

with

DAVID

By His Best Friend SAM HYMAN



and he can be talking on and on about something that he cares deeply about (like ecology) and all of a sudden he'll realize that he sounds like a professor, or a politician or something, and this sly grin comes over his face, and then gradually he'll begin to talk nonsense! If you're only half listening, it's impossible to tell where it began, but you suddenly discover that he's gone someplace that's just *insane!*

After we got to know each other better we began to respect one another. We each felt that the other was basically a pretty good person, which isn't always the easiest thing to be! Also, we're both truth-tellers, and that's totally important in a friendship, especially now that David's a star. There are a lot of people who only want to know what David *wants* to hear, so they can be the first to say it to him—no matter how they *really* feel! David knows that I'll always tell him the truth as I see it, whether it's good news as far as he's concerned or not!

MOVED IN TOGETHER

After David went to New York, I sort of goofed around for a while, but I never met another friend I felt as close to as I did to David. When he called me to ask if I wanted to room with him, I was really happy! We moved in together, and I think that's when the deepest part of our friendship began.

To be really close friends with someone, there have to be a few things you can depend on. First, you've got to know that your friend will stand by you, even when you're wrong! I've made more than my share of dumb mistakes, and it's always been reas-

suring to know that I could turn to David if I needed help, or even just a sympathetic ear! When I'm through telling my woes he may grin and say "that was really stupid, Sam," but he'll do whatever he can to help anyway!

NEVER PASS JUDGEMENT

Another thing that keeps David and me close is that we never *judge* one another! David doesn't believe that any human being has the right to pass judgement on any other, and that's carried right into our friendship. It's important to know that there's *nothing* you can't tell your friend, nothing you can't get off your chest, without having to worry about feeling ashamed or being ridiculed. David and I can sit up all night talking and never once have to think, "Can I tell him about this? Will he stop liking me?" With David I always know that I can let it all hang out! He may say that he wouldn't have done the same thing, but

he *never* acts scornful or laughs at me in a way that would hurt!

And, of course, there are all the usual things: we like the same things—music, books, people, movies, photography—and we get along with the same people. We never have to worry whether or not *our* new friends will get along with our *old* friends!

LIKE TO GIVE

But most important of all, I think, is that we're both willing to *give*. It takes *time* to be a good friend, you know. You have to be willing to drop what you're doing if your friend needs help, or even if he just wants to get out of the house and drive around for a while! You have to be willing to give emotional strength in times of trouble, to exert efforts to make sure that you always bring your friend *up*, not *down*.

David once said that a person has two choices in life: he can bring people up or he can bring them down. He's chosen to bring people up—his fans, his co-workers, his family, his friends. No matter how tired he is, he'll always make that extra effort to try to make them feel a little better.

And that makes him pretty special. That makes him my friend.



Exclusive photos of David in England! All in May Tiger Beat on sale April 11!

