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Andre the Giant

By Clément Thiery / Translated from French by Farah Nayeri

Le catcheur le plus populaire de l'histoire est français. André René Roussimoff est né à Coulommiers, en Seine-et-Marne, en 1946. Vite repéré par son physique—2,24 mètres, 235 kilos—, il commence une carrière de catcheur professionnel au Japon, au Canada, puis aux États-Unis où son premier combat au Madison Square Garden de New York, en 1973, lui vaut le nom de scène « André the Giant ». Surnommé la Huitième Merveille du Monde, il devient le premier Français à décrocher le titre de champion du monde des poids lourds de la WWF, la fédération mondiale de catch. Il apparaît en parallèle dans le clip de « The Goonies "R" Good Enough » de Cyndi Lauper (1985) et dans le film *The Princess Bride* de Rob Reiner (1987).

Atteint d'un rare trouble de la croissance, le Géant continue de grandir à une vitesse qui met son cœur et ses articulations en danger. Les nombreuses opérations qu'il doit subir l'éloignent du ring. En 1987, lors du match WrestleMania III, André Roussimoff est battu par Hulk Hogan—sa première défaite en quinze ans, un record. Il prend sa retraite et meurt d'une crise cardiaque à Paris six ans plus tard.

En mai 2014, le cartooniste américain Box Brown rend hommage à André le Géant dans une bande dessinée biographique. L'ouvrage été traduit en français et publié aux éditions La Pastèque en septembre 2015.

The most popular wrestler in history was French. André René Roussimoff was born in Coulommiers, in Seine-et-Marne, in 1946. He was quickly noticed because of his physical stature—he was 2.24 meters tall and weighed 235 kilos—and began his career as a professional wrestler in Japan, before moving to Canada and then the United States, where his first fight at New York's Madison Square Garden in 1973 earned him the nickname "Andre the Giant."

Dubbed the Eighth Wonder of the World, he became the first Frenchman to win the title of World Heavyweight Champion given out by the WWF, the World Wrestling Federation. Concurrently, he appeared in the Cyndi Lauper music video "The Goonies 'R' Good Enough" (1985) and in the Rob Reiner movie *The Princess Bride* (1987).

Suffering from a rare growth disorder, the Giant continued to grow ever taller at a rate that posed a danger to his heart and joints. The numerous operations he underwent kept him out of the ring. In 1987, during the WrestleMania III match, André Roussimoff was defeated by Hulk Hogan—his first defeat in fifteen years, the longest any wrestler had ever gone without losing. He went into retirement, and died of a heart attack in Paris six years later.

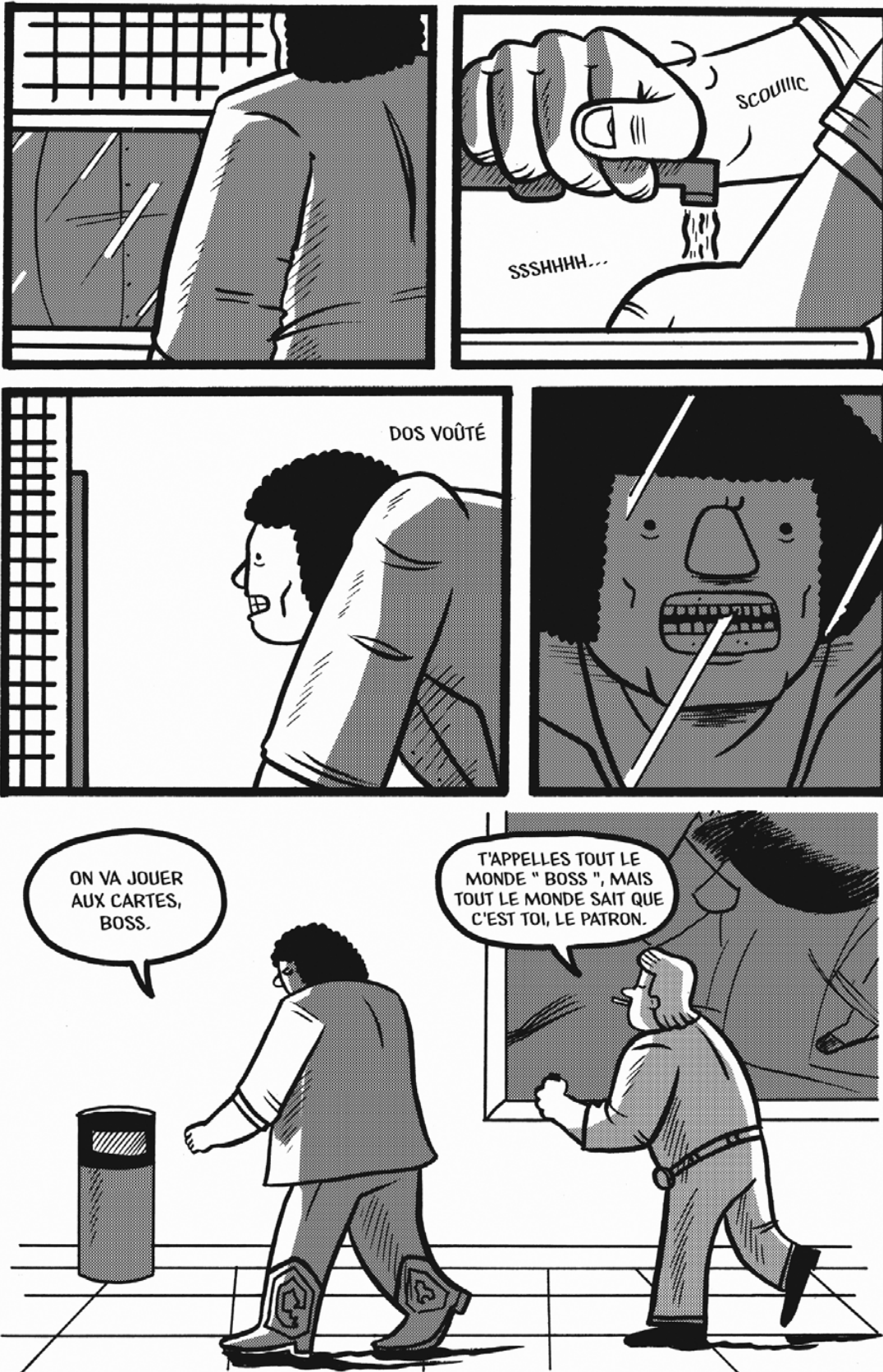
In May 2014, the American cartoonist Box Brown paid tribute to André the Giant in a biographical graphic novel. The work was translated into French and published by the Éditions La Pastèque in September 2015.

André le Géant - La vie du Géant Ferré, par Box Brown (traduit de l'anglais par Sophie Chisogne/ translated from English by Sophie Chisogne). Éditions de La Pastèque, 2015, 240 pages, 19 euros. ■

Andre The Giant - Life and Legend, by Box Brown. Editions First Second, 2014, 240 pages, 23.95 dollars.

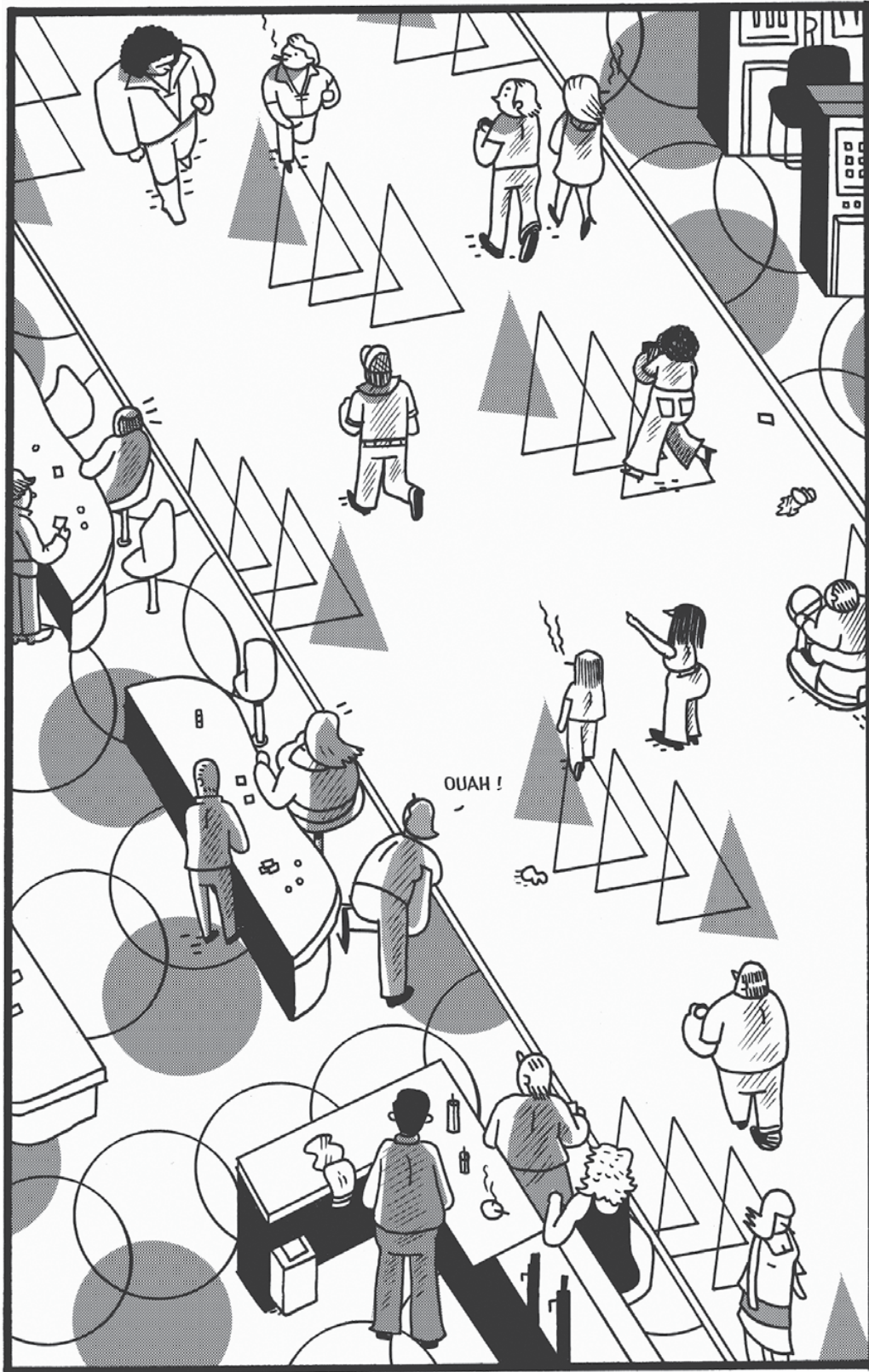


"You fall in, boss??"
Tinkle



"Let's play some cards, boss."

"You call everybody boss, but everybody knows you're the boss."





"Look at this guy!"
 "Look at this fucking guy!!!"
 "That's Andre!!"
 "Wrestling's fake!!"



"Get me a triple screwdriver.

In a pint glass, please."

"I think the people are noticing you, boss."

"What else is new??"

"Deal the cards."



Hours later...

"Getting to be my bedtime, boss."

"Okay, okay. Early flight tomorrow."



[In French] "Salut.
See you later. I'll call back tomorrow..."
"French?"