

real!"

In the story it was all happening very much as it did in David's own life. . . . Keith Partridge has suddenly become a national superstar, and he's discovering that fans can sometimes be a mixed blessing!

The setting is the Partridges' home—besieged by Keith's ardent fans, all longing for a glimpse of their idol. Keith tends to get it all a bit out of proportion and works on various "escape" routes and disguises.

"You'll never believe it," David smiled when we were rapping about this. "But there was a time when I tried to solve the problem exactly the same way Keith did! Like I'd wear dark glasses every time I set foot outside of my front porch—even if it was raining! And I'd turn my coat-collar up, maybe wear a hat, and keep my head down!"

"The idea behind all these antics was that if folks didn't see any little bit of me, they could hardly recognise who I was.

"It was a great theory," he laughed, "but unfortunately it didn't work too well in practice!"

"For instance, imagine me arriving in Hawaii with the temperature in the 90's. There's every-one else getting off the plane, cool and casual

## WRAPPED UP

. . . Then there's me, wrapped up fit for the Arctic winter! You don't get to be too inconspicuous that way. . . . But man, you sure do get to be hot!"

So playing Keith Partridge in "Love At First Slight" was almost a step into the future for David in some ways.

"In fact," he told me, "There were a lot of things in that script that have actually happened to me since. Not quite so exaggerated, of course. But it certainly proves that Steve Pritzker (the guy who wrote the script) knew what he was talking about."

For example, you get Keith falling for the one girl who is not swooning and chasing after him.

. . . Difficult to believe that any girl could resist him, sure. But it was all in the script!

Well, David reckoned that this reflected a very real problem: "Superstardom is a funny thing," he mused. "It gives you loads of confidence with one hand and, at the same time, it pulls it right out from under you with the other."

"Obviously," he explained, "You can't feel anything but fantastic when all these beautiful

girls are going crazy for you. I guess it's the most wonderful compliment any guy can get paid.

"So, one way, you feel that no one can touch you.

"But at the same time you're in constant danger of losing confidence in yourself as a person. Sure, you know you're a big public success. But that's not everything. And, in achieving that success, you can't help losing almost all your touchstones for measuring your success as a private individual.

"That can be awful frightening. And I know, 'cos there've been lots of times when I've felt it happening to me.

"You see, I figure it's only natural to want other folk to like and respect you. Some people may say it doesn't matter to them one way or the other, but I'd question that. Anyhow, it matters to me. Not what everyone thinks, of course. . . . But what my friends, and folk whose opinions I respect, think of me.

"Once you get to be a superstar it can be awful hard to gauge what people really think of you. Is the real 'you' they want to be friendly with—or the guy whose records hit the charts and who appears in all the magazines?"

"I don't know how I'm supposed to tell. . . . And, what's more, I don't know how they are supposed to tell! Sure, they love the David Cassidy they see and think they know. The big question, as far as I'm concerned is: do they know the real 'me', and, if they did, would they still be interested—even if I was a complete unknown?"

So far, David hasn't found the answer to that one. And, meanwhile, he tends not to take any risks. He can't afford to make any mistakes on this. . . . He's been hurt too many times before.

Back in the summer of '70, however, David was still blissfully unaware of the problems and heartaches which superstardom would bring him.

Although he'd been in show business for a while now, it seemed as though he was entering a new world—a world of security. And not just financial security either. . . .

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WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE  
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