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RUSSELL BANKS

Acclaimed Author of *Affliction* and *The Sweet Hereafter*

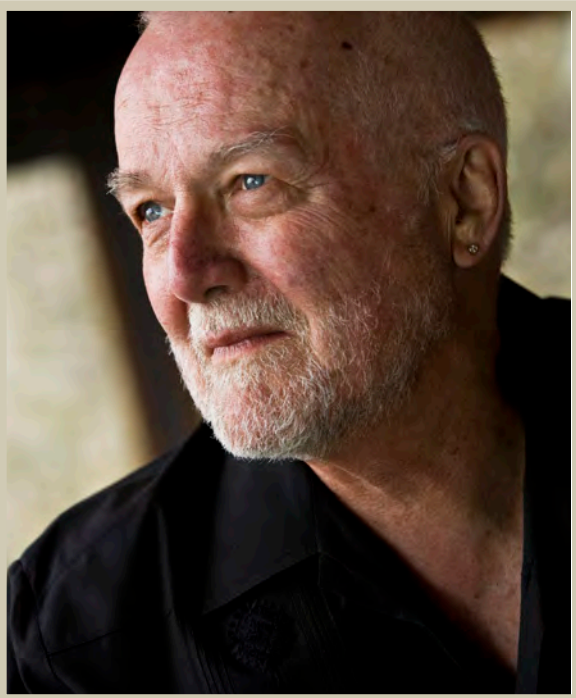


Photo: Nancie Battaglia

Russell Banks grew up in a working-class world that has played a major role in shaping his writing. Through a dozen novels and short story collections that have won him Guggenheim and NEA grants and a St. Lawrence Prize for fiction, Banks has made a life's work of charting the causes and effects of the terrible things "normal" men can and will do. He writes with an intensely focused empathy and a compassionate sense of humor that help to keep readers, if not his characters, afloat through the misadventures and outright tragedies in his books. A deep appreciation for his work has led the cities of Seattle and Rochester to

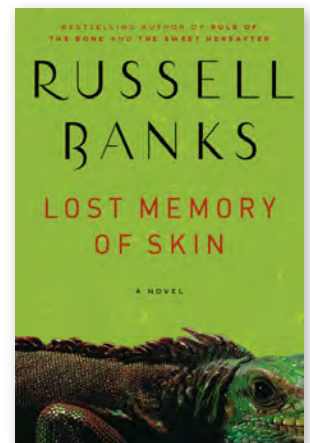
each select his book *The Sweet Hereafter* as a "book in common" for their communities to read.

A prolific writer of fiction, Russell Banks's titles include *The Darling*, *The Sweet Hereafter*, *Cloudsplitter*, *Rule of the Bone*, *Affliction*, *Success Stories*, *Continental Drift*, *Searching for Survivors*, *Trailerpark*, *The Book of Jamaica*, *The New World*, *Hamilton Stark*, and *The Reserve*. *The Angel on the Roof* is a collection of thirty years of Banks's short fiction. He is also the author of *Dreaming Up America*, an American edition of his nonfiction book of essays, which was previously published in France under the title *Amerique Notre Histoire*. In May 2008, Harper Collins published *Outer Banks* (which includes three of his previously published novels: *Family Life*, *Hamilton Stark*, and *The Relation of My Imprisonment*). Banks has contributed poems, stories, and essays to *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Esquire*, *Harper's* and numerous others.

His novels, *Affliction* and *The Sweet Hereafter*, were adapted into feature films which received widespread critical acclaim: James Coburn won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor

"Russell Banks is a writer of extraordinary power."

— Boston Globe



"Russell Banks has now become....the most important living white male American on the official literary map, a writer we, as readers and writers, can actually learn from, whose books help and urge us to change."

—The Village Voice

and Nick Nolte was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor for their roles in "Affliction;" "The Sweet Hereafter" won three awards, including the Grand Prix and the International Critics Award at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival. Currently director Raoul Peck is developing the feature

film of *Continental Drift*, with a screenplay by Banks. A film of *The Darling* (selected by The New York Times Book Review as a Notable Book of 2004) is in development, to be directed by Denis Villeneuve and starring Jessica Chastain. A film of *Rule of the Bone*, with a screenplay by Banks, is also in development. His most recent novel, *Lost Memory of Skin*, was published in September 2011 by Ecco/HarperCollins.

Included among the numerous honors and awards Russell Banks has received are the Ingram Merrill Award, the John Dos Passos Award, the Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Laure Bataillon Prize for

best work of fiction translated into French, for the French edition of *The Darling*. *Continental Drift* and *Cloudsplitter* were Pulitzer Prize finalists; *Affliction*, *Cloudsplitter*, and *Lost Memory of Skin* were PEN/Faulkner Finalists. *Lost Memory of Skin* was a Finalist for the inaugural Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Banks was New York State Author (2004–2008) and is the founder and President of Cities of Refuge North America. He is the winner of the 2011 Commonwealth Award for Literature. In 2011, the French Minister of Culture awarded Mr. Banks the rank of Officier des Arts et Lettres.

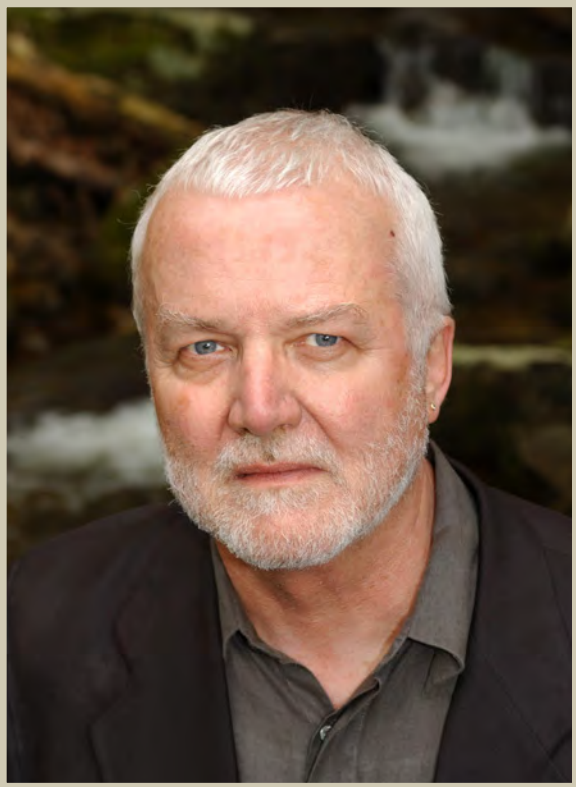
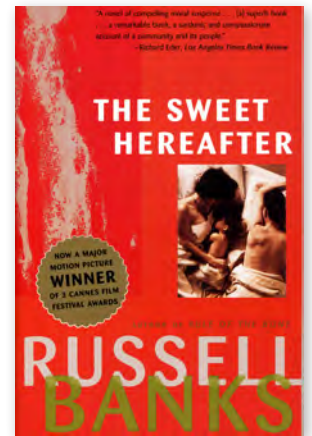
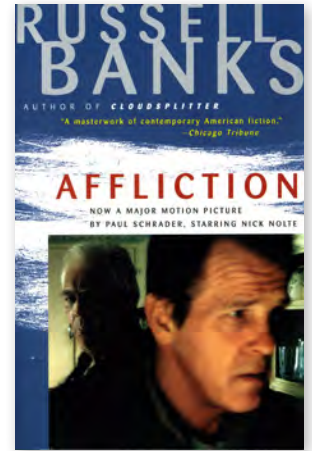


Photo: Emma Dodge Hanson



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