



July 12, 2007 -- 'THERE IS no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy,' wrote Robert Louis Stevenson.

YOU MIGHT know by now that the talented and controversial **Charlie Sheen** has become engaged to one **Brooke Mueller**, aspiring actress and lovely girl whose hobbies are real estate and interior decorating.

Here's my part of the real lowdown. Charlie and Brooke met back in April 2006, at a party in the home of **Brett Ratner**. Brooke isn't a party girl, and Charlie, a reformed character, isn't either these days, so they keep wondering how they got so lucky as to meet.

The "Two and a Half Men" star of the CBS comedy sitcom hit took Brooke down to Costa Rica for a brief vacation. They were jet-lagged, says Charlie, but he surprised her with a "Welcome to Costa Rica" gift - a Patek Calatrava watch from Robert Maron with engraving on the back that read "B. - Wanna get married? . . . Love - C." It caught Brooke totally off-guard. Then Charlie produced a radiant cut, 11-carat, natural yellow diamond set in a platinum ring. He'd had it created by Alon Barak of Beverly Hills.

Brooke was amazed. "Once I put the ring on her finger," says Charlie, "you've never seen two happier people in your life." Friends believe their wedlock will happen sooner rather than later. This would make a third marriage for the legendary Mr. Sheen, who has settled down since his tumultuous divorce from **Denise Richards**, the mother of his two little girls.