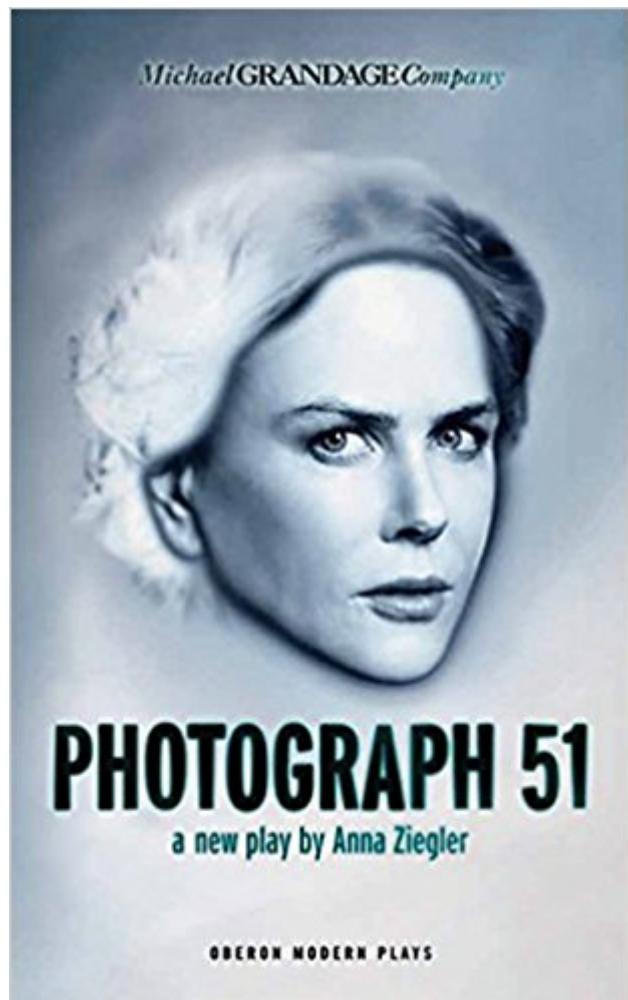


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Photograph 51 (Oberon Modern Plays)



Synopsis

Nicole Kidman made her much-anticipated return to the London stage in the fall 2015 West End production of this new play by Anna Ziegler, about the woman who discovered DNA.

Book Information

Series: Oberon Modern Plays

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Oberon Books (March 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1783199350

ISBN-13: 978-1783199358

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,665,508 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #371 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Women Authors #1987 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Performing Arts > Theater #3150 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > American Literature

Customer Reviews

This is a tough look at the role of Rosalind Franklin's x-ray diffraction photograph in the discovery of DNA's structure. The men in the play, particularly Jim Watson, come off as insensitive and sexist, but Franklin herself is shown as prickly and defensive. The sorriest figure in the play is Maurice Wilkins, who would have liked to get along with Franklin but never seemed to know how to speak without offending her. The play necessarily foreshortens the action--Franklin actually lived and worked successfully for many years after the Watson & Crick model was discovered, and she was gracious about the discovery. In fact, she and Watson interacted peaceably about tumor viruses long after the clashes depicted in the play. I wish the play could have shown a little more of the positive, exciting, and often collaborative side of scientific discovery, but I'm impressed by how it shows how personality clashes can derail a chance of collaboration.

Excellent.

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