

David sat and thought for a while and then started to come up with a few special things that he needs in his love for a girl and hers for him. There were long pauses between some of his words, but I didn't push him at all, because I knew he just needed to sit there quietly and let the different ideas surface in his mind one by one . . .

Trust

"Well . . ." he began, "Trust would be absolutely essential between us right from very early on. I'd want my girl to stay friendly and popular with other guys, of course—but *definitely* not to flirt with them. Anyway, if she's gonna love me the way I need to be loved, I guess it just won't occur to her to flirt with anybody else!

"I guess she'd have to love me for what I am, and not for what she'd dreamed me up to be. I may be an actor—but not in my private life! So I know I couldn't go around under the strain of living up to somebody else's dream of me. Besides, I reckon I'd get to feel that I was claiming her love under false pretences if it went that way.

"No . . . She's going to have to be understanding, that's for sure, if she's going to love me along with all of my faults and annoying habits."

This was where I really longed to burst in and ask David just what he reckoned these mythical faults were! He certainly keeps them pretty well hidden, if you

ask me! But I didn't want to interrupt his train of thought and put him off the track, so I forced myself to stay quiet and wait till he continued:

"Really, it's tough to say in words what it is I hope to find in a girl . . . I guess a lot of the things sound a bit contradictory. Like, on the one hand, I want her to feel the same way I do about most things and I'd want to wrap her up in our love, as though she was the only one in the world who meant anything to me . . .

"But then, on the other hand, I want her to have a mind of her own! I don't really fancy a set-up where I play the 'big guy' and she's just the 'meek girl'. Seems like I'm on a hunt for some sort of miracle! But one thing I know for sure, I'm not going for the sort of 'yes' girl who just says things because she reckons they'll make her popular."

Suspicious

In fact, it soon came out that David is rather suspicious of any girl who never disagrees with anything he says. So often, he feels that they are calculating the effect that their words are having instead of talking from their hearts, which is how he likes it to be.

You see, David has to be very wary of girls who go for him just because he's a big star and they want to be seen on a date with him . . .

"I guess that's another good reason why I tend to call up an old girlfriend from way back in my high school days, before I made it big,

Or maybe I'll date an actress who I know has got plenty of the limelight in her own life . . . That way I can be sure that they aren't hoping I'll be their passport to the bright lights!"

Two things are definitely guaranteed to turn David right off. As he puts it:

"I do not like girls who are hung up materially . . . and I run like mad from any girl if I reckon she's sizing me up as a marriage prospect!"

Free and Easy

In fact, David's ideal girl wouldn't be the sort to 'size things up' in that kind of way. David gets on with girls who are free and easy in their approach to life and who "have a slight touch of craziness—in a fun sort of way." He added:

"You see, I want her to be feminine, but, when I talk about being 'feminine' I don't mean that she'll wear pretty dresses that she's afraid to lie on the grass in or cook my supper in—Hey! That's something else—my girl would be a marvellous cook—or, at any rate, she'd put a whole lot of effort into learning to cook. And she wouldn't be so ultra-feminine that she'd be scared of a gust of wind blowing her hair about. I like a girl who lets me muzz her hair about a bit—and who actually enjoys it!" (How about it, girls?)

I asked David if he could give a few tips on what 'feminine' did mean for him—so we could all start getting in some practice!

"It's things like being gentle and thoughtful about

other people . . . and loving weak things, like little children and animals . . . it's wanting to protect things (including me!) . . . it's a kind of grace in body and spirit . . . I guess, in the end, it comes down to being loving and lovable.

"And you know where you can see that—all in one glance!"

I shook my head. "In her eyes," David said with great conviction. "And I'm not talking about whether they are blue, brown, green, grey or whatever! No matter what colour eyes you've got, love shines out of them with a depth and a radiance that is really wonderful."

"When I see that in a girl's eyes and see it in my own eyes reflected in hers . . . then I know that I have fallen in love."

Fallen in Love

"Yes, I have fallen in love a few times in the past," he admitted, answering my next question before I even had a chance to ask it! "But there has always been something there, at the back of my mind, telling me that it wasn't the one and only love of my life . . . And, so far, that little something back there has always been right on the ball!"

"Right now, I'm waiting and hoping for the one time it'll stay there and keep quiet. That'll be the time when I hear a voice instead saying something like—"Hey—this is it! This is the one you've been waiting for—This one is for real and for keeps!"

