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FEATURES

- streamlined waistline
- flatten tummy
- vital back support
- concealed boning
- front closing
- tabs for adjustment to perfect fit
- elastic "V" inserts



Jack Cassidy in person was swiftly forgotten.

This sort of thing happens to Jack often these days. His son is the hottest teenage actor around and his wife—Shirley Jones—is extremely popular with television viewers. Ever since the birth of *The Partridge Family* TV series both David Cassidy and Shirley Jones have really been riding high! The fact that Jack is a very talented actor in his own right is sometimes—much too often in Jack's mind—overlooked.

That Jack would become jealous was inevitable. After all, he is the man of the family and he would like to enjoy the pride that comes from being the provider, the bread-winner for his loved ones. In a way, the success that Shirley and David have achieved is robbing Jack of his own sense of accomplishment. Of course, Jack is still very much in demand as an actor. He never has to worry about being out of work, but he just doesn't have the same "star status" that his wife and son have earned. There are no Jack Cassidy fan clubs and he is not pursued by avid admirers whenever he's on the street—unless it's for an autographed picture of his son.

Professional jealousy is rampant in Hollywood and it is not an unusual occurrence between husband and wife or father and son. In fact, it has caused the breakup of more homes than you could count! The Cassidy marriage has come close (more than once) to dissolving under these professional pressures.

It was shortly after Shirley landed her role in *The Partridge Family* series that she and Jack separated. Their separation didn't last long—a matter of days—but the scars of the breakup are still very much in evidence. "Jack didn't want to care too much about my career," Shirley admitted recently. "He felt that would be reversing his role as man in the family. I used to wonder if he cared at all. Sometimes I'd say, 'You don't really care.' It took a lot of patience to see what was happening.

"In the beginning, too, Jack occasionally lost confidence in himself. It seemed he couldn't get on, regardless of what he did.

"Jack has a strong streak about him that some think is stubbornness, but it's not. He won't compromise with his standards, no matter what. In those days, he wouldn't sit by and watch me become a star. He's not the kind who can do that."

Some time later Shirley also admitted to the press the effect that David's sudden stardom was having on her husband. "David will be earning more than either my husband or I in a few years," she said, "and certainly getting more attention than Jack has ever gotten. It's a bitter pill for Jack to swallow. Jack has never had the adulation that David has now, and it's a little hard for him to accept."

As a result of Jack's jealousy, Shirley finds herself torn between her husband and her stepson. On one hand, she is proud of David and wants to help him celebrate his newfound fame and fortune, but, on the other hand, she must be careful not to become too exuberant in Jack's presence—the chances that he would be hurt or take offense are all too great. So, when Shirley is alone with David on the set they revel together in their new success. But when Jack is around, Shirley sees to it that her husband talks mostly about *his* career. This way Jack's feelings won't be stepped on and David won't have to be hurt

by his own father's suffering.

And David certainly does his bit to help keep his father's ego intact. He talks openly and glowingly about his father's accomplishments, always making it clear that he thinks his dad is tops! "I respect my father so much as a performer," says David. "He is one of the most versatile actors in the business. He is great in comedy, and drama. He is a fine singer and he's a marvelous dramatic actor. I would like to be as versatile and talented as he is."

"I am constantly happy when I see the things my father does. He took me to rehearsal when he was making *The Andersonville Trial* and I just sat in amazement, watching his performance. He really is something very special. After the show was run, and the reviews came out, more and more people began to recognize just how great he is.

"When he was Oscar North on the *He And She* TV series, that was really 'high camp.' On Broadway, he has done so much that's outstanding. But I still don't think anyone realized just how great a dramatic actor he could be until *Andersonville*. I know now people are sending him scripts like mad! Everybody is standing in line wanting him to do things. I am very very happy for him."

Shirley is also very quick to lavish praise on her husband. "He has a real magic on stage," she says. "He takes over. I don't think there's a person who could ever take the stage away from him—not even Laurence Olivier. A kind of magic simply happens, he is larger than life size and, of course, people fall in love with him. I did. I still love working with him."

So both David and Shirley work hard at protecting Jack's already damaged ego. They give praise when praise is due and they try not to flaunt or parade their *Partridge Family* success in front of him. And Shirley works very hard, indeed, to protect David from his dad—to keep Jack from feeling bitter about never achieving the enormous popularity that his son now enjoys.

Some people think that Shirley is risking her marriage by trying to manipulate things in a way that Jack can still hold on to his pride. One friend of the family states, "If Jack were to realize how hard his wife has been working to build his self confidence and preserve peace in the family, his Irish temper would probably flare up to unbelievable proportions! No man likes to think that he is being conddled or babied into thinking he's important. And Shirley and David can't walk around on eggshells forever! It seems to me they ought to just be straight with Jack—give him a chance to take it, like the man he is."

In spite of all that has been said, it should not be inferred that Jack is not proud of his son or of his wife. He is very proud and very happy for Shirley and David, although he doesn't always show it. He doesn't begrudge them their success or popularity—he just finds himself wishing (for the sake of his own masculine ego) that he had been able to earn the same sort of recognition. It would have made things so much easier on everybody concerned.

But we are sure that Jack, Shirley and David will, eventually, make the best of things. As Shirley says, "In spite of everything, we love each other! We can argue and in the middle of it, I can still say, 'I love you.' If

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