



**IF I HAD
A REAL
SISTER...**

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One of the worst things that happens to you when you begin having hits and television success is that all sorts of "yes-men" and hangers-on suddenly materialize and start telling you that you're the greatest thing since power steering! Sam and Steve, my roommates, are always honest with me, and I'm always thankful to them for that, but they're both *guys*, and I don't really have a girl who will always tell me what she really thinks! A sister, who had known me since I was a little baby, would always tell me the truth! When I was good, she'd say so, but she wouldn't hesitate to tell me if I did something that wasn't up to the standards I've set for myself. You know, it's really important to me that the things I



WAITING BETWEEN SHOTS on the set means Susan and I often have time to talk about all kinds of things!



SUSAN IS THOUGHTFUL, just like a sister sometimes, like when she takes time to give me a good back scratch. Nothing is nicer after working on the set all day to have someone scratch your back! Know what I mean?

do for you should be as good as they possibly could be!

But most important of all is the fact that I might—just *might*—be able to begin to understand girls! Girls are the most important people in the *world* to me, in case you hadn't already figured that out! Not only are they the people I like best, but more than ninety per cent of the people who write me the fan mail I love so much are girls, and most of the audiences at my concerts are girls. And there are times when I have to stop and think: what in the world am I doing *right*?

You see, girls are a mystery as far as guys are concerned. We look at those pretty faces and that glis-

are times, as I read through my fan mail or hear the screams from an auditorium filled with girls, when I just have to ask myself "What am I doing here? Why *me*?"

Well, if I had a sister, and lived near her day after day, and talked and laughed with her—and shared in the secrets and hopes of *her* life—I might begin to figure it out! By being involved, full-time, in the life of a young woman who loved and trusted me enough to really talk to me, I could probably learn a huge amount about the people who are most important to me—my fans!

So, I'm wishing I had a sister, and it's a wish that can't come true.



BEING CLOSE TO SUSAN has made me realize that I've missed something by not having a real sister of my own. But the closer we become, the more Susan is like a sister to me, and that makes me feel good!

tening hair and those soft, beautiful eyes—but what's going on *inside* those lovely heads is a secret for all time! Ever since Adam and Eve, men have been spending most of their time trying to figure out what makes girls tick!

And, between you and me, I don't think of myself as the ultimate Romeo or anything like that! There

In the meantime, I'm very thankful that I've got my TV "sister," Susan, and I guess the rest of it will have to wait until I fall in love—although that won't really be the same either! I guess all I can really do is *hope* that whatever it is I'm doing right doesn't get boring!

I'd sure hate to lose you!