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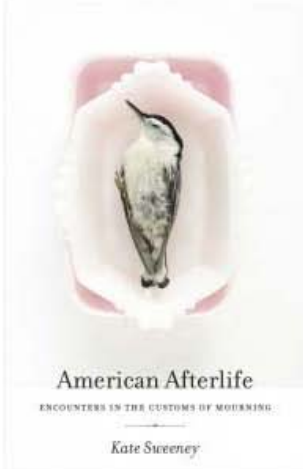
First Books Month: Kate Sweeney Reads from and Talks about American Afterlife

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This week on *The Missouri Review Soundbooth* we continue our First Books series by talking to Atlanta-based nonfiction writer, Kate Sweeney. Listen in as Sweeney reads excerpts from and then discusses her new book, [American Afterlife: Encounters in the Customs of Mourning](#).

American Afterlife (University of Georgia Press) explores the experiences of individual Americans involved with death in a culture where even discussing such things is practically taboo. These chapters follow ordinary people making memorial choices as well as the purveyors of those choices to investigate how we memorialize our dead, where these practices came from, and what this says about us.

Kate Sweeney lives in Atlanta where she writes and creates public radio stories. While pursuing her MFA at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, she spent time with obit writers, funeral directors and ordinary Americans who found themselves involved with death and memorialization.

Her writing has appeared several times in [Oxford American Magazine](#), as well as [Utne Reader Online](#), *Atlanta Magazine* and *New South*, among other outlets. She is curator of the popular bimonthly nonfiction reading series, [True Story](#), which *Atlanta Magazine* voted a Best Literary Event of 2012.

The Missouri Review Soundbooth is a weekly podcast series that brings you readings and interviews with authors, editors and agents about what's happening in the literary world. [Subscribe](#) to our free podcast on iTunes.



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