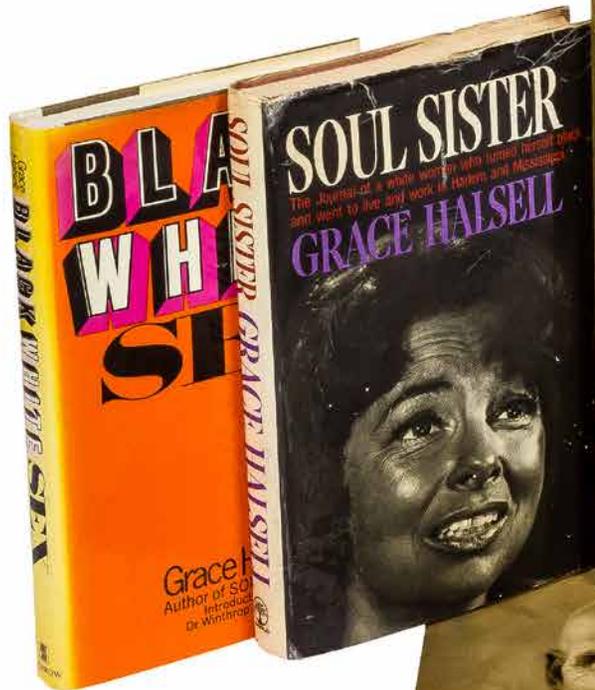




BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Grace Halsell and John A. Kenney Jr.

(Archive): An Archive of Books Inscribed by Grace Halsell as well as Photographs of the Dermatologist who Helped Her to Write Soul Sister

\$950

A collection of two books, four loose photographs, two framed photographs and two inscribed novels written by Grace Halsell kept by the African-American dermatologist who helped disguise Halsell for her investigation into African-American culture. The photographs are about fine with some light edge wear, the books are fine with very good dustwrappers with fading along the spine and small creases and marks on the boards.

An archive containing two books written by Grace Halsell, *Soul Sister* and *Black White Sex* as well as family photographs belonging to John A. "Jack" Kenney Junior. Halsell was an American journalist and writer that at one time worked as a White House speech writer for President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1965 to 1968. She wrote ten books, including her most notable novel, *Soul Sister* which is included in this archive and has been signed and inscribed to Kenney Jr., an African-American dermatologist who helped Halsell go undercover as a black woman for the novel. Halsell during her life disguised herself as an African-American, Hispanic, Indian, and as an indigent laborer to firsthand live the experiences of racial prejudice people of color faced every day, "I wanted only to open my mind, my eyes, my pores to the dilemma of race in America, and to share those experiences without making claims to the discovery of fresh truths about ourselves... I was cast in a twin, paradoxical role of oppressor and oppressed". For her part in *Soul Sister*, Kinney helped Halsell change the color of her skin through sun and pill treatments. When Halsell passed away she left \$800,000, the bulk of her estate, to Howard University in Dr. Kenney's honor.

The inscription left to Kenney reads, "A marvelous doctor and best of all a friend. With deep esteem and appreciation for going on the journey with me, all the way". The photographs are of Kenney's family and fellow doctors posed in front of the Leonard C. Hanna House at Cleveland University. Kenney, was one of the first African American doctors to be trained in dermatology and his focus was on skin diseases affecting non-white populations. He worked as a doctor at Howard University in Washington, D.C. until 1999, four years before he passed away at the age of 89. He also was a former president of the National Medical Association, started by his father for African American physicians.

An archive belonging to the late John A. "Jack" Kenney Jr., the man who helped Grace Halsell tan her skin for her book, *Soul Sister*, which is included in the album, signed and inscribed. A selection of images follows. [\[BTC#425525\]](#)

For Jack Kenney, a
marvelous doctor and best of all -
a friend. With deep esteem
and appreciation for going on the
journey with me, all the way.
For you - and your family,

Grace Halvull

November 1969

2401 CALVERT STREET, N.W.
APARTMENT 618
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

April 24, 1972

Dear *Mary.*

I want to thank you again for your past interest in SOUL SISTER.

I have completed a book on BLACK/WHITE SEX, to be published June 16th by William Morrow & Co. It explores the extent that sex is the basis of racism, through the experiences and words of racial mixed couples, South and North.

The interviewees spoke with unusual candor about their black-white sexual relations and how both the black and white communities reacted to them. I know the book will stimulate Americans to deal with an issue too long ignored or too deeply buried within tortured and ambivalent psyches.

It is an effort to light up some of the obscure areas of prejudice and discrimination in America. I wanted you to be among the first to know about the book, and I will be available to discuss it at greater length, and my own experiences in preparing and writing it. You may want to reach me through Sherry Arden at William Morrow, (212) 889-3050.

Hope to see you soon, Mary.

Sincerely,

- Grace

Grace Halsell

*Mrs Mary Finch Holt
2801 New Mexico Ave
Washington D.C. 20007*



To Jack
Gentry