

THAT KEEPS THEM TOGETHER—AND APART

It hurts young David Cassidy to this day when he thinks about the death of the boy who had been his best friend . . . a boy named Kevin. And the memory also is painful to Judy Strangis, the beautiful young actress whom David dates. For Judy, now a regular on ABC-TV's *Room 222*, was Kevin's girl friend. In fact, it was Kevin who first introduced her to his friend David, years before David won stardom on ABC's *Partridge Family*. Judy and David share a tragic secret. For they know that, but for the grace of God, it might have been David who died instead of Kevin. Both belong to this generation that has lost some of its finest members to drugs. Both ran with the same crowd. Both faced the same deadly temptations. Kevin succumbed—David did not. Yet, but for an unkind destiny, Kevin might be a star like David. They might be roommates in David's beautiful house in the Hollywood Hills. Kevin's story also brings great sadness to me personally. For I knew him well, in the days when he and David were in their early teens and lived not far from my apartment in Westwood. A boy who worked for me was friendly with them, and I met them through him. Yet, although Kevin's story is such a tragic one, I think he would want it to be accorded a little publicity . . . not only to warn other youngsters away from the same fate, but also because he himself was proud of his friendship with David, and fiercely proud of David's success on television as well as on records. Alive, he was so refreshingly candid in admitting he enjoyed sharing in David's blaze of glory. And now that he is dead, I think that he would have wanted this friendship with David to be remembered. "Kevin always respected David and liked him," Judy recalled when we got together recently in Westwood to talk about her friendships with the two boys. "He was really happy about David and his success—he loved it, and was so glad for him. On one interview I talked about Kevin and he was so excited at the thought: 'You talked about me!' I had told how I happened to meet David through Kevin. They were both seniors at Rexford School in Beverly Hills when (Continued on page 84)

