

# Cougar on the Green

James Keller



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COUGAR ON THE GREEN

By

JAMES KELLER

CAST

MISS MULLIGAN: A golf club secretary, sixty.

MRS. O'NEILL: A healthy ninety-two. White hair. Well dressed. Elegant.

EDITH: A fellow golfer.

Place

A golf club.

Time

The present.

SCENE 1

*Setting: A room with a desk, a couple of chairs and a telephone.*

*At Rise: MISS MULLIGAN is at the desk. MRS. O'NEILL enters and addresses the audience.*

MRS. O'NEILL: Good evening. Please don't tell anyone, but recently I almost disappeared. Well, not altogether you understand. Just from the golf course or to be more specific, from my golf club. It happened like this...(She goes and sits at the table facing MISS MULLIGAN.) So, that's my situation.

MISS MULLIGAN: Is that it?

MRS. O'NEILL: Yes. I just wanted the committee know what I felt would be fair.

MISS MULLIGAN: Fair, Mrs. O'Neill?

MRS. O'NEILL: Yes, I can't see why as a ninety-two-year member...

MISS MULLIGAN: But you can't have been a member of the club for ninety-two years, we were chartered thirty years ago.

MRS. O'NEILL: I am ninety-two and a widow, and I can't see why I cannot receive a senior discount.

MISS MULLIGAN: It's not a matter of age. It's a matter of principle. The equity of the club has its charter. You signed that charter and all members of the club, regardless of age, when they sign for the club, agree to abide by the rules of the charter.

MRS. O'NEILL: And so Henry and I did.

MISS MULLIGAN: Henry?

MRS. O'NEILL: My husband. He was a scratch player. I took it up to keep him company. We were members of this club for twenty-one years. I went on following the rules...both the club rules and golf rules...after my husband's death, seventeen years ago. But now, I am ninety-two—

MISS MULLIGAN: I know how old you are. You have told me several times already this morning. The club committee appreciates that you lost your husband twenty-one years ago.

MRS. O'NEILL: Seventeen years ago.

MISS MULLIGAN: Seventeen year ago. But not wishing to be unkind, husbands die, wives die, club members die, but the club goes on.

MRS. O'NEILL: The king is dead, long live the club.

MISS MULLIGAN: I wouldn't put it quite like that, Mrs. McNeil. My first and last consideration...or rather...the first and last consideration of the club and our committee is to implement the club rules. And to see that they are followed by all members. We cannot give any concessions or make any exceptions to the rules.

MRS. O'NEILL: My friend Livia was.

MISS MULLIGAN: Was what?

MRS. O'NEILL: Accepted at the age of eighty.

MISS MULLIGAN: You must be mistaken. Not at this club.

MRS. O'NEILL: No, at the Olgiata Club.

MISS MULLIGAN: Never heard of it.

MRS. O'NEILL: It's Italian.

MISS MULLIGAN: Oh. New Jersey.

MRS. O'NEILL: Rome. Italy.

MISS MULLIGAN: Well, the Europeans have their way of doing things, and we have our way.

MRS. O'NEILL: Miss Mulligan, I am quite happy to go on paying the senior monthly fee for my weekly use of the course, but I can't see why I can't let go of the full membership.

MISS MULLIGAN: Mrs. O'Neill, I don't write the club rules and no one is forced to join the club. The committee simply isn't comfortable with reducing your or any other member's fees, unless that is, you pay the difference in the monthly fee and the current fee to join the club. We did write to you about it.

MRS. O'NEILL: Could you remind me of the amount, please?

MISS MULLIGAN: Yes, it would be \$5750.

MRS. O'NEILL: I would have to pay \$5750 to become a senior member of a club of which I've already been a member for seventeen years?

MISS MULLIGAN: That's one way of putting it. As you know, this course is not expensive, not say, compared with Pebble Beach. But our course is not—

MRS. O'NEILL: A dog track?

MISS MULLIGAN: It most definitely is not. The course is well maintained.

MRS. O'NEILL: And that's expensive and costs are rising all the time.

MISS MULLIGAN: I'm so glad that you're getting that now, Mrs...do you mind if I call you by your first name?

MRS. O'NEILL: I most certainly do. Miss Mulligan, we aren't friends, nor are we ever likely to be friends. This is a membership matter and nothing else, is it not?

MISS MULLIGAN: Very well, Mrs. McNeil—

MRS. O'NEILL: O'Neill.

MISS MULLIGAN: As representative of the club committee, I can say no more than what I have already stated. I look forward to seeing you carrying your clubs on the course again soon. I know Jack Walters for one admires your swing, and Ben Lewis is always telling whoever buys him a drink in the club house about your two holes-in-one. But if you'll excuse me, I must go, I have another meeting.

MRS. O'NEILL: Oh, by the way, Miss Mulligan, do you play golf?

MISS MULLIGAN: I do not.

MRS. O'NEILL: Then you miss out on an awful lot.

MISS MULLIGAN: I'm sure, now if you'll excuse me--

MRS. O'NEILL: Not just the game, but the social aspect. I mean the things you overhear. You sometimes realize it's not just about the golf. It can be about anything but golf. It's about what people say when they play golf. Between holes or between shots. Deals. Loopholes. Gimme-fives, and it's money-for-nothing. Or, "We all have our price" and "What's yours?" and someone answers, "St. Andrews." And then weeks later, you see the same players again and one says to the other, "How was St. Andrew's?" And the other says, "Great. Single malt whisky in the club house, and I broke a hundred for the first time at St. Andrew's! In Scotland. And it didn't rain! And now, I'm CEO of Strategy Group Inc." Things overheard on this course. But you don't play golf?

**END OF FREEVIEW**

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