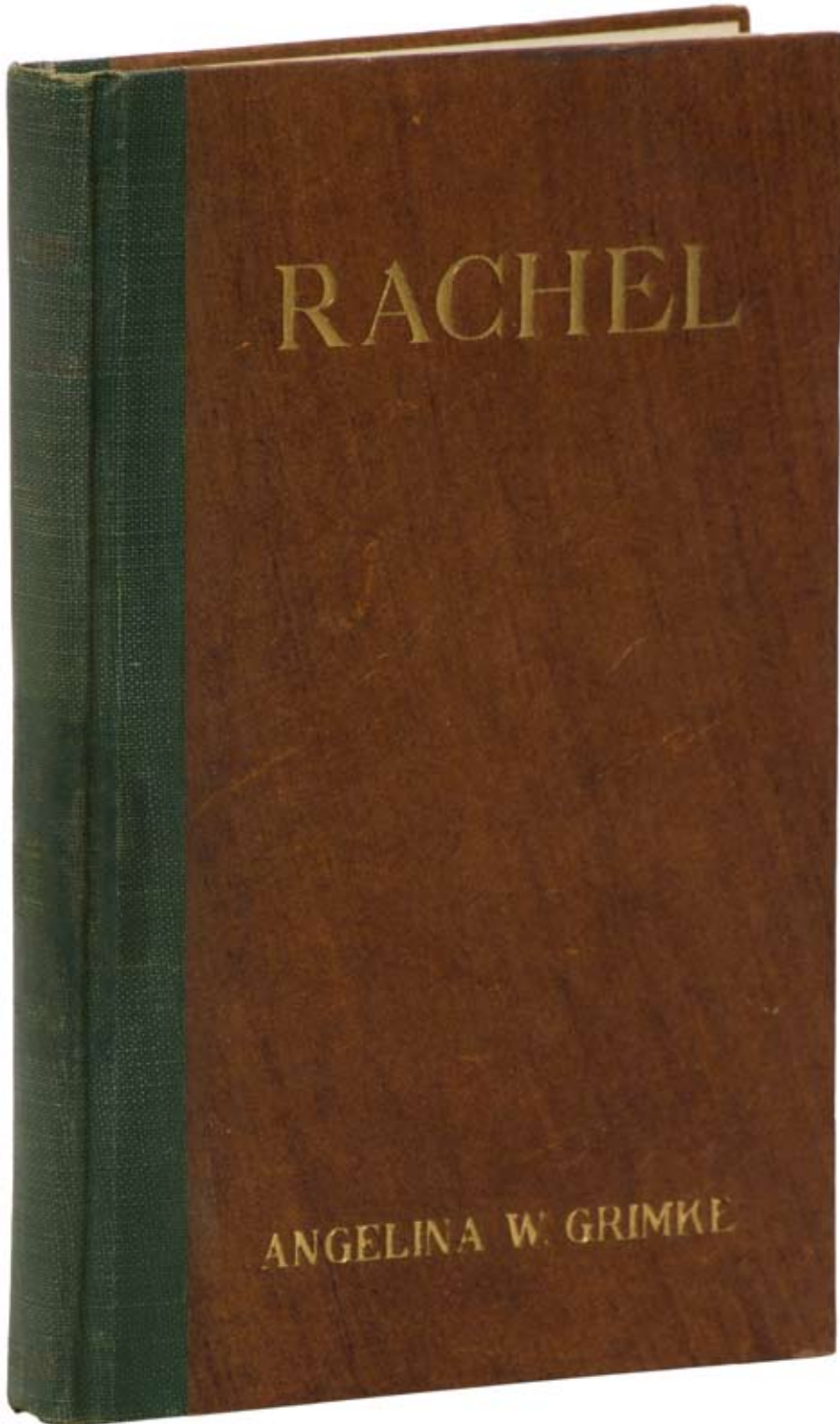


First Play by an African-American Woman

Angelina W. Grimké

Rachel: A Play in Three Acts

Boston: The Cornhill Company (1920)



First edition. Cloth and papercovered boards gilt. Very slight foxing on preliminary leaves, spine gilt a little faded, but otherwise a nice and square, near fine copy. Angelina Weld Grimké was named for her white great aunt, Angelina Grimké Weld. As a young woman Weld, along with her sister, Sarah Grimké, left South Carolina for the North in the early nineteenth century to avoid participating directly in the ownership of slaves, and where they became well-known abolitionists and advocates of women's rights. Angelina Grimké was the granddaughter of the sisters' slave-owning brother, Henry, and his slave Nancy Weston. *Rachel* is generally considered the first published and produced play by an African-American woman, first presented by the NAACP at the Myrtill Miner Normal School in Washington, DC in 1916, where Grimké was a gym and English teacher. It was also produced at the Neighborhood Theater in New York City and in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1917, and was first published in this edition in 1920.

RACHEL

A Play in Three Acts

ANGELINA W. GRIMKE



THE CORNHILL COMPANY
BOSTON

Alain Locke, in *Plays of Negro Life* (1927), said of *Rachel*, "Apparently the first successful drama written by a Negro and interpreted by Negro actors." The NAACP production program said of the play, "This is the first attempt to use the stage for race propaganda in order to enlighten the American people relating to the lamentable condition of ten millions of Colored citizens in this free republic." Exceptionally uncommon.
[BTC#399482]