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**GHOSTLY ENCOUNTERS IN OLD NEW YORK AND A SNAIL'S PHILOSOPHICAL
QUEST ENLIVEN SPRING BOOKS FROM NEWBERY MEDALIST AVI**

Acclaimed author Avi demonstrates his widely-praised versatility this spring with ***The Seer of Shadows*** (HarperCollins, April), a spooky ghost story; and ***A Beginning, a Muddle and an End: The Right Way to Write Writing*** (Harcourt, April), a charming fable about a would-be writer. *The Seer of Shadows*, a pulse-pounding adventure for readers ages 8-12, is set in post-Civil War New York. The story encompasses intriguing details about spiritualism, early photography, and nineteenth-century race relations. *A Beginning, a Muddle and an End*, for all ages, imparts Avi's writing philosophy from the point of view of the entertaining duo, Avon the snail and Edward the ant, who were introduced in *The End of the Beginning*.

While *A Beginning, a Muddle and an End* is about the process of creating polished prose, *The Seer of Shadows* reveals Avi's literary expertise through the medium of historical fiction. The tale is told by 14-year-old Horace Carpetine, a photographer's apprentice who is unwillingly drawn into a scheme to swindle customers with fake "spirit photography." When Horace discovers that he actually *can* capture ghostly images in his photographs, he contends with both spectral and mortal adversaries who put him in great danger.

Readers who enjoy the evocative writing in *The Seer of Shadows* will be among those who delight in *A Beginning, a Muddle and an End*, Avi's humorous tale about why writing is a lot harder than it seems. Avon and Edward put their spin on the advice, "Write what you know," debate what separates fact from fiction, and discuss what constitutes a "must-read." Avon's funny and philosophical quest is a great read-aloud for younger children, while older children and adults will find deeper meaning in the clever wordplay and entertaining puns.

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Avi is the author of more than 60 books. Among them are *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, winner of the 2003 Newbery Medal; *Nothing but the Truth*, a Newbery Honor Book; *City of Light*, *City of Dark*; and the best-selling *Poppy* series. Avi's other novels with nineteenth-century settings include the Newbery Honor Book, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *The Man Who Was Poe*, *The Traitor's Gate*, and *The Barn*. Visit Avi online at www.avi-writer.com.

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The Seer of Shadows

Written by: Avi

Published By: HarperCollins Children's Books

Publication Date: April 2008

Ages: 8-12 • Hardcover • 208 pages

ISBN-978-0-06-000015-8

Price: \$16.99

A Beginning, a Muddle and an End

Written by: Avi

Illustrated By: Tricia Tusa

Published By: Harcourt, Inc.

Publication Date: April 2008

All ages • Hardcover • 144 pages

ISBN-978-0-15-205555-4

Price: \$14.95