



THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 6

Right from the start David had been against the idea of moving to California. He didn't need to be top of the class in geography (which he most certainly wasn't!) to know that California is a terribly long way from West Orange, New Jersey.

And that meant that he really did have to say goodbye to the family and all his friends in earnest. It wasn't just 'So-long' till he could drop in to see them all again the next weekend. David had put down firm roots and it hurt to wrench them up—especially when he couldn't see any good reason for it.

They were very happy, living with Evelyn's parents, and David idolised his grandfather. In fact, when Jack Cassidy was asked if David really admired anyone in particular when he was a child, he placed Grandpa Ward top of his list—even above himself.

Then, when David discovered that the move to California would also mean parting with his cherished pet—the family dog, Tips—he was heartbroken. Somehow he'd assumed that his dog, at least, would be there to keep him and his mother company in this strange new place she was insisting on taking him to. But everyone else agreed that Tips was too old to settle in a new home.

David sympathised . . . He was equally certain that HE would never settle there either—so it wasn't only old dogs who had that sort of problem.

Evelyn went through a terrible time . . . David's pleas to stay put in New Jersey certainly didn't make things any easier for her. And she, too, was very happy in the warm, loving atmosphere of her parents' home.

But she had to think of other things as well, like her work. She knew that, by staying in New York, she was severely limiting her chance of work and she was sure that things would be much better out West, where she had quite a few friends and contacts already.

But perhaps the most important consideration was that David had been parted from his real father long enough. They hadn't seen much of each other since the divorce and Evelyn forced herself to recognise that this was unfair to both Jack and David—especially now when David would soon be a teenager and really need the security of knowing that his father was still there for him to turn to with any fears or problems. Jack had moved West sometime before with his new bride, Shirley Jones, and they had since then had a son, Shaun, who was, of course, David's step-brother. Evelyn felt that it was important that David should not be cut off from this part of his family. The divorce had made her unhappy, but not bitter, and she was unselfish enough not to claim all of David's love for herself.

New Home

So Los Angeles became their new home, and David soon forgot how miserable he had been about moving . . . There were so many nice folks around and so many exciting things to do. In fact, Los Angeles turned out to be quite a nice place to live in altogether!

They found a lovely house, just right for the two of them, and, when the vacation ended, David started at Fairburn Grammar School nearby in Westwood.

The first few days in that new school were very strange for the new boy, and David still remembers his feelings of loneliness and not belonging. The awful part of it was that he was the only new guy in his class, so all