



## Melanie Thernstrom

Melanie Thernstrom is the author of two books: the best-selling memoir *The Dead Girl* (Pocket, 1990) and *Halfway Heaven: Diary of a Harvard Murder* (Doubleday, 1997). *The Dead Girl* is an account of the disappearance and murder of her best friend Bibi Lee. *Halfway Heaven*—the story of a murder-suicide of two students at Harvard University—began as an article for *The New Yorker*. It explores murder from the point of view of the killer, based on diaries discovered after the deaths.

A Contributing Writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, Melanie has reported on subjects as diverse as high-end matchmaking, mediated divorce, the Lord's Resistance Army in Northern Uganda, medicine, and fugitives. She has also written for *Vanity Fair*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Food and Wine*, *Travel+Leisure*, *Elle*, and other publications. She has taught creative writing at Harvard University, Cornell University, and in the MFA program at University of California at Irvine. She has received fellowships from the corporation of Yaddo, the Edward Albee Foundation, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

For twelve years, Melanie has suffered from an arthritic condition that causes chronic pain in her neck which radiates into the right side of her face and right shoulder and arm. She wrote about her experiences with pain in *The New York Times* article, "My Pain, My Brain," and is currently writing a book about physical pain for Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.

She lives with her husband near Portland, Oregon and in New York City. Her complete bio and list of works is available on her Web site at [www.melaniethernstrom.com](http://www.melaniethernstrom.com).