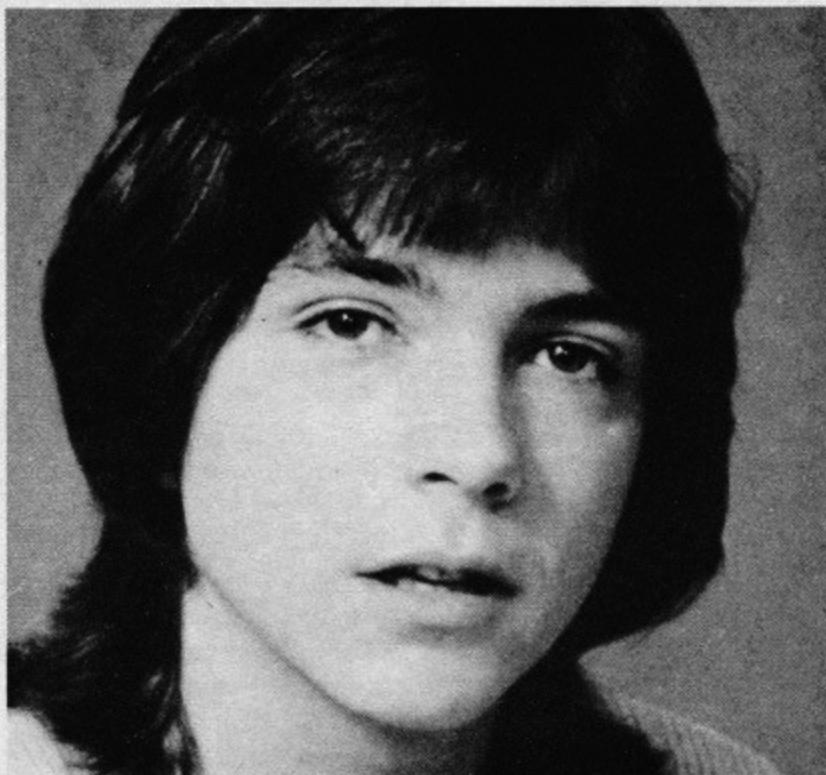


DAVID CASSIDY'S Life Story

CHAPTER EIGHT



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SYNOPSIS: When David was around 17 years old, he decided to take off for New York City — the cradle of great drama and musicals — and try to make his way as a dramatic actor and musical singer and performer. In New York, David roomed with his dad, Jack Cassidy (who was rehearsing for a show there at the time), and did odd jobs at a fabric company in the midtown area of Manhattan. (New York City — like Los Angeles — is composed of many boroughs; Manhattan is the main borough and is usually referred to as New York City.)

WHILE DAVID was busy having adventures (like the one he told you about in Chapter Seven of his life story last month) with parking lot attendants and his boss's car, he was also busy studying his craft. He was taking singing lessons and his singing teacher was also instructing him how to *move*.

"Acting, singing and a career on the stage or before the TV or movie cameras involves your *whole being*," David says. "An actor or actress is involved in his or her work from the top of the head to the bottom of the toes, *plus* being involved in a *non-physical* way too. By that, I mean — the way you think, the way you look at people, the way you absorb all the things around you, the way you see and interpret all persons and events, even if it's just gazing at the blossoming of a rose. Somehow, acting is all-embracing. I *knew* that — not only from watching my mother Evelyn Ward and my dad Jack Cassidy work on the stage, but also from my observations of the many other fine performers who had inspired me to go into acting and singing."

Since David knew that he had to be *totally involved* to be a *totally good actor*, he spent all of his spare time taking lessons in movement, dancing, *karate*, fencing and speech — not all at once, of course, but these were the various subjects he touched at one time or another, concentrating mainly on singing.

DREAMS OF GLORY

Every evening after work, David would take long walks through the so-called Broadway area of mid-Manhattan. (Actually, Broadway — the longest street in the world — runs from

the southern tip of Manhattan island all the way up to the far reaches of the northern Bronx.) A certain part of Broadway — namely, between 42nd Street and 50th Street — intersects all of the blocks which house America's great dramatic and musical theatres. As David sauntered up Broadway each evening, he would look first to the left — and see marquees proclaiming such greats as Zero Mostel in *Fiddler On The Roof* and Carol Channing in *Hello Dolly* — and then, a block up, on his right he would see the signs for Richard Kiley in *Man Of La Mancha* and Angela Lansbury in *Mame*. And his mind would be filled with wonderful daydreams, such as a hit musical or theatrical production "starring David Cassidy"! Little did he dream that his destiny and his future stardom lay precisely 3000 miles away — in the town that he had left, thinking that New York City was the best place for him to launch his acting career!

After months of preparation, David presented himself to an agent and was soon "making the rounds" — that is, going to see anybody and everybody who was booking "parts" for anything! Just like the hundreds of other unemployed young actors in New York, David plodded from one place to another, showing his pictures, fumbling through some fibs about what credits he had (none, actually!), and trying to keep a cheerful front — with a smile on his face. Finally, he found himself among the many young guys who were auditioning for a small part in a Broadway show. David and the rest of the young actors were herded into an empty theatre, where each had his turn at a quick performance at center stage.

DAVID GOES ON

"There were a few guys sitting in the front row," David recalls, "and I figured they must be writers, directors and producers. A part of me was very scared and put off — because of the dark, cold theatre — but another part of me knew that once I got out there and the spotlight hit me, I was going to do my very best. And I hoped it would be better than any of the rest."

Because the show was a musical called *The Fig Leaves Are Falling*, David not only had to read lines at the audition — he had to sing too.

"The most amazing thing in the world happened at my audition," David remembers enthusiastically. "Just as I finished doing my thing, some cat walked over to me, slapped a script in my hand and said, 'You're it! Be at the rehearsal hall in one hour!' I was flabbergasted. And I was on cloud nine! That night, after my first rehearsal with a *real* Broadway cast for a *real* Broadway show, I skipped up this famous theatrical street towards the small abode I was sharing — and at every corner, with a burst of energy, I'd leap into the air and literally click my heels together, just like guys do in the funny papers when they are very, very happy!"

THE SHATTERING BLOW

David's newfound joy was doomed, however. After months of rehearsal and playing for a number of weeks in Philadelphia (the usual out-of-town try-out city for Broadway shows), *The Fig Leaves Are Falling* had its great and glorious Broadway opening in New York City — and it bombed! The critics panned *Fig Leaves*, and no matter how hard they tried, the hard-working, vibrant, energetic cast couldn't keep the show going against the cruel box-office "dollars and cents" odds — namely, that *nobody* came to see *The Fig Leaves Are Falling*!

After closing night, David once again found himself on that famous street, Broadway. But this time he was down in the dumps. He neither skipped nor sauntered. He dragged his feet, morosely looking at the ground, seriously thinking of quitting acting right then and there — so he'd never have to go through another show-biz flop ever, ever again!

Little did David Bruce Cassidy know that across precisely 3000 miles, where Los Angeles lay, his fairy godmother — or, rather, his fairy godfather — was busy at work, weaving a wondrous magic spell that would soon draw David back to sunny California and into a web of the most beautiful, suspenseful and exciting surprises that could ever come a young man's way!

To find out what happens to David Cassidy next — be sure to pick up a copy of the October issue of 16 Magazine! The October 16 goes on sale August 19! Tell your neighborhood newsdealer to save you a copy!!