

# THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 40

**T**hat party at the Bistro wasn't the first time that Judy Strangis had set eyes on David since their high school days. Of course, she had lost touch with him, especially after he moved out East. But she had never forgotten him. . . . She tells how.

"One night I switched on my television set, kind of absent-mindedly, and sat there just watching. I wasn't really following the story or anything.

"Then suddenly I saw this guy. And my first thought was: Gee, he reminds me of a boy I used to know at high school!

"I recalled David being pretty good in drama classes, but I'd never reckoned on him becoming a professional actor. Which is why, I guess, I didn't realise it was him right from the start."

But it didn't take Judy long to start wondering. . . . There just couldn't be two guys who were that alike!

## DAVID CASSIDY!

So, when the credits went up, she scanned the names of the actors eagerly. Arid—yes! There it was. She'd been right. It was David Cassidy!

He was in the same business as she was herself. How about that? Because Judy, too, had gone into show business. She had recently landed the role of Helen in "Room 222". But David didn't know about that. So she had something of an advantage over him when they did meet up again at that network party. That's why she was so surprised he recognised her like that.

She admits that, if he hadn't, she wouldn't have done anything to attract his attention.

"Well," she smiled in explanation, "He was

there with a beautiful date. And I reckoned he wouldn't want a third party butting in on that. Give me credit for some degree of tact! Anyhow, it seemed pretty unlikely he'd remember me after all the hundreds of girls he'd dated between times."

Judy herself had never been one of those lucky girls up till then. David had never dated her during their high school days, although he'd liked her a lot, because at that time she was dating with one of David's best friends. . . . The friend you must all have heard about: Kevin, who died so tragically in the November of 1970.

So Kevin was really the link that brought David and Judy together in the first place. And, perhaps, by his death, he brought them closer. Because, through that, they shared a deep, stunned grief for the friend they had both lost.

It's true that Judy had stopped dating Kevin a while back, but she was still very fond of him and tried to keep in touch from time to time.

She knew he was on drugs, and it worried her.

David knew too. Kevin had been one of the first friends he had looked up on his return to California. Since then they'd seen quite a bit of each other. And it gradually dawned on David that Kevin was fundamentally depressed.

"Of course, everyone gets depressed at times," he added. "I should know. . . . I'd spent something like two years going in and out of depressions like a soggy Jack in the Box! But with Kevin it was different.

"I sometimes wondered if it was a good thing our being friends. . . . You see, Kevin had also had ambitions to be an actor one time. But it hadn't worked out for him."

David couldn't help feeling that his success might rub in the fact of Kevin's failure and make things even worse. But, strangely, it didn't seem

