

would explain quietly.

But, with Shirley's loving help, he began finally to have a real father-son relationship with Jack. "He and I get along fine," he says now. "It's a pleasant relationship."

But now his father's marriage to Shirley, too, is ending. (See page 60.) And David is once again caught in the middle, forced to feel he must choose sides between his father and

stepmother as once he had to choose between his father and mother.

Yes, he is deserving of sympathy. But he doesn't want it! David is proud of his own strength in the face of family adversity. He has been through this before, and he knows this time that he's up to it.

Since the Cassidys' split, he has gone right on with his regular visits to Shirley and his three half brothers. He doesn't see his father so often, but he doesn't intend to let his warm relationship with either side of the family fade away.

At the same time, he remains close to Evelyn Ward, his real mother. He attributes his show business awareness to her, even though he says his parents had nothing to do with his career. "No one really did. I did it myself."

If a star has personality problems, it is on the set that they invariably come out. But David works well and gets along fine with everyone on the show. "All of the people on the show are positive and give off good vibes," he says, and they think the same of him. He has the professional discipline to be up at 6:15 on weekday mornings in order to be on the set on time.

Not long after the famous Burt Reynolds centerfold photo appeared in *Cosmopolitan*, David himself appeared in the buff in an issue of the rock publication *Rolling Stone*. His sardonic pose and the things he had to say in the accompanying article made a lot of people, especially some of his younger fans, adjust their thinking about the 'mild mannered' David Cassidy!

He is a remarkably stable young man, blessed with a marvelous optimism. "I have a lot going for me," he gratefully declares.

Talking about his success, he concludes that "The good parts far outweigh the drawbacks." About his mixed-up family life, he says he is "realistic." All in all, as you see David Cassidy sitting back to sip at his favorite beer, you realize that there's nothing he wants—or needs—less than pity.

