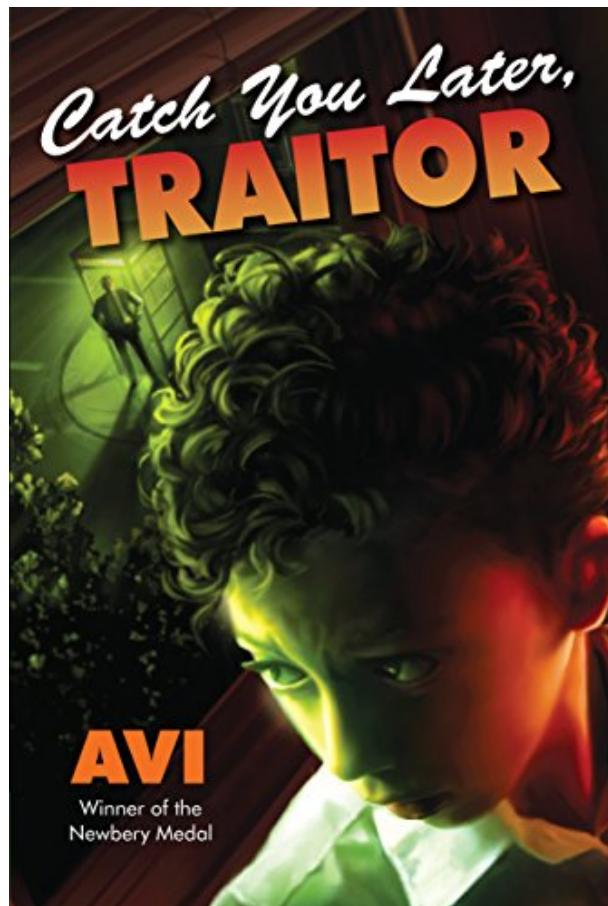
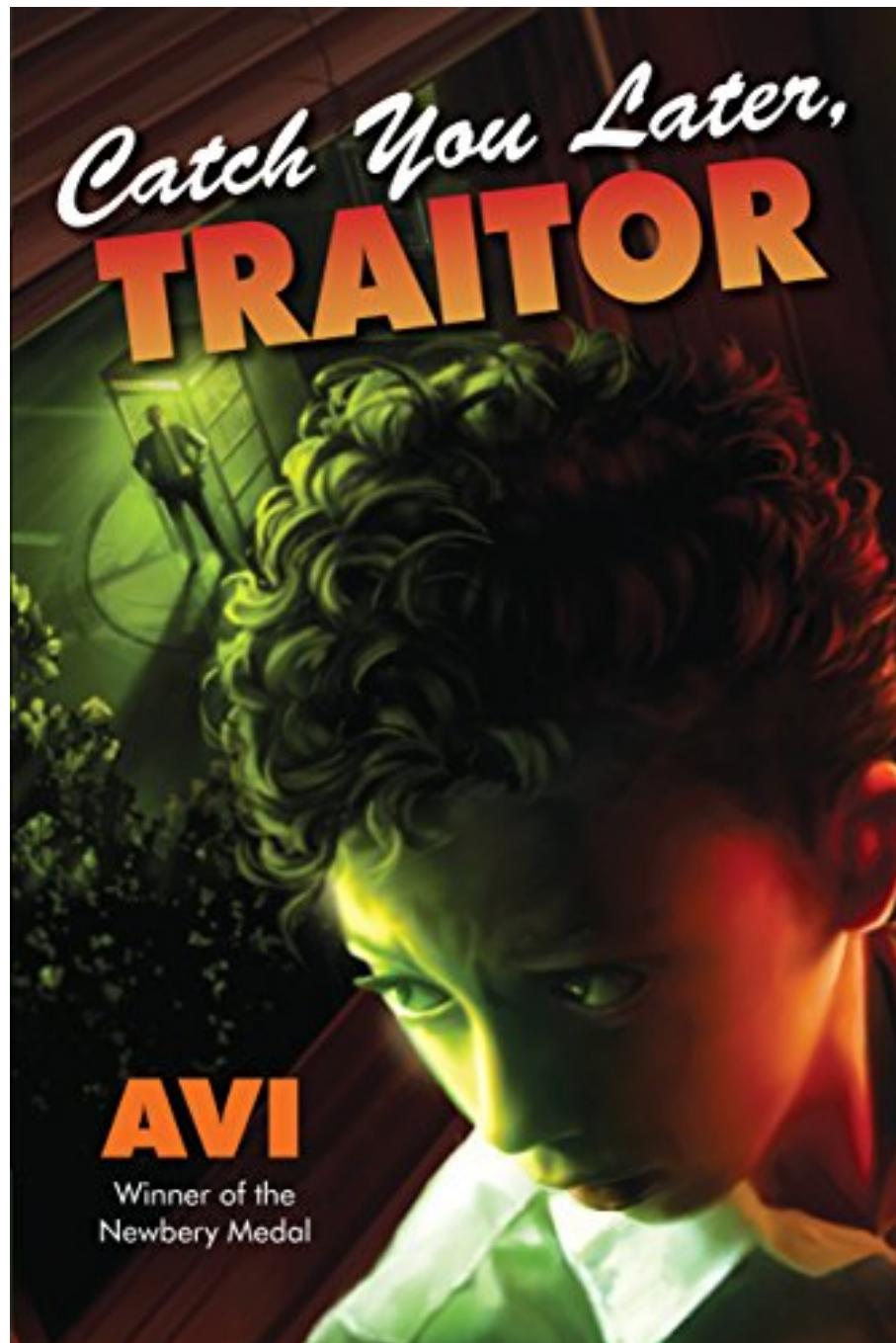


# CATCH YOU LATER, TRAITOR BY AVI



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From School Library Journal

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# CATCH YOU LATER, TRAITOR BY AVI PDF

Brooklyn, New York, 1951.

Twelve-year-old Pete Collison is a regular kid who loves Sam Spade detective books and radio crime dramas, but when an FBI agent shows up at Pete's doorstep accusing his father of being a Communist, Pete finds himself caught in a real-life mystery. Could there really be Commies in Pete's family? At the same time, Pete's class turns against him, thanks to similar rumors spread by his own teacher; even Kat, Pete's best friend, feels the pressure to ditch him. 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 his Newbery Honor book *Nothing But the Truth*, Avi's newest novel tells a funny, insightful story packed with realistic period detail of a boy in mid-twentieth-century America. Its unique look at what it felt like to be an average family caught in the wide net of the Red Scare has powerful relevance to contemporary questions of democracy and individual freedoms.

- Sales Rank: #841815 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x 1.20" w x 5.60" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great Book for History Buffs and Classroom Discussions!

By FantasyGirl

This title could not be passed by. It's so intriguing and it is is written by Avi. I had to read it.

What I didn't know was that it was going to open my eyes to 1950s New York during the Red Scare when Americans were suspicious of others being Communists. Granted, I knew of that time but never have I read a historical fiction based on it. Avi convinces the reader that they are actually living during that intense time. Pete, the narrator and "traitor" is a humorous but sincere 7th grader who is caught in the midst of the Red Scare when his dad is accused of being a Communist. He must do some detective work to figure out who to trust and discover the real mystery: Is his dad a Communist?

This is not only a great historical read but also a book that deals with sibling relationships, paranoia and trust, baseball(Giants or Dodgers fans, anyone?), freedom, and believing in yourself despite what other people say. There are some heartbreaking moments that made me realize how difficult life truly was during the Depression and what some families did in order to survive.

I recommend for classrooms discussions and history buffs. This would be a great book for boys who are reluctant readers as it is full of baseball facts and sleuthing that may encourage them to read!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A who-done-it that will keep your guessing

By Storywraps

Avi authored this book and it is for ages 8-12, (grades 3-7). It is an historical fiction for youth and includes family, loyalty, bullying, friendship, individual rights and freedom. The events in the novel were inspired by Avi's own childhood experiences with radical left-wing politics and the events of the Red Scare.

It is set in 1951 and twelve-year-old Peter Collison has his life not only turned upside down, but inside out. He is just a regular kid living in Brooklyn, New York. He adores reading Sam Spade, mystery comics and listening to radio serials with his family. Crime dramas are his thing and he loves to imagine that he is the lead detective who solves the crime.

One day an FBI agent mysteriously shows up at his door and starts asking probing questions ... Peter finds himself actually living out his dream of being the lead detective. Because of rumours and suspicions that are flying, his classmates ditch him, even his best friend Kit. He has been accused of having a communist in his family, and the finger is pointing right at his dad. Could this possibility be true? How can Peter trust anyone? Everyone around him is a suspect so Peter takes it upon himself to find out the truth.

He sorts through a litany of clues and happenings that might just end this nightmare, restore his family's good standing, and finally be set free, to be normal, once again.

This is a perfect book to use as a catalyst to start conversations with students in classrooms and with family members around the dinner table about news like the NSA's surveillance of private citizens or how to balance personal freedom with society's larger protections. Readers and especially educators will find real relevance in "Catch You, Later, Traitor." I love the book and had to keep on reading just to see how everything would be resolved....I wasn't disappointed, it is a real page turner indeed. I highly recommend this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

An Absorbing Middle-School Thriller!

By Believer

"Catch You Later, Traitor" is an absorbing fast-paced, historically-based mystery that begins in Brooklyn, New York in 1951 at PS 10 when twelve-year-old Pete Collison's teacher Ricky Donovan starts mistreating him in class after spreading a rumor that his parents are Communists. As Pete is ostracized by his classmates, ignored by his best friend, and begins receiving bad grades, he wonders if there is any truth to his teacher's allegations especially when he's followed by an FBI agent. Loving Sam Spade detective novels and listening to radio crime dramas, Pete uses his sleuthing skills to investigate his father's past, hoping to uncover the identity of the informer who reported his family.

The author sets the stage for this fascinating plot in the paranoia of 1950's America where the McCarran Act gave the government license to hunt down those listed as subversives. Not only do those unjustly indicted face prison sentences if they don't provide names of other Communists, but in a national emergency could be incarcerated in prison camps. In this atmosphere of mistrust Pete's father is being investigated by the FBI and the repercussions of that scrutiny has spilled over into the lives of his sons.

Slowly as events unfold the author builds emotional intensity and suspense as Pete begins his own search for clues to the mystery of his father's past which he hopes will uncover the identity of the informer he suspects could be a family member. As Pete gets closer to the truth his fear mounts as the FBI's intimidation grows. In a plot that vibrates with mysterious clues - a missing grandfather, an undisclosed uncle and unknown names on the back of a picture - there are splashes of humour like Pete's defiance as a Giants fan, and in his

clandestine meetings with his best friend Kat. I even loved the insertions in italics, bits of the story that read like excerpts from a detective novel.

In a plot that sparks with drama, excitement and emotional power, the characters are well-developed, realistic and unforgettable as the Collison family grapples with a nightmare that could put their security and freedom at risk. Pete Collison like his hero Sam Spade is calm, watchful and wary as he collects the facts, although his mounting paranoia is making him question the loyalty and trustworthiness of friends and family members. Yet for all his bravado and toughness in dealing with his troubles at school, he feels isolated and alone; sensitive to guilt by association. His brother Bobbie a smart high school student is intense and self-absorbed, willing to barter information to get what he wants. Their father Dennis Collison a history professor is a mild-mannered man of integrity who refuses to undermine his values while their mother is supportive and protective, loyal to her husband. Katherine Bayer Pete's best friend is steadfast and devoted, even as she's plagued by the impact of a broken home.

Of the antagonists who add a chill to this unique look at the Communist Scare; Special Agent Tom Ewing is spineless and weak in his intimidation of a child to get the information he wants; Pete's teacher Ricky Donavan, a narrow-minded bully and Chris Collison a weak, manipulative and abusive uncle.

"Catch You Later, Traitor" is a powerful look at the rights and freedoms of individuals in a period marred by fear and uncertainty. I highly recommend it and intend to read other books by this gifted author.

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