

—Until then, he'd always thought of fan mail as being the sort of thing that happened to other guys. . . . Famous guys who'd really got themselves established as actors or singers.

He'd already decided that his fans must be pretty nice people to go for a complete unknown like him. What he didn't know was that they could also be pretty determined people.

They'd been waiting for someone like David to appear on their screens and enter their lives. And they weren't going to let him slip through their fingers! They wanted to know a whole lot more about this guy who'd stolen their hearts.

So they wrote up to the most popular teen magazines asking for information on David. They begged for photos and stories. And letter after letter told how they'd never felt this way about anyone before.

All this came as something of a surprise to the magazine editors. . . . Most of them had never heard of David Cassidy!!

Well, they didn't take too much notice of the first few letters they opened from Cassidy fans. . . . This could just be a flash-in-the-pan. They put it down as a case of a few girls being taken with some bit part player who'd probably never appear on the screen again. He'd be forgotten as quickly as he'd been 'discovered'.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT

But soon they couldn't ignore it any longer. . . . Every other letter seemed to be talking about this David Cassidy! They were coming in from all over the country. It was getting to be something of a national movement!

Who was this David Cassidy?

The magazines started getting a bit worried. . . . They'd missed out somewhere. Their readers seemed to know more about this guy than they did! And that wasn't the usual way it happened at all.

But they were also excited.

If this guy Cassidy could generate so much interest without any help from magazine publicity. . . . Well, then, he really had to be something special!

Gradually they fitted the jigsaw puzzle together. So far, David Cassidy had only appeared in a few guest slots. But it looked as if he could be coming up next season in a regular series.

Then it was David's 'phone that was ringing. Constantly. It seemed like all the teen magazines in America wanted something on him!

It didn't take him long to figure out the

pattern. But he still remembers that very first interview.

"My first reaction when I heard that the editor of Flip Magazine wanted to interview me," he recalled, "Was that one of my pals was playing a hoax. I couldn't imagine why anybody should want to write about me. After all, I knew enough about the entertainment world to know that magazines have to write what their readers want."

"But, if they wanted to talk to me, sure I'd talk. . . . I just hoped they hadn't gotten onto the wrong guy by mistake. Think how embarrassing it could have been if they'd planned on meeting a completely different David Cassidy!"

But, of course, it was nothing like that. And everything went smoothly—once David got out of bed! The interviewer arrived, with photographer in tow, at Sam's and David's Laurel Canyon home. She was dead on time, and waited for the door to open, wondering what sort of guy David would actually turn out to be.

"Sam answered the door," she tells, "Struggling to keep one of the dogs from getting outside. He got a bit embarrassed as he realised that this was David's interview—and David was still in bed!"

Well, Sam made the explanations sound as good as he could, and he settled the visitors in the living room. Then he disappeared to drag David out of bed!

Looking back now, though, David can see that this might have been the best possible way it could happen. "At least I was completely relaxed!" he laughed. "If I'd been sitting waiting all morning, I can guess how it would have gone. I'd have gotten myself screwed up into a ball of nerves so tight, that I'd have just snapped apart the moment the first question was asked."

"And they were both so nice about it! We had a good laugh, so it felt like we were good friends before we even started doing the official interview."

Before long David might be having second thoughts about interviewers being his friends. . . . At least, about some of them.

**DON'T MISS PART 39
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