

Remaking the CLASSICS

New York floral designer **Penny Karvounis** brings four landmark novels to life in imaginative arrangements that channel protagonist, place, and the stirring power of literature.



Wuthering Heights

OPPOSITE: A loose composition of dried grasses, mixed ferns, and wildflowers (yellow goldenrod and aster) evokes the untamed vegetation of the Yorkshire moors in Emily Brontë's novel, reflecting the tumultuous passion between fated couple Heathcliff and Catherine. Nestled in layers of moss, twigs, and stone, purple clematis and beautyberries bring color reminiscent of the moorlands' heather-covered hills.

Raindrop Sisal wallpaper, Jim Thompson

The Bell Jar

Delicate bouquets of Butterfly ranunculus, *Epidendrum* orchids, nerines, spray roses, and acorn branches are tightly composed in glass cloches, creating the illusion of being "trapped," much like the metaphorical predicament of young student Esther in Sylvia Plath's coming-of-age novel. The roman à clef delves into societal pressures on women in the 1950s, yet optimism triumphs over despair—just as vivid reds and gentle blushes here light up the darkness.

Juniper Ash paint, Little Greene •
Shepherd's Cloth fabric, de Le Cuona





The Secret Garden

The children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett tells the story of spirited 10-year-old Mary who lovingly restores an abandoned garden hidden within a Victorian estate, depicted here through bunches of pink garden roses—Royal Blush, Spray Femke, Millicent—gathered in terra-cotta pots. White and lavender clematis, Plumosa fern, and trails of ivy mimic the novel's setting. Perched on a watering can, a little robin redbreast appears just as it does in the book.

Trellis Bespoke wallpaper, Isidore Leroy



The Picture of Dorian Gray

A Dutch Masters-inspired tableau recreates the drama of the 19th-century Gothic novel by Oscar Wilde that explores the corrupting forces of vanity and beauty. Hot pink and peaches-and-cream dahlias star alongside Baronesse roses, multicolored zinnias, berries, and pomegranates in an oxblood urn that hints at the opulent, hedonistic lifestyle of the novel's protagonist. And like Dorian's portrait, which deteriorates despite selling his soul for everlasting youth, the mirror tells a different tale.

Oakmont mirror, Wildwood. • Jean Roger Paris Medium Medici vase, KRB. • Cassius wallpaper, Watts 1874. • Cashmere Velvet fabric, de Le Cuona