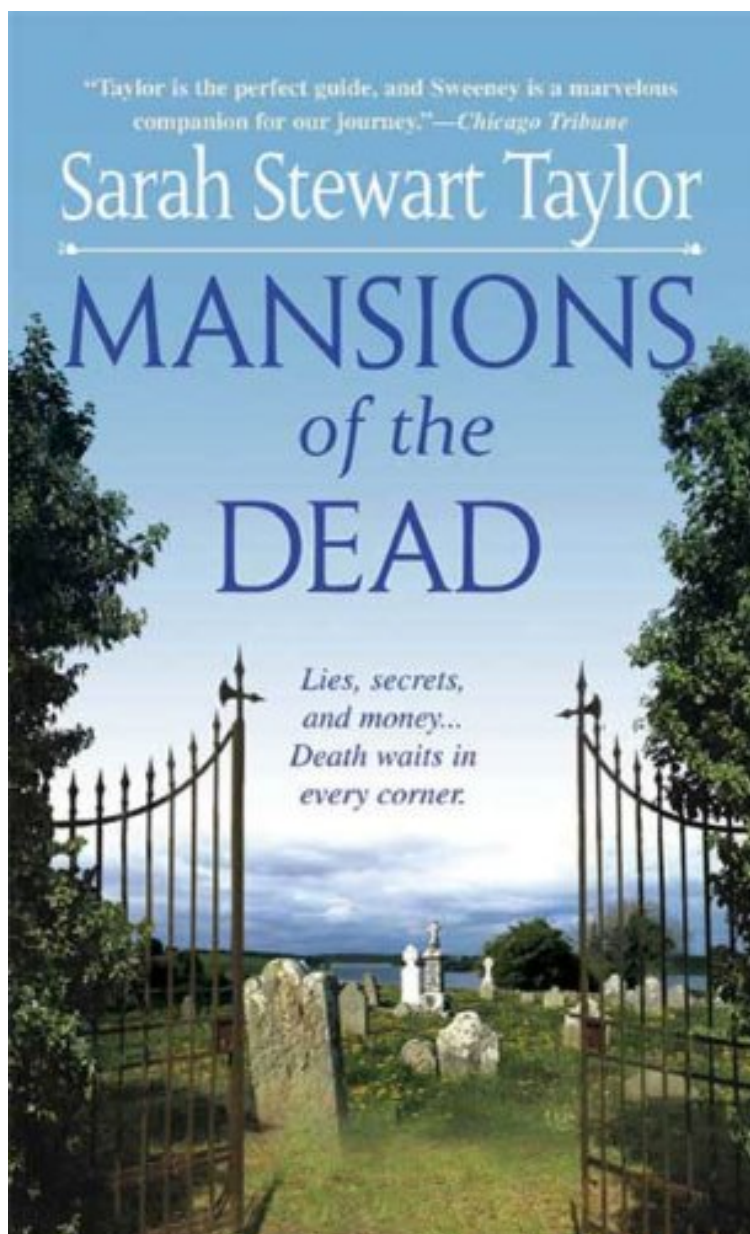


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## Mansions of the Dead



*Par Sarah Stewart Taylor*  
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**Par Sarah Stewart Taylor : Mansions of the Dead** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mansions of the Dead:

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**Description :** Description du produitIn O' Artful Death, Sarah Stewart Taylor introduced a charis-matic sleuth in Sweeney St. George, a professor of art history specializing in graveyard art. Reviewers raved about the atmos-phere and detail of her New England setting and the moodiness of a sleuth who studies 'the art of death.' Now, Sweeney is asked by police to consult about the death of one of her own students, one who perhaps enjoyed her class a bit too much: Brad Putnam is found suffocated in his dorm room adorned with nineteenth-century mourning jewelry. The situation is even stickier because he is one of 'the' Putnams, a famous and prestigious family, one of the earliest colonial families-and a family whose history is as much gossip and scandal as it is politics and wealth. Once again, Taylor delivers an intricate, suspenseful mystery

steeped in the flavor of New England past and present.

Prsentation de l'diteurWhen college student Brad Putnam turns up dead in his bedroom in his Boston apartment, Homicide Detective Timothy Quinn is baffled by the crime scene and decides to seek the help of art history professor Sweeney St. George to make sense of the evidence. An expert on "the art of death," Sweeney immediately identifies the objects found on the body as mourning jewelry-and discovers that she knew the victim. Brad Putnam was taking her class on that very subject.Sweeney is shocked by Brad's death, and determined to help Detective Quinn unravel the mystery of Brad's death. They soon discover this is not the first tragedy to strike the Putnams, a prominent Boston family. Peter Putnam, Brad's brother, died in a terrible car accident years earlier. But the cause of the accident was never discovered, as the Putnam family covered up what happened and refused to cooperate with the police.Detective Quinn warns Sweeney not to get too involved in the Brad Putnam investigation but as she gets closer to the Putnam family, she becomes even more determined than ever to find out what happened. Haunted by secrets in her own past, Sweeney dissects the family's history and begins to realize that she may uncover secrets that were never meant to surface.Sarah Stewart Taylor's intricate and engaging follow-up to her acclaimed Agatha Award finalist debut, *O'Artful Death*, is an absorbing and suspenseful novel about love and family, secrets and lies-and murder.From Publishers WeeklyIn Taylor's engrossing second mystery to feature art history professor Sweeney St. George (after 2003's *O' Artful Death*), one of her students, Brad Putnam, is found dead wearing an odd assortment of mourning jewelry. Called in by Detective Timothy Quinn to help identify the artifacts, Sweeney dates them to the Civil War era and is later fascinated to find irregularities in the birth and death dates of one of Putnam's long dead relatives. Since Brad was the scion of one of Boston's wealthiest and most powerful families, Quinn and the Cambridge, Mass., police department must tread lightly as the family closes ranksjust as it did five years earlier when Brad's youngest brother was killed in a car crash. After two hit-and-run incidents come on the heels of Brad's untimely demise, Sweeney and Quinn are convinced the deaths are linked but have no evidence to support their beliefs. Both become immersed in an increasing web of lies, love triangles, politics and money. Sweeney's researches into the cultural mores of death provide an unusual backdrop, while Tim Quinn is deeply affecting as a young father trying to juggle his work and home lives. More skillfully plotted than *O' Artful Death*, this moody, atmospheric novel will appeal to fans of darker cozies. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.BooklistSweeney St. George, with her titian hair, Ph.D. in art history, and complicated parentage, is a vibrant and deeply attractive heroine. When one of her students is murdered, his body adorned with the nineteenth-century mourning jewelry her seminar has been studying, she is caught up in the search for his killer and his own family complications. The dead student was a Putnam, of the Boston and Newport Putnams, deeply tied to real estate, politics, and very old money. Although the story may move along at a leisurely pace, it is Sweeney who mesmerizes, as she explains the shift in American mourning practices and the making of hair mementos to wear in memory of the dead. She tries to explain herself, too, as family demons of suicide, alcoholism, and depression manifest themselves in other characters in this vivid drama and thus illuminate her own. An intelligent tale, leaving readers begging to know more. GraceAnne DeCandidoCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved