but that's because I have about a million books, projects, leaflets and kits already in line. I don't want to dissuade you buying this book if you would find the story whimsical (she even includes a recipe to make rose petal jam!) or any of the projects irresistible. The cost is pretty reasonable even for how new it is so, soon, it should go down even more. Yes, this book would be worth \$5 to \$10...to me anyway. If you get it, I hope you love it.

I had a lot of fun working through the projects in this book. Most embroidery books are pretty dorky, but this book had projects I actually wanted to make for myself and as gifts. I am now a big fan of Simpson and would like to see what she comes up with next. Instructions were very straightforward,

the design of the book was appealing, and the projects were cute.

This book is dreamy. My favorite needlecraft book so far. I love her style, botanical/vintage/fairy tale. I want to make everything in here! I made the cover project, the honey bee, and it took me less time than suggested in the book. I'm very happy with it. She gives excellent instructions, I am almost a complete beginner and she explains things quite nicely.

This is such a lovely book! I own her previous book, Storyland Cross Stitch, as well and highly recommend them for beginners and experienced stitches alike. She clearly explains the materials and techniques she uses. Her writing style is so pleasant that I enjoy reading through the books which makes it so much easier to start and complete projects.

Lovely, love book with lots of beautiful ideas for embroidering nature. I'd wanted this pattern book for awhile and I'm very glad I finally purchased it.

This book is beautiful but not what I thought it was when I purchased it. It is best for someone experienced in embroidery. Still, it is a beautiful, well written book and we kept it because of that.

Really nicely illustrated/photographed book.

It's ok

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