



Fortunately for everyone (especially David) the cast were warm and friendly from the start.



That of course, is not too far from the David Cassidy story. After all, David's early life had been spent in West Orange, which was basically a small town. And, as *The Partridge Family* progressed, David could allow the character of Keith to mirror the same changes that David had gone through.

So after a while, the reporters who questioned David began to have an effect that no one had expected—they began to help David, because they made him think about what he was doing, to question his ideas and actions in a new way, a way he had never done before.

Of course, these were the good interviews.

And even though they were way ahead of the bad ones, there were still a few unpleasant things to be found in this new world.

"I guess just about the biggest disappointment was the tendency to lump me as 'a superstar' with everyone else who was also reckoned to be in that category.

"It was just the initial shock of seeing my picture with another guy, who I didn't know, and reading some screeching headline about 'Why David and Bobby Don't Mix.'"

The "Bobby" was Bobby Sherman, star of the popular American show, *Here Come The Brides*. Even though David and Bobby had never even met each other (not yet!), here was a headline announcing that they didn't like each other!

"And when we weren't being reported as bitter enemies," David said, "we were being presented as some kind of close friends!"

UPSETTING

One of the most upsetting things for David was the time he read in a magazine that he was self-centred. "I was really hurt by that at first. I went around to everyone, including Sam, asking them if they thought I was self-centred.

"Even then, I had to do it in a half-joking way, 'cos I couldn't have faced to be told 'Well, yeah, I guess maybe you are a bit.'"

Fortunately, David's friends could tell at a glance that, beneath the joking manner, he really was *bugged*. So they made sure he knew that, as far as they were concerned, the magazine had got it exactly *WRONG*. And David was very, very grateful for their support.

"I guess this was just about the same time that I began to realise how important my true

friends were. You know, you can take these things for granted until you really need them."

As David's popularity grew, he turned increasingly to his friends, people like Shirley Jones and Sam Hyman, as well as to members of *The Partridge Family* for criticism, advice and comfort.

And perhaps the best demonstration of what a nice guy David is is that they responded so well to his hard times.

David sometimes forgets one thing that none of his friends ever forgot: that David Cassidy was a pretty good friend to them when they needed him.

Take Sam for instance. With the immediate success of *The Partridge Family*, Sam was just as happy for David as he could possibly be. But, as many people could tell you, there was always the fear that fame might change David.

It wouldn't have been the first time.

But it wasn't like that at all for David. Sure, some things changed. It wasn't possible for David to go down to the shops any time he wanted to. So Sam took over, and David was greatly grateful.

Far from being swept away into the clouds with his new success, David was just as interested in Sam's career as his own. And when he could, he brought Sam even closer by giving him a job: Sam became a sort of personal secretary to David, just when David really needed someone he could trust.

Sam was overjoyed to have a job like that, and who wouldn't be? Not only was he doing an interesting and different job, but he was helping his best friend through a very difficult time.

And, the amazing thing is that not once did David treat Sam like anything other than a friend who was doing him a favour. Even when things were at their worst, David always remembered that he was, after all, not much different from the kid who had hung around on the beach with Sam. And Sam appreciated that, more than David realised. Because their friendship was just as important to him as it was to David.

So as time went on, David became accustomed to seeing his face and picture in the papers and magazines of Los Angeles.

DON'T MISS PART 4
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