

I LIKE BEING A STAR!

and singing were two of the most important things in his life and he didn't want to compromise his talent by becoming lost in the limelight. He wanted to be David Cassidy, actor, not David Cassidy, star.

Soon after that first interview, David started receiving fan mail. He dreaded it in the beginning because it meant he was becoming what he wanted no part of—being a teenage idol.

It wasn't until he had really sat down and read hundreds of letters that he realized a very important thing. The problem was within him, not within his fans! He was so afraid of becoming a star that he was *afraid* to be himself—and wasn't that what he wanted to do? Be himself?

Suddenly it was like a door had opened for him. He wasn't really worried about his fans making him into an idol, he was worried that stardom really *would* affect him!

Once he realized the problem, David became more and more aware of how much faith the girls who wrote had in him. They didn't think he was just "another teenage star." They knew he was David Cassidy—a person!

SHOWED THE WAY

He had been afraid of having fans, but it was his fans who had showed him the way! The least he could do for all the faith and love they showed on him was give his faith in return!

Bit by bit, as he read his mail each night, he began feeling closer to his fans—and his faith was turning into real love! He found himself wanting to please his audience more and more.

A great weight seemed to fly off his shoulders. He wanted his fans to know him, to understand him and he wanted to feel close to them. The only way to achieve that was by tell-



ing them how he felt, and the best way he could do this was by being the best actor and singer he could. That way he could show them all how much a part of his life they had become!

It was 2:15 now and almost time for his interview, but still David remained standing in the doorway soaking up the sun. How very glad he was now that he had put his faith in his wonderful fans! All the sweet, kind things they had done for him to give him courage proved that they cared for him—not for a star.

He wished he could talk to every-one of them and tell them he loved them, too, not because they were

fans, but because they were beautiful individuals! He vowed to work harder for them to show how he felt!

That's why whenever David films, or records, or gives concerts—he does it with his whole heart and soul. Each word, action or gesture is one of love and gratitude to his fans who never failed to give him the thrilling comfort of knowing that they cared for the real David Cassidy—not the image.

Many times he silently thanked all his fans for giving him the courage to be honest with himself and with them in a business where honesty isn't always profitable.

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