



# DAVID CASSIDY:

Their eyes met and it was love at first sight. As if there were no one else in the room, they stood staring into the depths of each other's souls. From afar, it looked like a dance as they weaved their way toward each other, seeing no one else. Finally they stood face to face, and although the words were muffled, the simple act of getting acquainted took on a new grace.

For David Cassidy, a new and special happiness seemed to come over him. For the young girl, it was a time of real feeling, exploring a new and happy experience. A friend of David's stopped by, but quickly realizing he was intruding, left. Alone together, David and the girl were still unable to do more than just stare at each other. Finally it was David who suggested they go to dinner.

"I never knew he was so shy," the girl said. "When he asked me to dinner, the look on his face said he didn't expect me to accept. But our conversation during dinner was really wonderful. Since David talked about his life—his growing up in New York and his trips to Hollywood to visit his father—I've had a whole new insight into him. Also, he is terribly aware of his charisma on the stage, and though I was taken by his presence, he seemed to feel that he was too meek and wanted to assert himself more. I tried to tell him that he was doing all the right things, but he didn't believe me. It was the first time that I had to reassure a date. When he took me home that night, he asked if he could see me again, and looked surprised when I said yes. Then he said, 'It's hard to ask you, because when I see things I really like, I usually act like I don't want them so I won't be too disappointed when I don't get them. What I really want, I hide from myself—it saves me a lot of pain.' After that we made a date for the next evening."

David is the kind of man who cherishes the good times he has—since he feels they rarely happen. He has been searching for

the one girl for him for a long time. In the past, he has been deeply hurt by finding that some women were using him primarily because of his fame. He finds it hard to accept the fact that he is a celebrity and that his name represents glamor. As a result, David has gone through a gradual withdrawal, and each year he trusts fewer and fewer people.

On one instance, David was terribly used, and it took months for him to realize that the girl whom he thought loved him was just dropping his name all over Hollywood trying to get herself a job as an actress. It broke his heart. Recently, David has even been hiding from his friends, because he has been trying to put some fresh meaning into his life.

Meeting the girl at the party was a real step forward. Since he only went to the party as a favor to his agent, he never expected to meet anyone there. The magnetism was so strong that he never even realized that he was inviting her to dinner until they were actually seated at Hollywood's famed Nick's At The Sea restaurant. David said later, "She was so attuned to me that we never made small talk. It was almost as if we were old friends who hadn't seen each other for a while. We talked about things I had been thinking about. It was almost as if she had the same thoughts. It was one of the most perfect times I can remember."

Recently, David has had his hands full coping with his father's and stepmother's threats of divorce and their turning to him for understanding, though since they have reconciled. If anything, it has soured him on love since he has always thought of Jack Cassidy and his co-star on *The Partridge Family*, Shirley Jones, as having a wonderful marriage, though as a child he had trouble understanding his father's divorce from Evelyn Ward, David's mother, and the subsequent marriage to Shirley. It has taken David his entire childhood to accept Jack and Shir-

ley—and as soon as he does, they threaten to get a divorce. It has made David slightly cynical about love and marriage. In the same sense, though, he did try to patch up Jack and Shirley's hectic marriage, acting more like a referee than a son. It has left him with some very deep beliefs about his own future, and only real love may change him. No one realizes that more than David, but he also understands that he must be honest with himself, especially since he spends so much of his time hiding from himself.

A story that close friends tell about David illustrates the fact that he is so shy. It happened at a rock concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City. David had been excited about playing his home town, had really looked forward to it, but as the day got closer, friends noticed a certain hesitancy about him. After long and careful probing, they found out that an old love of his had written and told him that she was coming to the concert, and would like to see him afterwards. David was worrying about what to do, since a few years before she had literally broken his heart, and only recently had he been able to forget her. He said, "Women seem to have an antenna which tells them when you're not thinking about them—and that's when they call you."

Everyone offered advice, but David knew that for him to be the man that he wanted to be, he had to come out of hiding and make a decision for himself. After great soul-searching, David decided to telegram the girl and see her after the concert. He might have thought to himself: "Times change and people change. Maybe we're ready for each other now." It was as if the years of anguish that David underwent because of her disappeared.

Friends around David started worrying when they saw how enthusiastic he was about his old girlfriend. He made elaborate plans to have a midnight supper after the performance, and David's obvious