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What We Talk about When We Talk about Exiles

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1. THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL

A friend of mine died recently. No big deal. As the saying goes, dying is part of life. And at a certain stage in life it no longer is a tragedy. Although his case (fatal cancer at 61) neither qualified yet as farce.

I call him 'a friend' but, as a matter of fact, we were college colleagues, rivals at a certain point of our youth, then occasional foe/friends across the years, even decades. Basically, I won, he lost. I found a coveted university job; he went to high-school hell. Plus, he had a lot against him, obstacles that he was expected to overcome but never really managed to. He was shy as a child, born in a faraway island. And a stutterer, thus what I picture as the high-school hell of his teaching

[1] **Rui Zink** was born in Lisbon in 1961. He is a professor of Editing and Writing at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, as well as a writer and translator, having published more than 30 books. His work is translated in a dozen languages (including French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian and Japanese), ranging from fiction to plays, from cartoons to opera. He published his first book in 1986, *Hotel Lusitano*, hailed 25 years later as one of the best novels of his generation with a celebratory edition. In 1990, Rui Zink was a pioneer of writing courses in Portugal. In 1997, he co-authored, with artist António Jorge Gonçalves, the first graphic Portuguese novel: *A Arte Suprema*. In 2001, he wrote the first Portuguese online novel, *Os Surfistas*, with the input of e-readers. He wrote a tetralogy about the crisis, comprising *O Destino Turístico* (2008), *A Instalação do Medo* (2012), *A Metametamorfose e Outras Fermosas Morfoses* (2014) and the short novel *OssO* (2015). Aside from being a novelist, he is a playwright, writes comic strips, and frequently creates librettos for operas. As a translator, he has brought into Portuguese, among others, Saul Bellow and Richard Zenith. He was visiting scholar at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, reader at the University of Michigan and resident writer at Middlebury College, Vermont, USA. Address correspondence to: Rui Zink; e-mail: zink.rui@gmail.com.

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