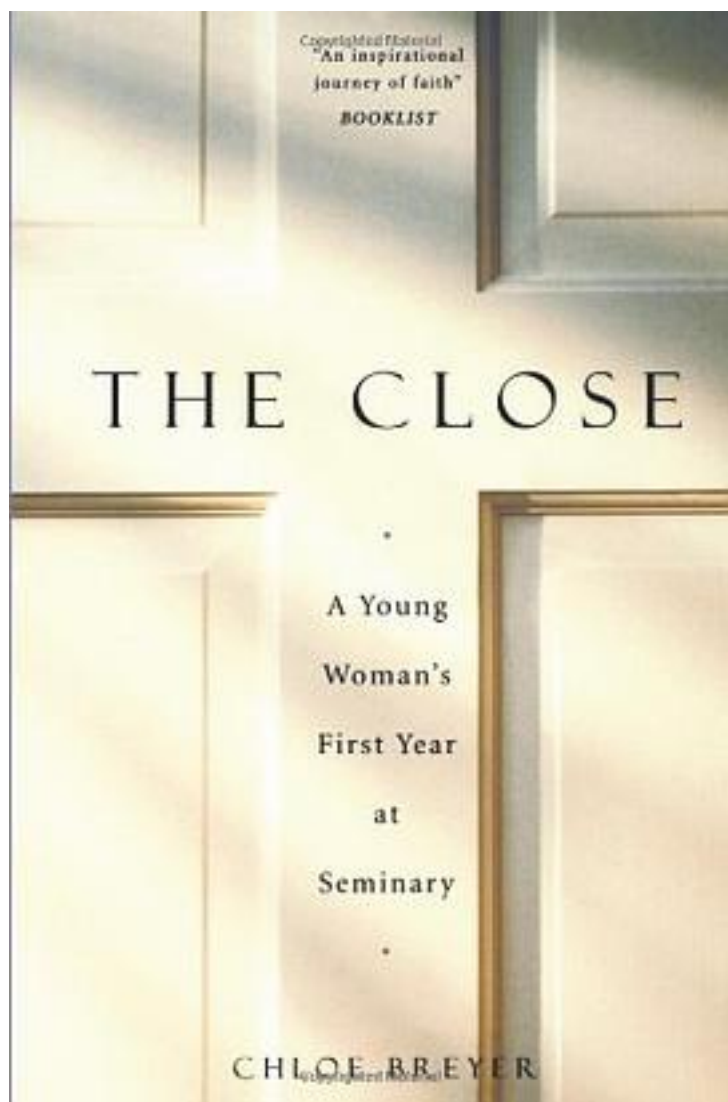


The Close



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An intimate and inspiring chronicle of a young woman entering a vocation that for centuries has been the exclusive dominion of men.. Set in the context of the Church Year, *The Close* is an enthralling account of one young woman's spiritual journey. It is both a personal meditation on faith, in the spirit of Kathleen Norris's *Cloister Walk*, and a fascinating behind-the-scenes story of a graduate student's first year, in the mode of Scott Turow's *One L*. Raised in a liberal, interfaith home, Breyer, responding to an inner call to a spiritual vocation, began her training at New York's General Theological Seminary in 1997. She describes her intense immersion in daily prayer, the rigors and rewards of the academic program, and the challenging tension between secular and spiritual that marks her training, including working as a chaplain at Bellevue Hospital. She probes the day-to-day meanings of such profound issues as exaltation, enlightenment, and redemption, illuminating the unique experience of a young person of faith preparing to live and hoping to thrive in a secular modern world.

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