

CHARLIE SHEEN & DENISE RICHARDS JUST WANT A NORMAL LIFE

He works a steady job. She's learning to cook. They avoid paparazzi. And in their free time, they take baby Sam swimming in the pool—without a nanny in tow. Here, the couple talks about why *this* is the life they love.

By Anna David
Photographed by Jack Guy

➤ A decade ago, the last place one might have expected to find Charlie Sheen in the middle of a fall day would have been sitting outside a Starbucks in the San Fernando Valley—with a wife by his side and an 11-month-old baby girl in his arms, no less. But here he sits, gazing adoringly at Denise Richards, his wife of nearly three years, and pleading with their daughter, Sam, to “give Dada a burpus.”

The former poster boy for delinquent behavior had cleaned up his act by the time he met Denise on a film set (for *Good Advice*, a romantic comedy) four years ago. The attraction was immediate and mutual, but work conflicts (Charlie had just signed on to replace Michael J. Fox on *Spin City*) kept them from dating until a year-and-a-half later, when Denise showed up to guest star on *Spin City*. Sparks flew again—and this time, the timing was perfect. “After one or two dates, I knew he was the one,” says Denise.

When it comes to Charlie, Denise is as generous with her actions as she is with her words. Today, when she notices that Charlie is facing the sun, she's concerned. “Is