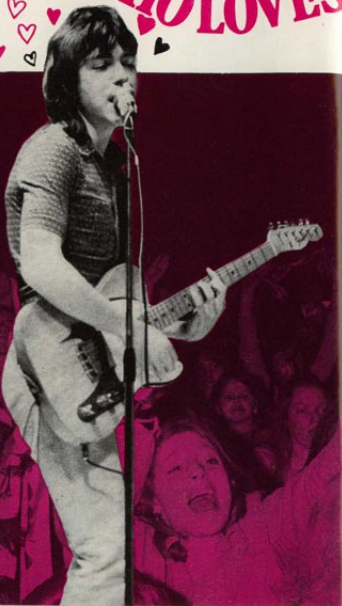


# THE GUY WHO LOVES



# 1,000,000 GIRLS

IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE GREAT TO BE LOVED BY MILLIONS, READ ON

Just imagine if you woke up one morning to find that there were a couple of million guys in the world madly in love with YOU!

Okay, so it sounds fantastic . . . Isn't it exactly what you've been dreaming about for months? But think a little more carefully about what it would really mean.

It may be great to dream about being the most sought-after girl or guy in the world. But, if it actually happens, you suddenly discover that you've got troubles like you've never had in your life before!

That's what David found anyway . . .

Not that he'd ever really had any trouble finding girl-friends right through from high school days. But his sudden shot to superstardom put things on an entirely different level and left him puzzled and frustrated:

## WHO, ME?

"When it finally dawned on me that all these girls really were going crazy over me," he told me recently. "I reckoned there should be something I could do in return. But I soon had to face it: there's no way you can love a million girls individually!"

At first, he really did try to do just that! He'd want to stop and chat to every fan who came up to him. He spared all the time he could signing autographs and just rapping with girls who queued up outside the recording studios, outside Columbia Ranch — and outside his front door!!!

But, even then, although he didn't realise it, he was only touching the tip of the iceberg. And soon, because of all the pressures that suddenly built up

on him, he had to stop doing even that.

To a large extent, David's fans brought it on themselves. Their deep and intense love for David made them get frenzied and greedy for his company, for just a glimpse of him. They didn't know when to call it a day . . . So David and his management had to decide for them.

## GROUPS OF GIRLS

For instance, in the early days of the Partridge Family show, David would often drive into Columbia Ranch in the morning and notice the group of girls standing clustered round the gate. He knew they were there to see him 'cos of the way they suddenly came alive with smiles and waves as soon as he came in sight — not to mention the barrage of autograph books he had to sign before rushing in to start his day's work.

Then maybe he'd be coming out for lunch and he'd recognise the same girls, still there. He reckoned that, if they thought it was worth spending a whole morning waiting for an extra glimpse of him, he'd better make it really worth their while. So he'd ask them in for the afternoon's shooting. It meant going to the trouble of getting passes for them, but David did that willingly and it always made him feel really good when he saw how much they were enjoying themselves and how excited they were.

That was fine. It was wonderful for the girls and for David. But the word spread . . . The crowds around the gate got bigger and bigger, with some of the girls pleading to be let in because their friends had been lucky in the past.

"When it had gotten to that stage," David explained, "it had

to stop. After all, we had to carry on with our normal work in there, and nobody would have thanked me for making each day's shooting 'At Home' for the David Cassidy fan club!

"Anyhow it's one thing for me to take it into my head to invite a few girls in; but it's quite a different thing when they are all clamouring and demanding it as though it was a kind of public right!"

That's a useful thing to remember as far as David's concerned, girls . . .

He's the kind of guy who's far more likely to notice you if you're standing alone in a corner just gazing at him . . . He'll see your feelings in your eyes. You don't need to advertise them!

You might think that sort of comment is just pie in the sky. But don't brush it aside too easily. Because it really does happen that way. It still does, although David is never left on the constant pressures of a pop idol. He still has time to notice.

## THOUGHTFUL

What is strange, and wonderful in its own way, is that very few people get to hear about this side of David: the thoughtful, sincere guy, who is always ready to show his love for any and every one of his millions of fans whenever he gets the chance.

Sometimes people notice . . . people like Linda Calvert. And, when we were talking on the 'phone recently, she told me about one occasion that has stuck vividly in her mind ever since it happened.

It was right at the end of last season's filming, around December time. Linda was on her way to the studios and passed by the usual crowd of