









HEDGE Jessina Lynn Leonard, 2019

"...I looked and saw, between him and me, that
is to say, on his right and my left, a hedge of
such length that I could not see the end of it,
either ahead or behind. The top of this hedge
was bristling with such large thorns that there
seemed no way to get back to [him]."
- Gertrude of Helfta, c. 1289

In this vision, the first of many, the twenty-six year old
German nun Gertrude of Helfta sees Jesus on the other
side of a long hedge, "bristling with such large thorns."
She tries to get through it herself before Jesus lifts and
carries her over it.

This book is composed of large-format photographs of
Euphorbia Mili, a plant more commonly known as Crown
of Thorns. Native to Madagascar, this plant was brought
to the Middle East in ancient times and legend says it
was used to make Jesus' crown of thorns.

This book was designed and printed by Jessina Lynn
Leonard in Providence, Rhode Island in 2019. All
photographs are by the artist and printed on non-
photographic paper on Epson SureColor P5000 printers.
It is bound with coptic stitch using thread hand-dyed
by the artist with madder root, a traditional dye used to
create the color of blood in the Middle Ages.

Edition of one.

Jessina Lynn Leonard