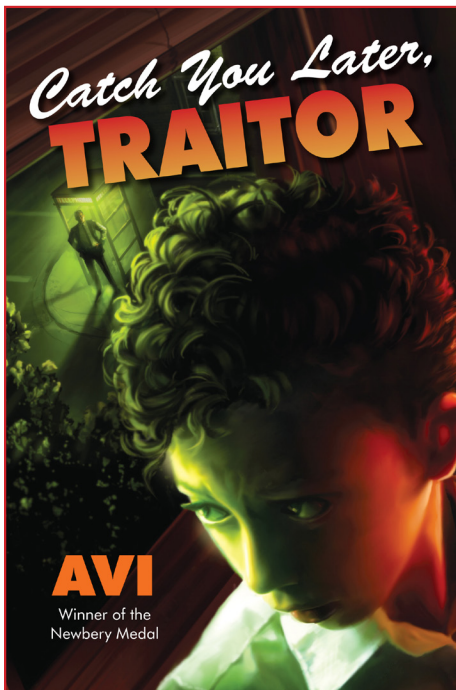


CATCH YOU LATER, TRAITOR

by AVI



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MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Ages 8–12, Grades 3–7

304 pages, 5½" x 7¼"

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BOOK TALK

It's 1951, and twelve-year-old Pete Collison is a regular kid in Brooklyn, New York, who loves Sam Spade detective books and radio crime dramas. But when an FBI agent shows up at Pete's doorstep, accusing Pete's father of being a Communist, Pete is caught in a real-life mystery. Could there really be Commies in Pete's family? As Pete follows the quickly accumulating clues, he begins to wonder if the truth could put his family's livelihood—and even their freedom—at risk.

In the tradition of *Who Was That Masked Man, Anyway?*, *Don't You Know There's a War On?*, and *Nothing But the Truth*, *Catch You Later, Traitor* tells a funny, insightful story packed with realistic period details of a boy in mid-twentieth-century America whose family is caught in the wide net of America's Red Scare.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Avi is the author of the Newbery Medal novel *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* and the Newbery Honor books *Nothing But the Truth* and *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, among many other books for young readers. *Catch You Later, Traitor* was inspired by his own childhood in Brooklyn during the Red Scare. He now lives in Clark, Colorado, and his website is avi-writer.com.



Katherine Warde

Praise for *Catch You Later, Traitor*

★ “Suspenseful . . . Authentic period details—such as popular radio programs and the ongoing rivalry between the Dodgers and the Giants—add a colorful backdrop to Pete’s quest as he navigates the murky gray area between truth and fiction. An excellent introduction to the frenzy of the McCarthy era.”

—*Publisher's Weekly*, starred review

★ “Avi, a master of historical fiction, vividly recreates not only the neighborhoods and pop culture of period Brooklyn, but the runaway paranoia that dominated daily life in the early years of the Cold War. With each clue Pete uncovers, the tension picks up, engaging readers in solving the dual mystery of his father’s past and identifying his accuser whose name is kept a well-concealed surprise until the last moment . . . As a mystery, historical fiction, and love letter to 1950s Brooklyn, this novel succeeds on every level.” —*School Library Journal*, starred review

“An involving, twisty mystery, grounded by the palpable emotional threat of Pete’s father being taken away. An accomplished historical mystery by one of kid lit’s most reliable craftspeople.” —*Booklist*

“Thought-provoking . . . Avi builds Pete’s story, told in the first person, with page-turning tension and memorable characters that will leave readers with a strong sense of the insidious power wielded by the FBI and McCarthyites.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

CATCH YOU LATER, TRAITOR

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The suspicion and fear surrounding Communism in the early 1950s in the United States explode directly into Pete Collison's life when the FBI investigates his father. How does the investigation and atmosphere affect Pete? What can you infer about his character? Describe characteristics that make Pete a hero in this book.
2. Pete is a detective at heart and loves mystery stories and radio serials. When a real-life mystery appears in his own life, in what ways is it like the mystery stories he loves? How is a real-life mystery different from what Pete might have expected?
3. How would you describe Pete's family—his relationship with his mom, dad, and brother, and their relationships with one another? What about the relationships in his big extended family? How is your family similar to or different from Pete's? Do you think there are secrets in every family?
4. Pete is "shunned" in his class because his teacher, Mr. Donovan, instructs the students not to have anything to do with "Commies." Discuss how being shunned by friends, excluded from class participation, or isolated in the class by being put in the corner could affect a student. How does Pete handle his feelings? Would you have handled this situation differently? Do you think this was the right way for Mr. Donovan to treat Pete?
5. The FBI agent, Mr. Ewing, shows up at Pete's home and begins to question Pete about his dad and his grandfather. How does Pete respond? Talk about why you agree or disagree with Pete's actions.
6. Do you agree with Pete's decision not to tell his parents about the FBI visit or his troubles at school? Why do you think it was important to Pete to figure things out on his own?
7. As Pete begins to question his dad, more questions arise. How does Pete's natural interest in mysteries help or hinder him as he tries to get to the bottom of his own mystery?
8. Pete's relationship with his best friend, Kat, changes throughout the story. Discuss the changes as well as how and why they occurred.
9. Avi weaves feelings of fear, mistrust, anxiety, and mystery throughout the story. As the reader, who did you trust? Who did you doubt? Who did you think the informer was early in the story? Did your suspicions change throughout the story? Were you able to tell from the clues in the story who the informer was?
10. Think about Pete and Bobby's relationship. What events make the FBI investigation difficult for both of them? If you had fears or suspicions about a brother or sister, would you share them with an FBI agent or other official? Explain Pete's father's statements about family and his position on family loyalty.
11. There is a metaphor within the story: In 1951 when the story takes place, the Giants and Dodgers are locked in competition. Pete deliberately chooses to identify with the Giants, the underdog nobody roots for. Can you explain how the events of the baseball season reflect the events in Pete's own life that same year?
12. After reading this novel, do you feel you have a sense of what life was like during the time of the Red Scare? Do you see any similarities in our lives today?