



thinking that I might let down all those wonderful people... And I couldn't bear to do that."

I was just about to reassure him that that would be an utter impossibility, when I glanced at his face and realised that he had drifted into a different world... A world of memories...

"You know, it's something I never can get over," he murmured, "and that's the way that, whenever my friends and fans cheer me, it's always like it was for the very first time... No matter how often it's happened before, it always comes as a surprise in a way.

## LUCKY

"I'd never go out in front of an audience thinking: 'Oh, it'll be all right 'cos I'm David Cassidy'. I reckon that, if I thought that, I'd be finished... dead.

"Of course, I'm specially lucky, 'cos I've got them with me before I even start... But I can't count on that. I've gotta go out there to give them a show that'd wow them even if they didn't know me from Adam... Do you understand?"

I did understand, and I suddenly realised why it was that David's act never lost its magic... Because he was always performing it for the first time—specially for YOU!

Finally, I got around to asking him the direct question: "Do you think your success has changed you, David?" For a moment I was certain that he was about to burst out laughing, but he just smiled that gorgeous smile, as he replied:

"How on earth should I know?! You should ask some other guy that question, not me! Sure, I've changed since the Partridge Family's

success... But then I can't help hoping that I'd have done that anyway!"

And he turned to me: "How would you like to stay as you were at nineteen all your life?"

A good point. But David isn't the sort of guy to avoid answering your question. He could well have left things there, but he went on to explain to me the differences his success had made in his life:

"I like to think that I'd have grown up in much the same way, whether or not," he pondered. "But I guess it would all have happened so much slower..."

"If you're just living your life in private, you can sort of drift from one thing to another and take the attitude that you'll let things take their course. But you can never do that when your life comes under the spotlight.

"All the time, your privacy and individuality are under threat. You're always in danger of being 'taken over' if you let go the reins for a moment. So you learn to cherish your individuality and fight for it.

## CHALLENGES

"After all, it's only by being faced by challenges that you can learn to cope with them. And the pressures of public life make good and sure that you meet up with plenty of challenges!"

It is pretty obvious that David doesn't make any claims to being the same as that nineteen year-old who soared to stardom. He has changed; he is ready to admit it — and he's even pleased about it.

But there are some ways in which he hasn't changed...

It's true that he's gone a long way since the days when

to own a battered rattle-trap of a car seemed like heaven... when he used to go into hiding the day the rent was due... when he could go a whole week without getting his teeth into a square meal.

Now he has two sensational cars and charters a jet if he needs to get somewhere in a real hurry... he has a dream of a home in Encino and a holiday base in Hawaii... he has investments worth thousands of dollars, and a staff to attend to his financial matters.

But, in spite of being surrounded by every form of luxury, David is still the sort of guy who enjoys a coke and a tuna fish sandwich as much as a champagne dinner...

## TEARS

He is the guy who is still genuinely moved to tears when he sees thousands of fans waiting to welcome him or wave him goodbye... He is thrilled every time a fan remembers his birthday, or makes a point of asking after his dogs.

For him, it is still the little things in life that are important. The genuine things.

David's sensational success has brought him fame and wealth. But it has not left him valuing acclaim and money above all things.

Instead, it has brought him to the full realisation of the importance of love, sincerity and simplicity.

David may have changed in some ways. But at heart he is still the same guy we all fell in love with.

And, after all, it's his heart that counts...

