**S9320 SWEET HEREAFTER (CANADA, 1997)**

(Other titles: De beaux lendemains; Dolce domain; Dulce porvenir; Sladki poslej; Suesse Jenseits)

**Credits:** director, Atom Egoyan; writer, Atom Egoyan; novel, Russell Banks.

**Cast:** Ian Holm, Sarah Polley, Bruce Greenwood.

**Summary:** Melodrama set in contemporary British Columbia. Following a tragic school bus accident, high-profile lawyer Mitchell Stephens (Holm) descends upon a small British Columbian town (the novel was set in upstate New York). With promises of retribution and a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of the grieving community, Stephens begins his investigation into the details of the crash. But beneath the town’s calm, he uncovers a tangled web of lies, deceit and forbidden desires that mirrors his own troubled personal life. Gradually, we learn that Stephens has his own agenda and that everyone has secrets to keep. Although it is not apparent in the film, the character Billy Ansel in the original novel is a Vietnam vet who seeks refuge in drink after the loss of his two children in the accident.


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Stein, Ruthe. “Director’s sweet inspiration novelist Russell Banks cheers ‘Hereafter’ film” San Francisco chronicle (Dec 21, 1997), Sunday datebook, p. 34.
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