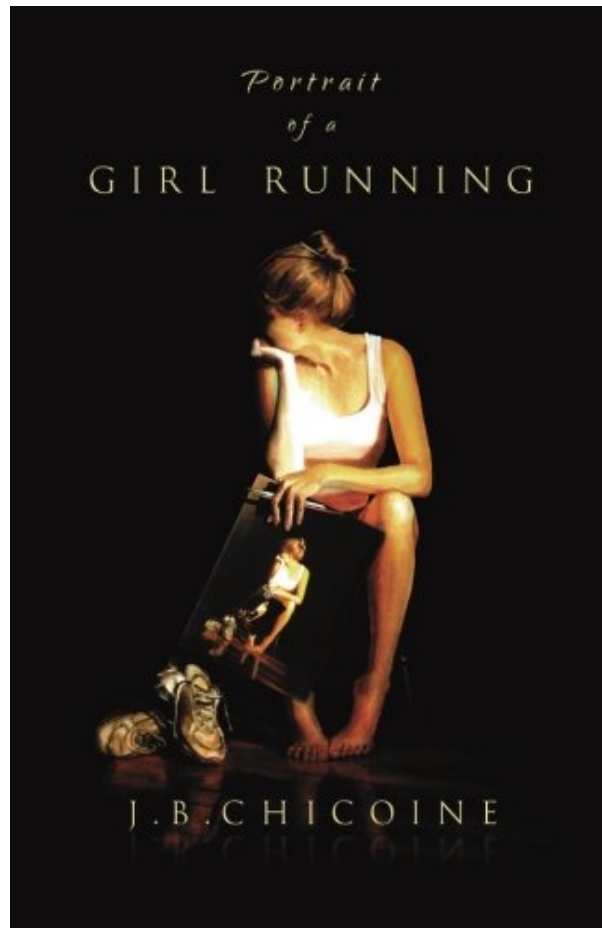
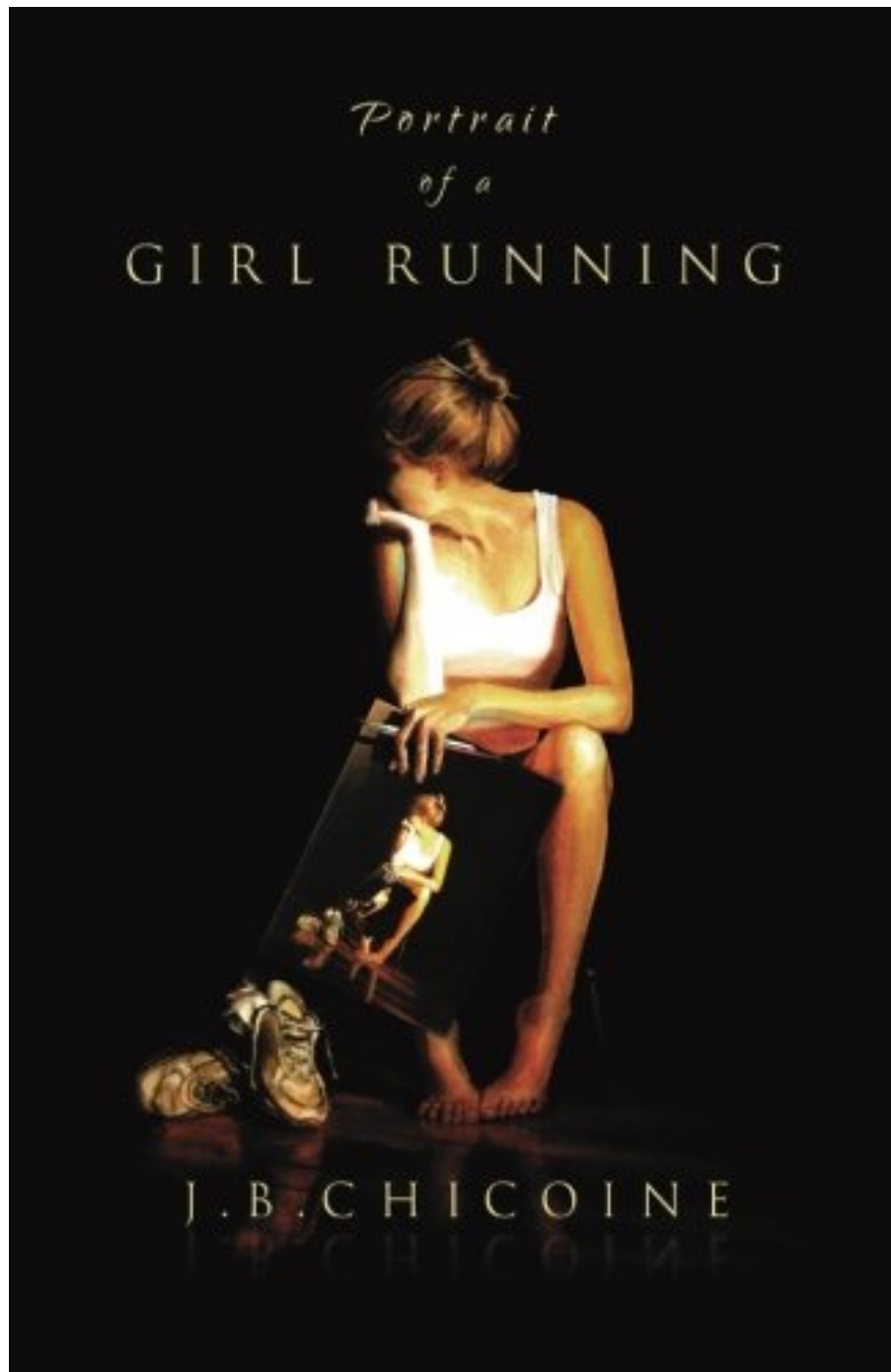


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# **PORTRAIT OF A GIRL RUNNING (PORTRAITS) (VOLUME 1)**

## **BY J B CHICOINE PDF**

All Leila wants is to get through her senior year at her new high school without drawing undue attention. Not that she has any big secret to protect, but her unconventional upbringing has made her very private. At seventeen, she realizes just how odd it was that two men raised her—one black, one white—and no mother. Not to mention they were blues musicians, always on the move. When her father died, he left her with a fear of foster care and a plan that would help her fall between the cracks of the system. Three teachers make that impossible—the handsome track coach, her math teacher from hell, and a jealous gym instructor. Compromising situations, accusations of misconduct, and judicial hearings put Leila's autonomy and even her dignity at risk, unless she learns to trust an unlikely ally.

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- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .81" w x 5.50" l, .91 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 324 pages

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Another Hit!!

By anne gallagher

Disclosure -- I received an ARC (advanced reading copy) from the publisher

JB Chicoine has done it again! She takes us on a trip through time and family dysfunction, yet somehow, like a fairy tale of old, manages to give us a happy ending.

The main character Leila, has survived an unstable world -- living in a bi-racial family with two dads, surrounded by drug addiction and jazz musicians, and then the tragedy of one of her father's deaths all before she turns eighteen. In order to beat the social service system and foster care, she runs to Long Island and lives with her "step-grandfather" until she turns legal.

She thinks she's safe, but the hits just keep on coming for poor Leila. Rotten luck seems to follow this girl and I just cried in places because I felt so bad for her. Chicoine's writing keeps you immersed within the story and when you're finished with the book, it's like you've just watched the best movie you've ever seen. There are many twists as well, so just when you think Leila is finally going to catch a break, it doesn't happen, which keeps you reading, wondering if this poor girl will finally get her happy ever after.

The prose is always lyrical, Chicoine's words like a tapestry, growing more vibrant as the story continues. With every turn of the page, you keep rooting for Leila, hoping against hope that somewhere there will be a

silver lining. As in every fairy tale, there is a fairy godmother, (although in this case a fairy godfather), a wicked queen (does she get her comeuppance?) and a Prince to ride in to the rescue. (Which was a nail biter -- would he, wouldn't he? I'm not telling.)

This book has been classified in the young adult/college age new adult genre, but I think it reads like women's fiction. The character of Leila may be young, but to me she's an old soul who has lived a thousand lives by the time she gets to Long Island. I cannot wait to read the sequel and find out what happens to Leila next.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Intriguing and Involved

By Tiana Smith

J.B. Chicoine constantly amazes me at the depth she's able to give her characters. I truly felt connected to Leila and could feel empathy at every crossroads in front of her. Because Leila's past has some darkness to it, this novel felt a little more adult than your typical YA. Yes, Leila is 17 years old, but there's a maturity there as well as some deeper and more emotional themes.

I think the added viewpoints (some of them from adult characters) also made this novel feel like it was on the older side. With the additional POVs, I will say that for the most part, I enjoyed them. I didn't particularly care for Kyle's chapters, since I didn't feel like he was integral to the story, but some people probably would really like the more traditional teenage viewpoint.

This book had a slow build up to get you set in the world, but by the time Leila goes to school, I was invested in what happened to her. It's a narrative story that focuses more on internal conflict, so while not much actually happens in terms of action, there's enough that keeps you interested in Leila's future.

Like I mentioned before, there are older themes in this book--there isn't sex or really much language (that I can remember) but some characters do talk about sex (just giving you a fair warning, though with this novel, the sex stuff was usually more mature, rather than your typical teenage hormones with people unable to control themselves). There's also some quick references to drugs and drinking. For those reasons I'd probably recommend this for older teens, but like I mentioned before, because everything is handled so maturely, it really didn't feel sleazy.

I hope that in the next book Leila learns even more how to come into her own and free herself from her past. I hope she gets her happily ever after--in whatever form is best for her. I'm still not entirely sure how I feel about the love interest in this story, since I feel conflicted about his age and occupation in regards to Leila, but I do hope it turns out to be a good choice on her part. I give kudos to the author for making me feel connected to a more "literary" novel than I've read in a while.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Genuine and complex characters!

By Amazon Customer

Leila is a young girl who has faced many unusual circumstances in her life. She is trying to build a life for herself while keeping under the radar as she finishes her senior year of high school. Her mother is gone and her father has died, but she wants to be independent and stay "out of the system." As she builds relationships with friends, coaches, and teachers suspicions arise that make it difficult for her to remain anonymous. She has to face many trying situations as she moves forward attempting to protect those she cares for. I enjoyed this story and the many emotions and feelings expressed within this young girl and her ability to be both genuine and complex. Leila felt like a real person with so much going on in her life that she often did not know how to behave or continue to move forward. The story is written from the viewpoints of different

characters and was a good tool in showing the emotions of these characters. Overall, this was a good read! I received a free copy of this book from the author for review.

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