

that hurting your eyes?" Charlie nods quickly, looking like he might not have brought it up if she hadn't, and before he can utter a word, Denise shoots up out of her chair asking, "You want to switch places?" He nods again, looking almost embarrassed, as Denise settles into the sun-soaked seat.

As her parents trade places, baby Sam barely makes a fuss in her stroller. Charlie and Denise are so involved in parenting that not only is there no requisite multi-nanny brigade for their Hollywood child, but it didn't even occur to them to leave Sam at home for this afternoon's interview. "I don't want someone else raising our daughter," Denise says. Charlie adds, "We're finding out that [not having live-in help] is unusual."

Charlie and Denise seem like almost any new family, discussing how they balance parenthood with their respective busy careers. As they taste samples of Cranberry Bliss Bars and nurse double-shot espressos, only the interruption of one enthusiastic fan resets the stage for this interview with a modern Hollywood couple.

THEIR HOLLYWOOD LOVE STORY

Before you met, what did you think about each other, based on what you'd seen and heard?

● **Denise:** I had no preconceived ideas about Charlie. After I did James Bond and Wild Things, people had a perception of me that wasn't accurate, so I never judge people by their interviews or movies or whatever.

● **Charlie:** [glancing at Denise]: Sorry, but this is the hottest thing on the scene in the last 50 years. Long before I met her, I was with a buddy of mine watching *Wild Things* and I said, "If I ever got a shot at hooking up with her, I'd be done."

● **Denise:** Really? I didn't know that, honey.

Did you ever think that one day you might be at a Starbucks in the Valley with Denise and your baby?

● **Charlie:** No, my fantasy didn't go that far—usually it ended with that first weekend in Hawaii. [Denise laughs.] I was just completely taken with the whole image.

Why do you make a good couple?

● **Denise:** Right away it just clicked. We have so much in common, but on a deeper level, we really connected. I knew he was my soul mate. I couldn't imagine my life without him.

What do you have in common?

● **Charlie:** We're both very free-spirited. We're not into over-exposing that part of what we do professionally. We cherish our privacy. We don't judge each other, which is important. I'm not trying to make Denise into the person I think she needs to be in order for us to remain a unit, and she's the



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same with me. There's a freedom that allows us to be one, but to be individuals as well.

What was it about the other that drove you crazy in the beginning?

● **Denise:** Charlie flosses his teeth a lot. Even early on, he wasn't self-conscious about it. We'd be watching a movie and, all of a sudden, I'd see him with his floss out. But it didn't drive me crazy—I thought it was really cute.

● **Charlie:** I have very specific, super-fine, high-end gold work in my mouth, and it's created gaps. The flossing is more about removing the particles for comfort than about hygiene.

● **Denise:** Still, I found it endearing.

What romantic things does Charlie do for you?

● **Denise:** I came into the marriage with four dogs, and he's so good with them. He also sends me flowers all the time. At home, and when I'm working. When I get to the hotel, there are flowers. When I get to my trailer, there are flowers. On Mother's Day, he sent me, like, 20 arrangements. That's a lot of flowers!

What romantic things does Denise do for you, Charlie?

● **Charlie:** Everything she does is romantic. You know, notes and cards and flowers and back rubs and so on and so forth. And I save all that stuff. There are files, even of e-mails that we sent each other early on. They're like love notes.

MEET THE PARENTS

How has having a baby changed things?

● **Denise:** Individually, we've changed, and also as a couple. We both looked at each other in the hospital and said, "My God, I've fallen in love with you even more." It's so beautiful, when we stop and think, "God, we really created her."

● **Charlie:** It changed things immediately and forever. Suddenly you've got to step up and do things you can't plan for, that can't be taught. There's a whole portion of parenting that has to be innately understood. On-the-job training occurs. (continued)