

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 55

At the time, David was quite pleased about his first visit to Britain, although he returned to the States feeling shattered and rather depressed.

So many things had gone wrong—or had not “gone” at all. And, looking back on it, David certainly reckons that this was the least satisfying and least successful of all his trips to the U.K.

He'd got plenty of publicity all right, but some of it turned out to be the kind that left a nasty taste in his mouth. Although the staff at the Dorchester were unflinchingly polite to him personally, it was left in no doubt that he was not their idea of a welcome guest. There was even some pressure on him to move out!

They had no objection to David himself, of course. They just wanted to get rid of the swarms of fans who kept all the entrances barricaded throughout his stay, and who, incidentally, kicked up a fair din into the early hours with their chants for David. Many a sleepless millionaire must have cursed David Cassidy during that eventful week!

SECURITY MEN

Extra security men had to be called on duty and even they weren't enough to keep out the really determined fans. Suddenly there were new faces among the hotel staff padding along the thickly carpeted corridors, knocking discreetly at doors in the hope of finding the one door they were searching for. There was an extra laundry delivery, which turned out to have items only for Mr. David Cassidy. Girls haunted the garages and the service entrances, in the

hope that a back might be turned allowing them to slip in unnoticed. . . .

And always, day and night, rain and shine, there was an ever-faithful band of fans covering the main entrance, in defiance of all attempts from the security staff to keep them at bay. The girls themselves were fighting against depression for much of the time. Excitement carried them through the first twenty-four hours or so. . . .

Then hope took over for a while. . . . But they only got the rarest glimpse of their idol, in exchange for days of patient waiting through long, wet and hungry hours.

DIETING

In fact, many of the girls discovered a new way of dieting—thanks to waiting for David. . . . They were so afraid of leaving their post for the few minutes needed to go and buy food that many of them chose to go hungry rather than risk missing him. As they couldn't get in, they spent all their time longing for David to come out.

But little did they know how much David himself was feeling the same way!

There he was, his first visit to Britain, and he seemed to be spending ninety-nine per cent of his time in his rooms! Sure, there were plans for him to go on a sightseeing tour—but it rained. . . .

He was also scheduled to appear live on Top of the Pops, something he was really looking forward to—till the programme was cancelled to allow additional screening of the Winter Olympics.

David couldn't help thinking that somehow the Fates had been stacked against him. Specially when he was given a copy of his interview schedule!

Journalist after journalist turned up at reception, was escorted to David's room and then left

