

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Chagall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

“The face. The face. I will always remember the face.” The Yiddish accent of the 78 year old woman who sat across the mahogany desk in your office in Nice punctuated the anguish of a Holocaust survivor who had lost her parents and siblings and all their worldly possessions to the Nazis in 1943. Tatiana Goldberg, your client, spoke in muffled syllables about her internment in Dachau, where she was torn from her family, her clothes and jewelry stripped from her person. She was only eight years old then and barely made it out alive when the Allied troops arrived. What she most vividly remembered was the Gestapo entering her home in Vitebsk, Belarus, arresting her Jewish parents and siblings, and carting them off to concentration camps. The only thing that remained after the war, the only thing that might have survived, was Tatiana’s memory of a painting that had captivated her in her childhood. A glorious work of art that was painted by a budding artist from Vitebsk, one Marc Chagall. It hung in the family room, and stood as a beacon of hope that she admired every day before she went to school. But the captain of the Hitler youth had made off with it, along with the remaining Pierogis that were still on the stove.

There Tatiana sat, seventy years later, the liver spots on her arms hardly hiding the five numbers that had been tattooed on her wrist when she was interned. She wanted the painting back.

Your job, since 1969, was that of a Nazi hunter. Born in the new country of Israel in 1952, the son of Holocaust survivors, your goal in life was to bring the Nazis to justice. Hired by the Mossad, you made your reputation by tracking and identifying the remains of Dr. Joseph Mengele on the South American shores in 1985. At sixty, you were now relegated to the Division of Art and Property Repatriation, and once again you proved yourself in 2011 when you recouped the Gustave Klimt

masterpiece, *Litzberg am Attersee*, that had been taken from Austrian Jews during the war and was displayed as a national treasure at the Salzburg Museum.

With time's passage, the challenge of returning lost and stolen works of art to their rightful owners was daunting: few witnesses remained, and documents of ownership long ago destroyed. However, " " was not just a work of art. It was a statement. This was Tatiana's painting, lost in the Nazi debacle. You must find it.

The only way to investigate is to go to Chagall's modest beginnings. That's where it began, in Belarus, where his parents operated a local "epicerie" where Chagall started painting his first works.

1. If variety is the spice of life

Then to avoid certain strife,
Step down into the hood,
Down Rue Alexandre Marie where the old shop stood,
A diagonal through palace square,
A right on Prefecture will take you there,
Pass streets of columns and streets of fish,
A left on a French right is what you wish,
Past Eglise St. Jacques you quickly dart,
To chase down rumors of stolen art,
No time for the palace grind,
When you leave Loge and Claire behind,
Under La Tour St. Francois you'll soon alight,
And Garibaldi Place is soon in sight,
But Girofle and Cannelle is just before,
Where word of the masterpiece might be in store,

Curry favor with the merchants, mon cher,

At 2-4 Pairollière .



2. A curator's always in the know,
For black market items on the go,
The old shopkeeper there had heard,
That of your lost masterpiece there was some word
Far up Cimiez Boulevard there is a place,
Where Chagall's work stands in a showcase,
With footsteps, cars or cabs don't dicker,
Bus line 15 is much quicker,
Across the plaza from where you began,
The Galleries Lafayette bus stop is close at hand,
Where Rue Guity and Massena intersect,
Is the place to which you now defect,
With a ten minute ride for a euro and half,
Commuters always have the last laugh,

For the obvious stop be on your guard,
And cross the street with Dr. Menard.



3. It's time to go and get the car, your time in Nice is done

N 7 is the route that leads where Nazis might have run.

Then to D 236 up to the hills of olive trees

And pines and roses and carnations fluttering in the breeze.

The town of *Vence* is charming, you must find the Place Clemenceau,

Our Lady of Nativity is where you want to go.

The Baptistry expresses a new life with all its joy

Chagall created this piece celebrating a baby boy.

His birth is welcomed by the Pharaoh's lovely daughter

And he becomes a child of God when dipped in holy water.



4. It's time to search another town, you're leaving Vence behind.

Get on the winding country road, for your next stop to find.

Be sure to watch the signs you see, you're going to *St. Paul*

A tiny town that drew the interest of the great Chagall.

He built a house, named La Colline, and painted all the while

Of love and floating in the skies in his inimitable style.

A few kilometers from Vence, you do not travel far

Into the fortified old town, you'll have to park your car.

Within the walls, beyond the gate, where cannons guard the way

First to the right, then to the left, up on the path you'll stay.



DAY TWO

5. Once Tatiana's family was interred,
The house's art was all pilfered,
The young German whose face is seared
Upon her memory, soon volunteered,
The Vatican Church sat dumb and mute,
When he used its chapels to store the loot,
The diocese owes you a faveur,
Mary and Child you're left to Saveur,
Down the way, an Italian walk's preferred,
Past Mirabeau you're soon referred,
Head northeast after Verdun,
Near a place of tapestry, enfin!
It's not enough to say Hail! Mary!
To the right of the nave you'll parry.



6. A revelation? Or a red herring?

The rumor is that the heirs of Goering,

After the war endeavored to fleece,

The Jews of every confiscated masterpiece,

They knew Nazi hunters were hot on their heels,

To **Les Baux de Provence** they soon did peel,

Nazi' descendants have hidden your prize.

In a place of darkness away from sleuthing eyes.

Up and to the right on Gambetta from the Concorde,

A-8 west to A-7 will soon afford,

Liberal access near a salon's door,

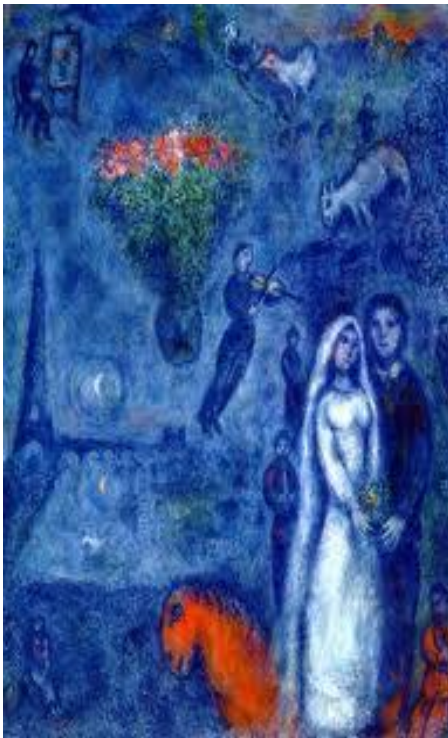
8 kms west you head on the A-54,

A treacherous journey awaits at exit thirteen,

The Route du Salon/D-5 to site unseen,

The D-17 route is steep, the road is small, the closer that you get

D-27 leads to the place wherein your *quarry's* set.



7. You find the painting in this secret cache,
Where Nazi descendants hid their stash,

But the image of the work's elusive,

As the lawyers now become obtrusive,

Surely a treaty drawn at The Hague,

Should make the issue of restitution much less vague,

Post-war Germany was a signatory,

Recoup the painting, end of story,

North on the N570 through St. Remy,

In a papal town lies your destiny,

Down Jaures through a Republic gate,

The town of the half bridge holds your fate.

Tu feras bien,

De prendre les choses en main!



8. You're getting ever closer now, consult your driving map.

The next and final clue will be near Chateauneuf du Pape.

The land of fine and robust reds, so smooth and satisfying,

The French know how to do it right, and keep the people buying.

To go with such a noble wine, you want the perfect treat

A gastronomical delight, so dark, so rich, so sweet.

Take Route de Sorgues to get you where *Bernard* cooks up *ganache*.

Look carefully throughout the store and you will find your stash.



LITTLE CLUES

1. In curry barrel of Spice Shop Gironfle et Cannelle

In the auditorium at a liberal turn,
The middle window is your urn
Where the audience listens with conceit,
Even at the third jump seat.

2. In third jump seat from front on left of museum auditorium

Pray that you'll find the *pieces put together* in a style
Upon a corner wall is baby Moses saved from the Nile.

3. Vence Cathedral Mosaic

Along the ridge, his final view, lies Chagall's *place of rest*.

Pay homage and you'll find a clue to help you with your quest.

4. On Chagall's grave

Aix is the spot that soon is marked,
After the A-8 passes under the Pont de L'Arc,
Hugo and René lead you to room and board,
And parking at the Hotel Concord.

5. In San Saveur under candle holder

A cathedral of images that move in a show,
The *Carrières de Lumières* lies outside Les Baux.
Timing here is everything, you might have time to spend,
Up the steps, to the right, Chagall's at the film's end.

6. In Carriere's at corner crevice

Off Rue de la Republique you'll soon take stock,

In a square named for a French clock,

At an opera house's entrance your judge holds court,

The tribunal has a judgment to report.

7. in hand of statue of man sitting in Place de l'Horloge

Among the shelves you'll find what's *yours*, look for it by name.

Within a box marked specially is what will win the game.

8. In chocolate box Chateauneuf du Pape Chocolatier

Road to Gennevilliers;

The painting is recovered! Turn it over and you'll view

Where the celebration's waiting at the grand Chateau Bijou!

