



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE DAVID CASSIDY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ STORY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PART 18

Evelyn Ward was thrilled beyond words when David called her to let her in on the good news of his part in "The Fig Leaves Are Falling". Of course, she had realised what must be going on out East . . . After all, she'd been through it all herself in her early show business days. So all that time David had put on a brave front and tried to conceal his failures from her, he hadn't really kidded her one little bit. But she did admire her son for wanting to fight his own battles and for not seeking sympathy from other people.

For the first time in her life Evelyn found the telephone a frustrating monster. She wanted to be close to David at that moment, so she could show him with a big hug just how delighted she was with his success. Instead of that, all she'd got was the cold comfort of a telephone receiver in her hand and the knowledge that they were all those miles apart.

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Still, she cherished the bubbling excitement in David's voice . . . the pride that he had won through to success the hard way . . . He'd taken none of the short-cuts which she and Jack could have arranged for him through their contacts.

And, when David did finally settle down to read through his script properly, (later that night), he had another surprise in store . . . This part he'd got wasn't so small after all. In fact, it really was quite a sizeable one!

Of course, he knew that, as a beginner in the acting profession, he couldn't hope

for a co-star billing, but it was the sort of part that could quite easily have qualified for that if he'd been better known!

The play could have been better (you had to hunt a while before you could really track down the story-line), but then most musicals were like that. And the important thing was that his part was pretty good. This really could turn out to be the big break he'd been praying for!!

The play's basic situation was that you'd got this family: Mom, Dad and two kids, a son and a daughter. David was playing the son, which involved him in quite a noticeable amount of straight acting, plus a number of songs — some solo and some with the chorus.

He couldn't wait for the next rehearsal now! He'd imagined that he'd always be spending a lot of his time sitting around watching the other members of the cast working . . . But now he realised that it had happened that way on the first evening simply because they were scheduled to work on a part of the script where he was off-stage most of the time.

Well, getting up didn't present David with any problems next morning . . . Because this was the start of his first full day's rehearsal and he was determined to arrive bang on time.

So, early bird David was up and dressed in casual jeans and a T-shirt by the time the rest of the family were regaining consciousness (The sight nearly knocked them out again — it was so unusual!)

David seemed to get on well with everybody involved in the production.

Looking back on those times, he comments: "I was so happy to be working as a professional actor, I reckon I'd have