CHARLENE

What?

CHARLIE

You had all those weather-beaten stacks of old LP's you got from that crazy old man of yours …

CHARLENE

He didn't like you, either.

CHARLIE

Yeah. And you'd play them non-stop and sing all day long. Kind of drove me crazy. Whatever happened to all those records?

CHARLENE

Still have them. Still singing.

(She brings the drinks, sits, and offers a toast)

Here's to crime.

CHARLIE

(Holds up the papers)

How can you live with all these rules? You might as well be in prison.

CHARLENE

Not in prison, Charlie. In the moment.

CHARLIE

In the moment?

CHARLENE

Exactly. You never stay in the moment, Charlie. You're either looking back, thinking of retribution against those you think have done you wrong. Or looking ahead, trying to figure out how to exploit those who you think are pigeons. It's no wonder your life's a mess.

CHARLIE

Hey.

CHARLENE

But I've learned to stay in the moment, Charlie. I read up on it, and it's changed my life. It's, you know, meditation. Now, I just stop and take a look … at my thoughts, emotions, sensations, without judging them. And playing by the House Rules, and following that schedule, helps me do that. I'm healthier, my blood pressure is down, and it's done wonders for my golf game.

CHARLIE

Golf game? You don't play golf.

CHARLENE

If we happened to be out on the course, if I were you, I wouldn't bet on it, Charlie. Now, on every shot, I stay in the "present moment." I clear my mind of all the trouble on the fairway ahead, of all the mistakes I've made in the past, and of all the instructions I've received on how to hit the ball, and I just ... hit it. And, most of the time, it's a good shot. My mantra is, "Hit 'em straight, and not too often." It's taken all the stress out of my life. And let me be clear. I will continue to lead a stress-free life, whether you vote yea or nay.

CHARLIE

Well, Charlene. It's pretty clear. You don't want to have me around here.

CHARLENE

Once again, Charlie. You're not staying in the moment. I never said I didn't "want" to have you around here. I simply tried to make it clear, that I don't "need" to have you around here. Don't you see, you lucky schmuck. It's very clear. You can do whatever you want. It won't bother me.

CHARLIE

But, if I stay here, I'll have to follow all these damned House Rules, listen to you sing all day, and probably get trounced on the golf course.

CHARLENE

And, of course, see to it that there is always cream in the refrigerator.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

(Pause)

I don't know.

CHARLENE

Charlie, you seem to be under a lot of stress. Why don't you just sit back, take a couple of deep breaths, enjoy your cocktail, and let your subconscious take care of all the decision-making.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well …

(He sits back, takes deep breath, exhales, looks at his glass, and takes a sip)

Boy. This is very good scotch.

CHARLENE

Black Label.

CHARLIE

That's good stuff. It does relax you.

CHARLENE

There. See? You know … for maybe the first time in your life, you look to be in the "present moment." What do you think?

(Pause)

CHARLIE

I don't want to think.

CHARLENE

Well. Welcome to the club, Charlie.

BLACKOUT

(Sound of referee's whistle)

END OF PLAY