

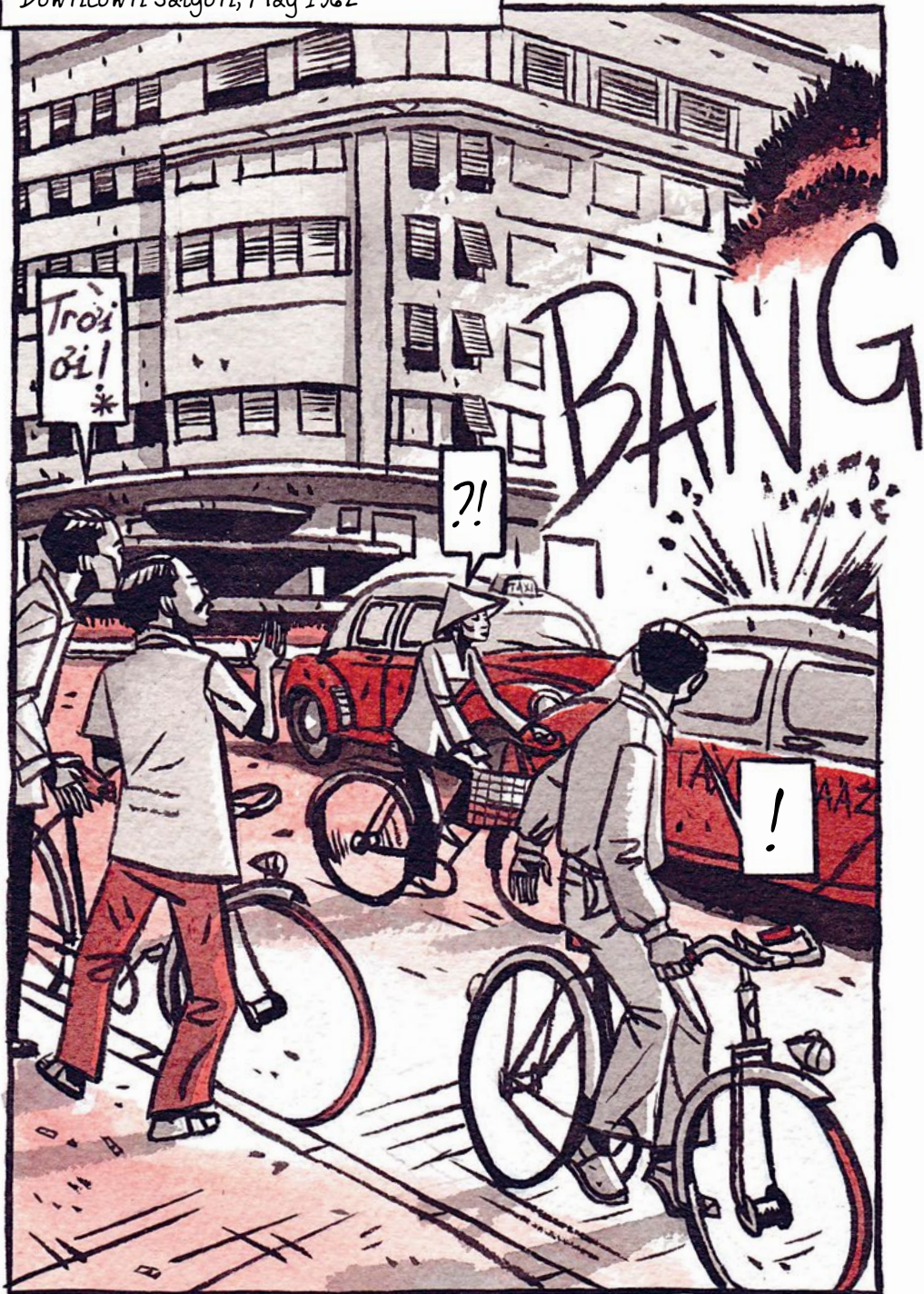


MARCELINO TRUONG

# **SUCH A LOVELY LITTLE WAR**

SAIGON 1961-63

Downtown Saigon, May 1962



\*What the hell!

In May 1962, a series of grenade attacks targeted places frequented by American advisors. There were about 2000 of them at the time.

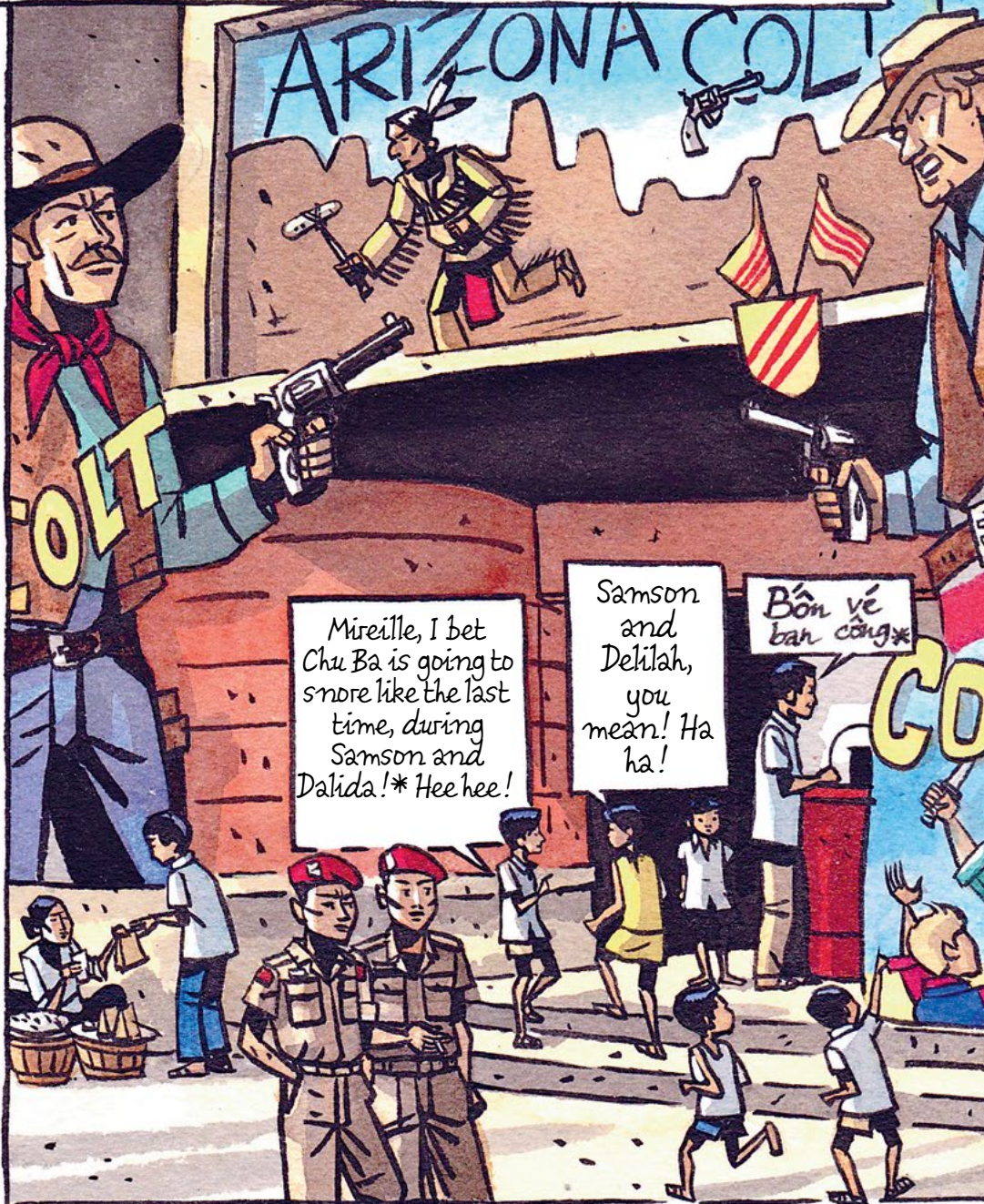


June 1962. We were at the movies, laughing at Fernandel's antics in "Ali Baba et les 40 Voleurs," when a grenade exploded in the moviehouse across from ours. Strangely, I have no memory of it.



The result: our trips to the movies were canceled. Mama was made for smoother seas ---

Fortunately, Chu Ba snuck us off to low-class movie theaters – no air conditioning! – that Americans avoided like the plague.



Mireille, I bet Chu Ba is going to snore like the last time, during Samson and Dalida! \* Hee hee!

Samson and Delilah, you mean! Ha ha!

Bốn vé ban công\*

CO

\* The French songstress Dalida was very popular in Saigon.  
\* Four seats in the balcony.

We took in a lot of sword-and-sandals films: "Ben-Hur" for the culture, "Hercules" and the Maciste movies for the muscles.



\* Who wants to buy fried bananas?!

Why did we love those costume dramas in Saigon? The good citizens must have recognized similarities between Caesar's Rome and Diêm's Saigon.

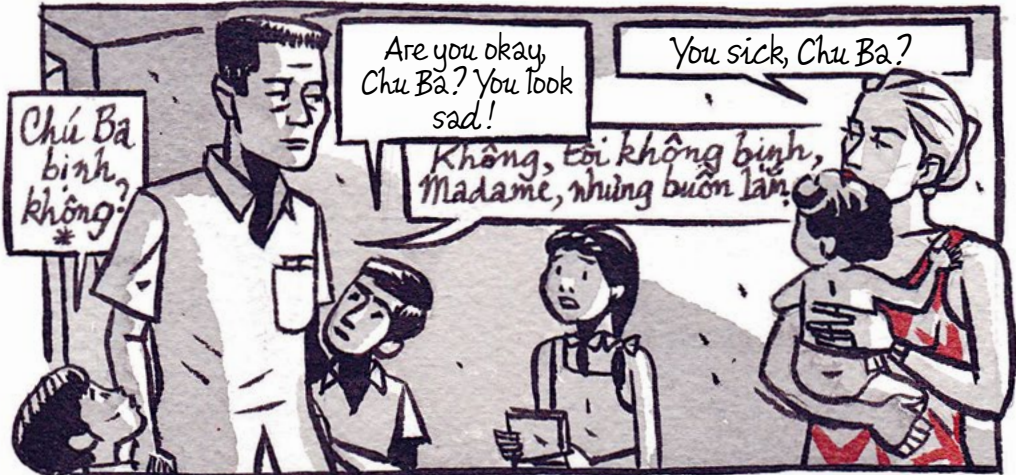


Like Caesar's centurions irritated by the Republic, our young Turks in camouflage conspired against the "Diêmocracy."\* There were always rumors of a coup d'état.



\* "Diêmocracy" was a phrase coined by Paris-Match.

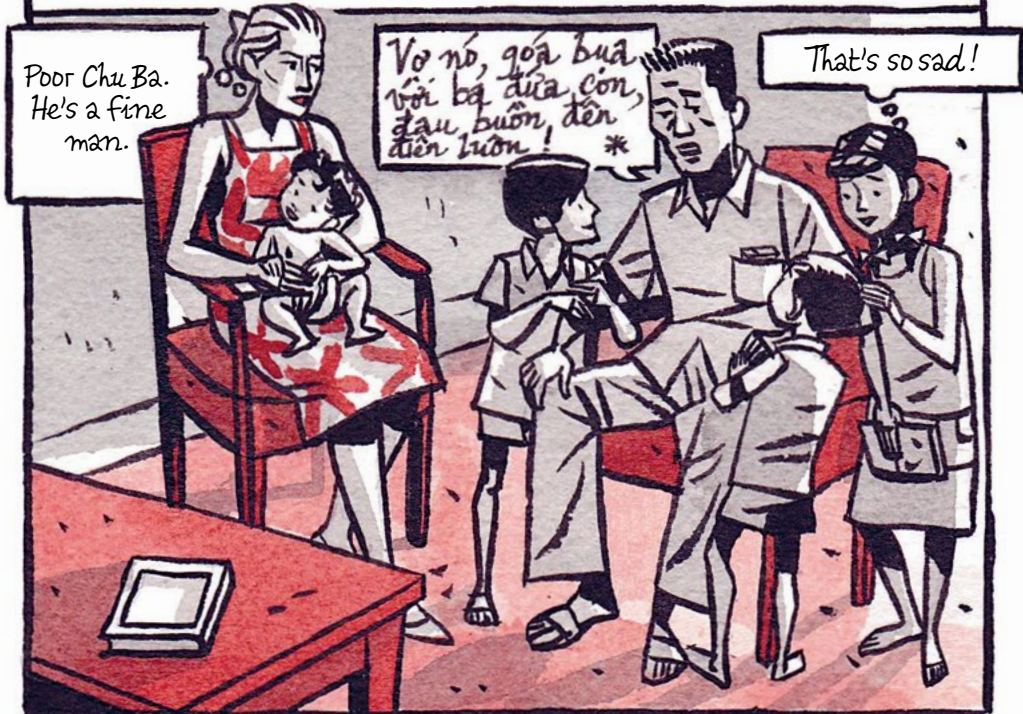
One day Chu Ba came to our house, distress written all over his face.



\* Are you sick, Chu Ba?

\*No, not sick, Madame, just very sad.

Chu Ba told us that his brother-in-law, a test pilot at the Nha Trang training base, was killed when his plane crashed into the South China Sea.



\* His widow, a mother of three, has suffered more pain than she can stand!



**SUCH A LOVELY LITTLE WAR:** Saigon 1961-63

Marcelino Truong

Translated by David Homel

ISBN 978-1-55152-647-8

\$26.95 USA & Canada (other territories TBA)

272 pp; 6" x 9"

Reinforced trade paperback

Genre: GRAPHIC NON-FICTION | History

**PUBLICATION MONTH:**

Canada & USA: October 2016

UK & Australia/New Zealand: November 2016

**ARSENAL PULP PRESS**

[arsenalpulp.com](http://arsenalpulp.com)

Follow us on Facebook

@Arsenalpulp on Twitter

Distributed in the USA by Consortium

Distributed in Canada by University of Toronto Press (sales by Ampersand, Inc.)

Distributed in the UK by Turnaround Publisher Services

Distributed in Australia/New Zealand by NewSouth Books

**EXCLUSIVE EXCERPTS AVAILABLE**

**THIS RIVETING**, beautifully produced graphic memoir tells the story of the early years of the Vietnam war as seen through the eyes of a young boy named Marco, the son of a Vietnamese diplomat and his French wife. The book opens in America, where the boy's father works for the South Vietnam embassy; there the boy is made to feel self-conscious about his otherness thanks to schoolmates who play war games against the so-called "Commsies." The family is called back to Saigon in 1961, where the father becomes Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem's personal interpreter; as the growing conflict between North and South intensifies, so does turmoil within Marco's family, as his mother struggles to grapple with bipolar disorder.

Visually powerful and emotionally potent, *Such a Lovely Little War* is both a large-scale and intimate study of the Vietnam war as seen through the eyes of the Vietnamese: a turbulent national history intertwined with an equally traumatic familial one.

**MARCELINO TRUONG** is an illustrator, painter, and author. Born the son of a Vietnamese diplomat in 1957 in the Philippines, he and his family moved to America (where his father worked for the embassy) and then to Vietnam at the outset of the war. He attended the French Lycee in London, then moved to Paris where he earned degrees in law at the Paris Institute of Political Studies, and English literature at the Sorbonne.

**PUBLICITY CONTACTS:**

**USA**

Beth Parker

Beth Parker PR

Tel: 914-629-9205

[beth@bethparkerpr.com](mailto:beth@bethparkerpr.com)

**CANADA**

Cynara Geissler, Marketing Manager

Arsenal Pulp Press

Tel: 604-687-4233

[cynara@arsenalpulp.com](mailto:cynara@arsenalpulp.com)