From the Stacks By Julie Orf Dunklin County Library

Changing book titles for different international markets is a common practice in the publishing industry. While this strategy is intended to appeal to local audiences, it can create confusion for readers who are familiar with a book by a different name or cover. A classic example of this is the first book in the Harry Potter series. In the United Kingdom, it was published as *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, but for the United States market, the title was changed to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

Philip Pullman, an acclaimed children's author, is best known for his fantasy trilogy, *His Dark Materials*. The series includes *The Golden Compass* (also known as *Northern Lights*), *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*. The first book was published in over 40 countries and tells the story of a young protagonist named Lyra. She embarks on a journey to help a friend while confronting her formidable uncle. Pullman has expanded this world with a new trilogy, *The Book of Dust* and *The Secret Commonwealth*. The third and final book is *The Rose Field* will be released in October of this year.

Stephenie Meyer's wildly popular Twilight saga, which tells the story of star-crossed lovers Edward Cullen and Isabella Swan, was a global sensation. The series, which features humans, vampires, and werewolves, spawned several hit movies and launched the careers of actors Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart. The saga includes four main books: *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*. The books were translated into dozens of languages; for the French version, the title *Twilight* was changed to *Fascination*.

The hit Netflix series, based on Julia Quinn's Regency romance novel *The Duke and I*, was titled "Bridgerton", after the central family in the story. Although the show was an immediate smash, producers chose the family's name over the original book's title, which caused confusion for fans. When viewers went to bookstores looking for the novel, they asked for "Bridgerton" and could not find it. To solve the problem, publishers re-released the book with a new cover that features both titles, with Bridgerton being the most prominent. This has made it much easier for fans to find the original novel that inspired the hit series.

There can be many reasons why a book has different titles in different countries, and this is a great example of a book that has caused some confusion. The novel by Stephanie Wrobel is called *The Recovery of Rose Gold* in the U.K. and Australia, but it is known as *Darling Rose Gold* in the U.S. It seems that the different titles have led to some frustration among readers. In fact, many U.S. readers who saw the U.K. version

mistakenly believed it was a sequel to the book they had already read. This confusion highlights why giving a book multiple titles might not be the best strategy.

Kristin Hannah's 2004 novel, *The Things We Do for Love*, got a little makeover in June 2023. Publisher Pan MacMillan decided to give it a fresh look and a snappier title: *Another Life*. It is the same heartwarming story about family and motherhood, but the name change has definitely raised some eyebrows among longtime fans. While some readers were scratching their heads, the new cover and title seem to have done their job, luring a completely new crowd into Hannah's literary world.