

now, though David has his own apartment, and his own involvements, he's well-aware of the harmony, or discord at home.

"Our separation wasn't easy for David," says Shirley. "He was over for a Thanksgiving once, and Jack was gone. You couldn't help but feel the vibrations. After 14 years of marriage, David was afraid to think that Jack and I had split for good. He'd watch me closely on the set, and know, without asking, how I felt. It was a bad time for all of us."

So it's not really surprising that David is careful about letting his feelings go. He's a little bit afraid that another Christy will steal whatever is left of his already claimed heart. And even if he does allow himself to become attached to a girl—even if he feels he's in love—it's hard to say whether or not he'll ever be able to forget Christy.

Yet there are several factors in David's favor. He's still not one of those "love 'em and leave 'em" playboys. His relationships with the girls he dates are, in general, very sincere. He doesn't pretend that he's in love with anyone, and he's not *trying* to make girls fall for him. It has to happen naturally, or not at all.

As Shirley says, "David is very mature for 20. It's his whole way of thinking and handling things. He's really grown. If something is on my mind, I can talk to David about it, and get some sound advice."

"I don't think that exposing him to the disagreements between his father and me have hurt him. Jack and I have never been more than just two normal human beings to any of our boys. We've tried to set good examples, but not at the cost of our relationship. No one likes their children to hear them fight, but I want my children to know that they can disagree, or argue, and still love and respect each other."

David may still be carrying the love of another girl in his heart, and he may still carry one or two scars of a broken romance, but he does have a lot of things going for him. He's exposed to Shirley and Jack's brand of enduring relationship. He does see that love isn't peaceful and just as he would want it. Sometimes, once you've found the right person, there's a lot of work to keep things together, and even then, it may not be smooth sailing.

His personality is still genuinely happy and optimistic. Deep down he must realize that sooner or later the right girl will come along. He's not trying to push the situation, and by dating lots of girls, he's at least exposing himself to the possibility of becoming involved again. Whether an involvement would lead to marriage, isn't that important right now. He has to learn to accept his emotions, but not let them dominate him.

But most of all, he has to forget Christy, as the girl he still loves, at least. Her memory will probably remain, along with many other happy high school moments, but the thought of her can't keep David from withholding his heart, should another girl come along. And if the right girl does come along, he'll have to make up his mind whether he can love her fully, and faithfully, or if he'll continue being a secret *bigamist* . . . holding onto a secret that no man can really keep from a woman who is trying to love him. ●

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