The story behind Nothing But the Truth

Avi:

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|  | **Behind the Book: *Nothing But the Truth*** **Avi writes:**Writers are often asked, “Where do you get your ideas?” Part of the answer is, in very odd ways. Consider *Nothing but the Truth*. I like games. One day, while wandering about a flea market I chanced upon a game unlike any I had seen before: a boxed mystery game. When I opened the box it contained all the evidence of a crime in separate, replicated pieces. Here was a photograph. Here was a police report. Here was (in a little packet) a cigarette stub. Here was a written statement by a witness. And so on. You (like a detective) were supposed to sift through all this very real looking evidence—the legal term for evidence is “discovery”—and then decide who the villain was before opening a sealed envelope. Very clever. Then, at another flea market, I came upon the *same* game in a completely different form. Here, all that discovery was reproduced as a book. Now you went through that evidence by turning pages. It was not like any book I had ever seen. It fascinated me. Now, if you look at the way *Nothing but the Truth* is constructed, and think of it as a game, with each section like the evidence for a crime, you’ll see the connection between my book and that mystery game. And guess what? When I was first started on the book the working title I used was, *Discovery* |