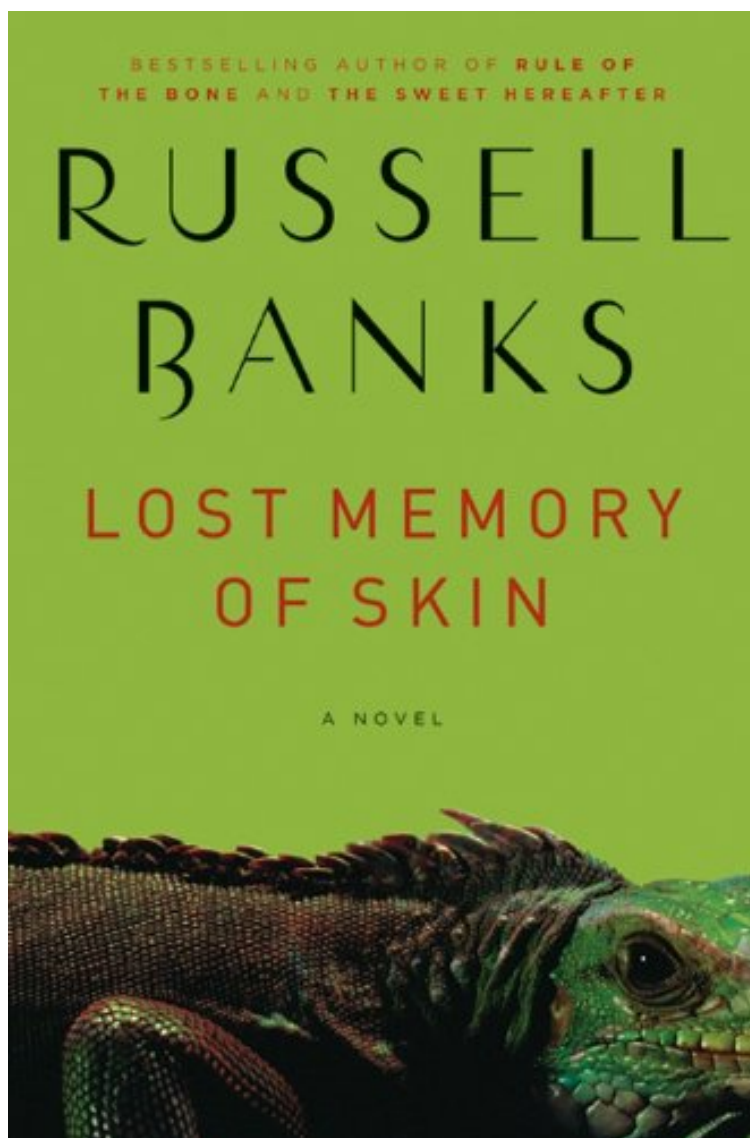


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Lost Memory of Skin



Par Russell Banks
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurThe acclaimed author of The Sweet Hereafter and Rule of the Bone returns with a provocative new novel that illuminates the shadowed edges of contemporary American culture with startling and unforgettable resultsSuspended in a strangely modern-day version of limbo, the young man at the center of Russell Bankss uncompromising and morally complex new novel must create a life for himself in the wake of incarceration. Known in his new identity only as the Kid, and on probation after doing time for a liaison with an underage girl, he is shackled to a GPS monitoring device and forbidden to live within 2,500 feet of anywhere children might gather. With nowhere else to go, the Kid takes up residence under a south Florida causeway, in a makeshift encampment with other convicted sex offenders.Barely beyond childhood himself, the Kid, despite his crime, is in many ways an innocent, trapped by impulses and foolish choices he

himself struggles to comprehend. Enter the Professor, a man who has built his own life on secrets and lies. A university sociologist of enormous size and intellect, he finds in the Kid the perfect subject for his research on homelessness and recidivism among convicted sex offenders. The two men forge a tentative partnership, the Kid remaining wary of the Professors motives even as he accepts the counsel and financial assistance of the older man. When the camp beneath the causeway is raided by the police, and later, when a hurricane all but destroys the settlement, the Professor tries to help the Kid in practical matters while trying to teach his young charge new ways of looking at, and understanding, what he has done. But when the Professors past resurfaces and threatens to destroy his carefully constructed world, the balance in the two mens relationship shifts. Suddenly, the Kid must reconsider everything he has come to believe, and choose what course of action to take when faced with a new kind of moral decision.

Long one of our most acute and insightful novelists, Russell Banks often examines the indistinct boundaries between our intentions and actions. A mature and masterful work of contemporary fiction from one of our most accomplished storytellers, *Lost Memory of Skin* unfolds in language both powerful and beautifully lyrical, show-casing Banks at his most compelling, his reckless sense of humor and intense empathy at full bore. The perfect convergence of writer and subject, *Lost Memory of Skin* probes the zeitgeist of a troubled society where zero tolerance has erased any hope of subtlety and compassion a society where isolating the offender has perhaps created a new kind of victim.

Revue de presse Destined to be a canonical novel of its time... it delivers another of Bankss wrenching, panoramic visions of American moral life, and this one very particular to the early 21st century... Banks, whose great works resonate with such heart and soul, brings his full narrative powers to bear. (Janet Maslin, *New York Times*) Banks may be the most compassionate fiction writer working today *Lost Memory of Skin* is proof that Banks remains our premier chronicler of the doomed and forgotten American Male. (New York Times Book) Bankss enormous gamble in both plot and character pays off handsomely By the end, Kafka is rubbing elbows with Robert Ludlum, and Banks has mounted a thrilling defense of the novels place in contemporary culture. (The New Yorker) One of our finest novelists gives voice to the unspeakable [A] compelling story (O, the Oprah Magazine) His boldest imaginative leap yet into the invisible margins of society *Lost Memory of Skin* is a haunting book. (Wall Street Journal) Among contemporary writers giving voice to Americas beleaguered working class, Russell Banks may have no peer this oddly unsettling, beautifully crafted novel raise[s] fascinating issues. (San Francisco Chronicle) Banks reveals the two [characters] with tenderness and trenchant wit, in a story that, not surprisingly, plumbs the depth of human despair and resilience. If that prowess is predictable, *Skin* is bound to leave you shaken and strangely reassured. (USA Today) Mr. Banks knows plot, and incorporates intriguing complications to keep the novel building power all the way to the end. (Pittsburg Post-Gazette) Russell Banks really does know how to pull his readers into a dark, dark world only to deliver us into the light. (Boston Globe) Banks is in top form in his seventeenth work of fiction, a cyclonic novel of arresting observations, muscular beauty, and disquieting concerns a commanding, intrepidly inquisitive, magnificently compassionate, and darkly funny novel of private and societal illusions, maladies, and truths. (Booklist (starred review)) Like our living literary giants Toni Morrison and Thomas Pynchon, Russell Banks is a great writer wrestling with the hidden secrets and explosive realities of this country. (Cornel West) Russell Bankss work presents without falsehood and with tough affection the uncompromising moral voice of our time... I trust his portraits of America more than any other the burden of it, the need for it, the hell of it. (Michael Ondaatje) *Lost Memory of Skin* should be required reading for anyone interested in fixing the countrys broken criminal justice system Banks, in his latest novel, takes an unflinching look at people at their worst and manages to turn it into art. (Associated Press) [It] is a pleasure to see [Banks] gift turned to big, semisurreal characters. The grand, rambling examination of guilt and blame takes place against a ravishingly bleak backdrop, lyrically described, while each revelation of character is like a quiet explosion. (Time Out New York) A ompelling story... one of those rare, strange, category-defying fictions that grabs hold of you... Its hard to shake it off. And even when you do, it leaves a mark. (Chicago Tribune) Banks is a master of peeling back the veneer to show us for the desperate creatures we are, no more so than in his fearless *Lost Memory of Skin* [Banks] writes here with a combination of compassion and outrage a compelling read and an indictment of our age. (Miami Herald) Prsentation de l'diteur The acclaimed author of *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Rule of the Bone* returns with a provocative new novel that illuminates the shadowed edges of contemporary American culture with startling and unforgettable results Suspended in a strangely modern-day version of limbo, the young man at the center of Russell Bankss uncompromising and morally complex new novel must create a life for himself in the wake of incarceration. Known in his new identity only as the Kid, and on probation after doing time

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