

# THE GIRL OF HIS DREAMS HAS BECOME A REALITY

fantasy was a reconciliation between him and a love he never really had.

When the day came, and the concert was over, and the girl finally arrived in the dressing room, friends noted that almost from the moment she walked in, he was disillusioned. It was the greedy way she looked around the dressing room, and her interest in David's fame, rather than in what he was feeling. It was a very painful discovery for David, and as much as he tried to hide his disappointment, it showed through. Everyone in the dressing room knew that it was going to be a very unhappy midnight supper.

One observer noted, "As the girl talked about all the celebrities she wanted David to introduce her to, we could watch him withdrawing, almost as if this would be his last attempt at reaching out towards love."

Somehow, David did get through the dinner—but at the expense of his special dream. He now knew that he could no longer hope for love from his past. It looked as if David was going to revert back to being a morose person, one who thinks love will never reach him again.

As a youth, David had many bitter experiences that contributed to his becoming a loner. Mostly, just being the child of a broken home has been the crucible within which he has burned. The years that he spent as the "other" child—watching his stepbrothers get what he thought was all the attention (Jack Cassidy and Shirley Jones had three sons: Shaun, Patrick and Ryan)—was a difficult period for David, one that even today, at 22, he has not completely resolved. He never felt he was a part of the family in the way his stepbrothers did. The irony, of course, is the fact that he ends up playing Shirley's son on *The Partridge Family*.

In real life, David had to resolve a great deal of bitterness about his father's treatment of David's real mother and David's feelings about his stepfamily. He's a boy who has always been searching for

love—and perhaps because of his eagerness, has never really found it. As each year has gone by, David has become closer and closer to Shirley and Jack, but never has he been close to a real love.

It has left him a very hidden person, one who plays tricks on himself to maintain his enthusiasm for life. For example, David always will say, "The next red-headed girl I meet driving a green convertible will be the love of my life." Now he is only playing a game, with himself, but underneath there is a terribly lonely boy, desperately trying to give himself a reason to go on, to hope for the future. As much as David tried to hide it from himself, he knows that he will find no happiness until love enters his life. The question he must ask himself is: "When can I come out of hiding and have a love of my own?"

The girl he met at the party knew nothing about David's private past, but, as she said, "After our first date, I knew he was a special man. I'd never met anyone as gentle and understanding. It was almost as if he had no idea about his fame. He was as shy and quiet as he could be. But when he began to speak about what he believes in, his ideas about his future, music and the poetry that he loves so much, a very special person evolved. It was almost as if there were two David Cassidys—the one you meet and the one you know. I like the one you know best, because he is a unique human being, one filled with a very rare sense of what it is to be alive. Unfortunately, he is always running away from himself, since being a star has not allowed him the time to develop his feelings."

Many people feel that David is having a rough time because he just wasn't prepared to become a teenage star. All he had really wanted was to be an actor and to prove to his father that he has what it takes. He certainly has done that, but at the expense of his inner peace.

David's need to prove to his father that he can make it on his own stems from a period when David needed assurance from his father but didn't get it. He has spent much of his time showing him how successful he is. Only recently has Jack Cassidy begun to express real pride in David and, in response, David has shown a sheepish grin of pleasure. It brings him out of hiding. Now if love were to come into his life, and he knew that he was going to settle down with, as he calls it, "my only true love," David might be able to open up all the areas of feeling that he has kept closed for such a long time.

The girl who may make this all possible has many doubts about the responsibility of going with a star. She is an actress, but only moderately successful, and right now she refused to do anything but date David without thought of the future. Their agreement is, "Whatever will be, will be. . . ." As she says, "That way David and I can really decide about our future—when and if we really feel that we have one together. We both have tremendous needs, and we know that just liking each other is only a start. The reason I won't even use my name in association with his is because I don't intend to use him as he has been used so miserably in the past. I just hope our lives calm down enough so we can get to know each other."

This is a rough time for David. Between his concerts, *The Partridge Family* and trying to be an impartial judge between his father and stepmother, he is pretty well drained. He has told close friends, however, that the new girl in his life may be the real love he has been waiting for. We only hope that David is able to let things happen naturally, and if it is love for real, that it will be a happy love ending in a spectacular wedding. It's something David has always wanted—and then the happiness may convince him that he will never have to hide from himself again.

—BY ANGELICA COUSINS