

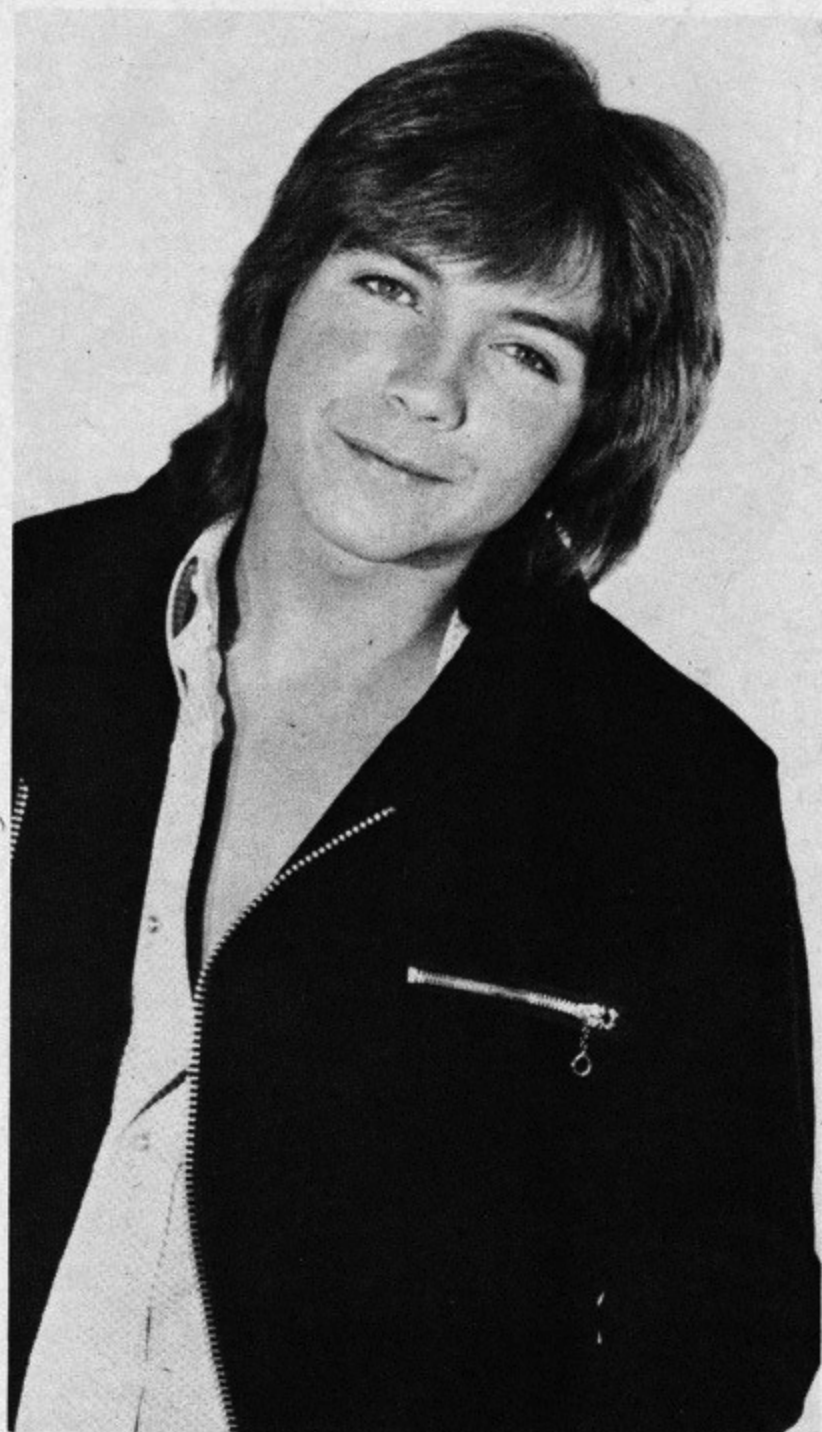
The STORY OF MY LIFE



• by david cassidy

CHAPTER SEVEN

IN WHICH I BECOME A PARTRIDGE; AND MEET YOU!



This will be the last time I'll sit down at my crummy little typewriter to tell you all about myself, and I miss it already! It's been fun for me to do it, and I feel like it's brought me closer to you somehow, and that can't be anything but good, right? Anyway, I want to thank you for sticking with me. Sometimes it feels like it's taken me as long to write about my life as it took me to live it!

Last time, I told you about New York and my debut as a stage actor and the "talent scout" who spotted me in the show and sent me out to California. When he first said that was where he wanted me to go, I practically laughed out loud. I didn't have enough money to ride a bus across the country. I told him, and he immediately told me that his company would pay for a round-trip ticket. For the first time, I got excited!

TAKE HOLLYWOOD BY STORM!

I felt like I was just going to wing on out to California, get the part in the film, and take Hollywood by storm, as they say. I landed here with almost no money, missed the part, and wound up living at my mother's until I could get on my feet. It was quite an education for my ego, and I've never been sorry it happened! Anyway, it was nice to live with Mom again for a while.

Even though I didn't get the part I had come west to try out for, some people from Universal met me at the try-out and invited me to come over to their offices and read for a couple of things. About this time I got the bright idea of cashing in the other half of my round-trip ticket, and I got this terrible little apartment and after I was moved in I went to Universal, and—bang! I was cast in an "Ironside" episode, my very first piece of television acting!

Well, I was walking on air! I had learned, though, from my experience in missing that first part, and I didn't lose my head completely. I successfully fought off the impulse to buy a sports car, for example, and I didn't move or anything. In the next few months I was on "Marcus Welby, M.D." and "Adam 12" and "Mod Squad." I had a fantastic time, working with all those great people, especially the kids on "Mod Squad!"

But then came the night I first saw myself on film. My "Marcus Welby" was on the air (it's usually a few