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BOOK PUBLISHERS

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Close to the Bone

Life-Threatening Illness as a Soul Journey

10th Anniversary Revised Edition

Jean Shinoda Bolen

“This book is a staff on which to lean as we ourselves walk or are called upon to help others walk into the valley of the shadow of death.”

—Alice Walker

“This is the book I needed when my daughter was sick. It would have helped me through it, like a map of the underworld. Myths, stories, prayer, touching, visualization, rituals, and especially love are some of the tools and wisdom that this extraordinary book gives us. Thank you, Jean.”

—Isabel Allende

“Jean Shinoda Bolen moves far beyond ordinary notions of medicine, treatment, and even suffering to place illness within a human framework. When you are sick, read pages from this book to be reminded that you and your illness are full of soul.”

—Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul*

“If you or a person close to you have a catastrophic illness, this is one of the most wise and helpful books you could ever read.”

—Lawrence LeShan, author of *Cancer as a Turning Point*

“This book can be a companion to anyone in physical or mental pain or crisis.”

—Louise L. Hay, author of *You Can Heal Your Life*

“Beautifully written... Anyone affected by a serious illness will find *Close to the Bone* a wise and warm companion.”

—*New Age Journal*

“Simple and straightforward... this book probes beneath, urging the reader to plumb the depths and then return to the surface.”

—Houston Chronicle

“Practical and accessible... The author conveys well to her readers her sense of the immeasurable gift that is each life and all life, and they can be grateful to her and with her for this.”

—New Mexican

“This combination of the spiritual with the pragmatic will be helpful and even reassuring both to those facing death, particularly those with a catastrophic illness such as AIDS, and their caregivers and companions.”

—Oregonian

“Jean Shinoda Bolen has created a poetic rhythm that will uplift the spirit and soul. This is a deep, powerful, and gentle book, in which Dr. Bolen masterfully discusses the search for meaning as well as the power of prayer and angels.”

—Gerald G. Jampolsky, M.D., Founder, Center for Attitudinal Healing

“Should be required reading in medical schools and by anyone who wants to understand how illness can be a midwife that helps the soul to emerge.”

—Natural Health Magazine

“Dr. Bolen sees with an insightful eye into the true meaning of healing. A compelling and compassionate book!”

—Marion Woodman, co-author of *Dancing in the Flames*

“For those who yearn for a deeper meaning to disease and death, *Close to the Bone* is a healing breath that will be a tremendous comfort.”

—Hugh and Gayle Prather, authors of *Spiritual Parenting*

“Richly Probing...A skillful assemblage of views on the harrowing experience of physical illness and mental dissociation from which we can and may emerge with a new clarity about who we are and what we want our lives to be.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“The great teacher is our mortality. Let this book be a guide to your feelings and enlightenment. There are no exceptions, we are all mortal. Accept that—read this book and live a fuller, healthier, more meaningful life.”

—Bernie Siegel, M.D., author of *Love, Medicine and Miracles*

“A finely polished mirror for the healing heart and body. An important statement of theories and practices which have aided many in the course of their illness and recovery.”

—Stephen Levine, author of *Who Dies?*

“Thought-provoking and optimistic.”

—*Booklist*

“Immensely readable and revealing...this book is a godsend.”

—Patricia Holt, *The San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*