

# Matzo Balls

Jordan R. Young





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# MATZO BALLS

By

Jordan R. Young

## CAST

SHIRLEY HOLMES: An inquisitive 65-year-old retired homemaker.

DOTTIE WATSON: A slightly befuddled 70-year-old grandmother.

LAINIE MOSKOWITZ: A sharp-tongued cook at Sunny Acres retirement home.

MAXINE LESTRADE: A no-nonsense police inspector.

PATRICK MORIARTY: A 60-year-old Irish Protestant clergyman.

RADIO ANNOUNCER: A smooth resonant voice, heard but not seen. May be spoken by the actor playing Moriarty.

### Place

The living room of Sunny Acres, a New Jersey retirement home.

### Time

The present.

Setting: *The living room of Sunny Acres.*

At Rise: SHIRLEY HOLMES and DOTTIE WATSON are sitting at a card table, engrossed in Casino, a game of cards. LAINIE MOSKOWITZ is curled up in an easy chair with a novel. They are plainly dressed.

HOLMES shuffles a deck of playing cards; WATSON cuts the deck and HOLMES deals them out: four cards each of them, and four cards face up. WATSON studies her hand and makes a face.

WATSON: You call this a hand?

HOLMES: A hand is a hand.

WATSON: What kind of cards are these?

HOLMES: Playing cards.

WATSON: Smarty pants.

HOLMES: We'd better hurry up if we're going to get in another game before the show, Dottie.

WATSON: Hurry schmurry, with cards like this, what's the difference?

MOSKOWITZ: Shush!

WATSON: This isn't a library, Moskowitz.

MOSKOWITZ: People are trying to read.

WATSON: So what?

MOSKOWITZ: Some of us are trying to expand our minds.

WATSON: Some of us have a high opinion of ourselves.

HOLMES: Never mind already, let's play.

WATSON: What's the rush, Shirley? You got an ace up your sleeve?

HOLMES: Wouldn't you like to know?

*(WATSON plays a second card. HOLMES reaches out with a card from her hand, and scoops all the cards off the table.)*

WATSON: Big shot.

HOLMES: At my age, I haven't got time to mess around. *(She checks her watch and hurries to turn on the radio.)*

RADIO ANNOUNCER: And now it's time once again for Radio Mystery Theatre. Time for another classic episode of *Sherlock Holmes* from the golden age

of radio, starring Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson—

*(Moskowitz climbs out of her chair and turns off the radio.)*

MOSKOWITZ: Must we listen to that infernal racket again?! Golden age of radio, my foot. I remember when silence was golden.

HOLMES: Only you would remember that far back, Moskowitz.

MOSKOWITZ: One more crack like that and you may find yourself uninvited for lunch. *(exits)*

WATSON: Wiseacre.

HOLMES: She's a pain in the behind, but she makes a mean apple strudel. And her upside down cake is to die for.

WATSON: Stop, you're making me hungry, Shirley.

*(Moskowitz reenters, wearing an apron.)*

MOSKOWITZ: I think I'm losing my mind. Last night there was a huge bowl of them, and now they're all gone.

HOLMES: What are you talking about?

MOSKOWITZ: I saw them with my own eyes, and today they're nowhere to be found—

WATSON: All right, already. What's missing?

MOSKOWITZ: You're not going to believe this—

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