

DAVID CASSIDY
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literally thrown him into the maternal arms of another woman—his step-mother Shirley—and in more ways than one.

Each week, along with the rest of the country, Evelyn must watch Shirley playing David's mother on "The Partridge Family." What's more, she is very well aware of the fact—again along with the rest of the country which is watching their idol like hawks—that David spends an enormous amount of time at the home Shirley shares with Jack Cassidy. It's only ten minutes away from his own home in the Hollywood Hills, and he stops off every night on the way home from the studio for dinner there. It is only part of a family feeling that Evelyn, herself, has instilled in David. She has taught him to love his father and his three half-brothers, that they are a part of his family. But she can't help but feel hurt that David can no longer give her equal time on this count. Perhaps that's why, as another source close to David has told us, Evelyn has asked that she be given name mention, in columns and stories, as David's real mother.

"And if you think it's got anything to do with publicity or anything like that," this source says, "you're crazy. The thing is that after 21 years, David is no longer with her, in body, at least, and that's a scary thing. Especially when another woman is constantly being advertised, publicly, as David's mother all of the time. Evelyn doesn't blame Shirley one bit. That's just the way things are. But she doesn't want David or anybody else to forget that she is his mother. And I can tell you from experience that such things do get forgotten when people are far away. You know how it is. People who are always there are asking for you, wanting you around, and it's very easy to become very emotionally close to them, while kind of losing touch with the person far away whom you really love. David, of course, adores her and doesn't forget her for an instant, but she can't know that when she's not there. And she doesn't deserve to be forgotten. She's given up too much for David. You know, she was a Broadway singer and actress herself when she and David's father divorced. But David was only six, and Evelyn decided to be a mother instead of a star. Now, suddenly, not only are her ex-husband and his second wife stars—but so is David. And he does owe her a lot."

A member of the Cassidy family circle did suggest that David could alleviate the situation by simply not seeing so much of Shirley off the lot. "Evelyn's never suggested such a thing," this woman admitted. "But I get the feeling, from certain little things she's said, that she does feel badly about the way Shirley treats David too much like a real son—when after all, he does have a real

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