



# The Missing Matisse: A Memoir

*Pierre Henri Matisse*

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## **The Missing Matisse: A Memoir** Pierre Henri Matisse

Born into a famous family of artists, Pierre Matisse grew up immersed in the artistic life of Paris and the French Riviera, spending time with some of the most famous artists of the 20th century, including Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali. The man he knew as his grandfather, legendary artist Henri Matisse, gave him his first painting lesson and a strong desire to become a great artist in his own right.

Being a Matisse was an important part of young Pierre's identity. So he was crushed and bewildered when, at the outbreak of WWII, his mother suddenly announced to her 12-year-old son, "You are no longer a Matisse." With no explanation, she changed her son's name and sent him away.

So began Pierre's lifelong search to solve the mystery of his true identity. What had happened? Why had his family seemingly rejected him? Who was his real father? Those questions are the intriguing backdrop to this memoir of Pierre's fascinating and adventurous life on three continents. Spanning the insider art world of 1930s Paris, the battles of WWII, the occupation of France by the Nazis, Pierre's involvement with the French resistance, his post-war work restoring art and historical monuments, and his eventual decision to create a new life in North America, *The Missing Matisse* is a story of intrigue, faith, and drama as one man journeys to discover the truth about who he is—before it's too late.

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