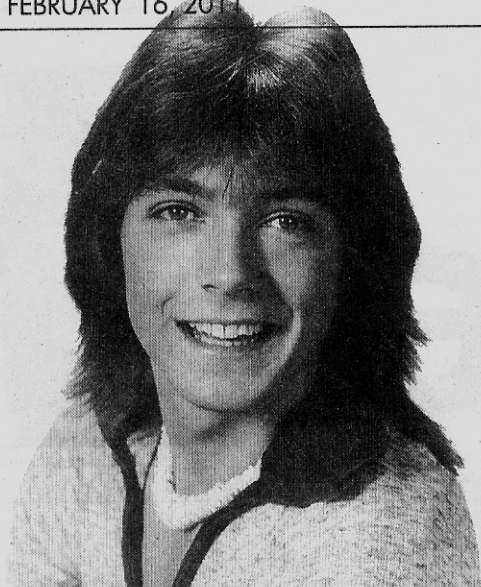


# Allison Pearson plays an idol tune

Author's homage to teen crushes centers on Cassidy



## I Think I Love You

By Allison Pearson  
Knopf, 331 pp., \$24.95

ABC

Allison Pearson grabs 1970s nostalgia by its weepy, pop-culture heartstrings in *I Think I Love You*, an homage to teen crushes and to one of the decade's most

### Review

By Carol Memmott

adorably androgynous superstars — David Cassidy.

Women of a certain age can look back on the early 1970s and know where they were on Friday nights with their hands clutched to their panting, just-blossoming bosoms — watching *The Partridge Family*, a family sitcom that starred Cassidy, the shaggy-haired boy-man, and his real-life stepmom, Shirley Jones. (Pearson's title is taken from a hit song from 1970's *The Partridge Family Album*.)

But darling David was not just an American phenomenon. The tentacles of adoration stretched around the world, and in Pearson's novel they reach a small town in Wales and the tender coming-of-age story of 13-year-old Petra Williams.

Petra and best mate Sharon are the ultimate Cassidy fans, poring over teeny bopper magazines, plastering their walls with posters of the teen idol that they smooch daily — until the possibility arises that they could meet their idol.

When the London-based *The Essential David Cassidy Magazine* publishes *The Ultimate David Cassidy Quiz* and promises to send the winner and a friend to Los Angeles to meet David on the set of *The Par-*

## 61 candles on cake; concerts on schedule

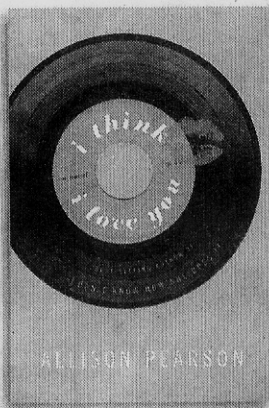
Before Justin Bieber there was David Cassidy. The singer/heartthrob was 20 when *The Partridge Family* became a TV sensation in 1970. Where is Cassidy today?



Getty Images

**Cassidy:** You remember me.

- ▶ He's still performing. For his 2011 U.S. performance schedule, visit [DavidCassidy.com](http://DavidCassidy.com).
- ▶ He'll perform in London on April 12 (his 61st birthday) to commemorate his first concert in the U.K. 40 years ago.
- ▶ He'll appear on the new season of *Celebrity Apprentice*, which has its premiere March 6 on NBC.
- ▶ If you're too young to recognize his name, his daughter is actress Katie Cassidy, 24.



ALLISON PEARSON

*tridge Family*, Petra and Sharon believe they are shoo-ins.

Flip the channel 24 years into the future. It's 1998. Petra's mother has just died and her husband has just left her. While cleaning her mother's closet she comes across an old letter, one Petra has never seen, in which Petra has been notified she had won the contest.

What follows is the story of how a woman in her late 30s — who had already struggled with the psychic

pains of being a teenager, losing her parents and being abandoned by her husband — learns to move on.

Petra's story is sweetly told but not cloying. It captures the profound emotions we all learn to handle during our teenage years — and how young girls can't help but be swept up in a fever that makes them obsess over handsome pop stars.