



"I'D LIKE TO RETIRE AND BE A FULL-TIME DAD. I WANT TO DO MORE LIVING AND LESS WORKING." —CHARLIE

Do you switch off parenting duties?

● **Denise:** When Charlie's working [on his CBS sitcom, *Two and a Half Men*], I'll get up with her. And during his weeks off and on the weekends, he'll get up with her. But we both feed her. We love bathing her, playing with her, changing her.

Charlie, how is parenting different the second time around? [Charlie's older daughter, Cassandra, by high school girlfriend Paula Profit, is now 20.]

● **Charlie:** It's completely different. I was Cassandra's age now when I had her. I was never involved in the day-to-day parenting and the responsibility of raising an infant.

How has Sam's birth changed you?

● **Charlie:** Denise took to parenting like a duck to water. I was just amazed at how organically she embraced it. She does most of the work.

● **Denise:** Charlie's always been very compassionate, but he's become very playful. Also, an unbelievably sensitive part of him emerged when she was born.

Do you catch him playing with Sam when he doesn't know you're around?

● **Denise:** I can hear him on the monitor sometimes, playing with her or singing to her. It's so sweet for me to walk into our bedroom and find him watching a ball game and she's sitting right next to him.

Are you talking about having more kids?

● **Denise:** Eventually.

● **Charlie:** Yeah, because the "only children" that we know—with the exception of Richie Sambora, who's a good friend of ours—have been problematic. In fact, I can't think of any other only child that isn't completely screwed up.

● **Denise:** I have a sister and Charlie has three siblings, so I can't imagine not having that.

● **Charlie:** I'd really like to retire in the next five years and be a full-time dad. When you do what we do, sure, it's an amazing experience and you get to do and see things and meet people that most of the world doesn't. But at some point there's a lot of normal life going by that we're not present for, and I don't want to be 60 wishing I had embraced that 20 years earlier. I just want to do more living and less working.

A LIFE WORTH LIVING

Do either of you cook?

● **Denise:** I just started. We were getting our food delivered, and I figured one day Sam will be old enough to eat the food and I can't always just have plastic containers, so I started cooking.

● **Charlie:** Denise is a great cook. She makes the basics, Italian.

● **Denise:** I make chicken Parmesan and steak. That's it. I really need to broaden what I do. Thank God he's not picky and doesn't have a refined palate. I'm going to take a cooking class.

What do you like to do together?

● **Denise:** We do, I guess, what normal people do. We go to dinner, go to the movies. We love swimming in our pool with Sam. We have a little inner tube that she fits in, and we push her around.

Denise, did you have any reservations about posing for *Playboy* [last December], just four-and-a-half months after giving birth?

● **Denise:** At first I did, but Charlie was really supportive, and then I thought, Why not? People will have their opinions, but I'm glad I did it. Now I'm a part of something that's been a part of our culture for a really long time. I didn't gain a ton of weight during my pregnancy—I was consistent with my diet and exercise. Still, two weeks before the shoot, I was panicking—it was like, Oh, my God, I can't believe I'm doing this so soon.

Charlie, did you have any reservations about Denise's decision?

● **Charlie:** For a nanosecond, but then I thought, I'm a fan of the magazine and I'm a fan of my wife, so who am I to say, This is something I need to interfere with? I thought, I could look at this like a shallow, jealous jerk, or like a guy who says, "How many guys' wives are looking like that in *Playboy*?"

● **Denise:** Charlie picked the pictures—I couldn't do it myself.

● **Charlie:** It was a spectacular layout. Lots of people will think Sam's adopted when they see [Denise's body].

Denise, you've talked about wanting to produce someday. Is that still an interest of yours?

● **Denise:** I think there need to be more scripts for women. There are so many great movies where it's all men and just one girl. But I have my hands full at the moment, with a husband and a child.

● **Charlie:** Make that two children. [Both laugh.] □