



David Cassidy, the TRAGIC mistake he's just starting to pay for!

□ □ □ Everyone wants to congratulate David Cassidy. He must be terribly smart to have made it to the top in such a short time. The number one idol in the nation—and he's only twenty-one years old! How wonderful! In the midst of all this praise, David Cassidy has been strangely silent lately. Indeed, a close friend of David's reports that David is not at all happy with what has happened to him—that David has been wondering if going into show business will prove to be the most tragic mistake he's ever made—a mistake he may spend his entire life paying for. What has happened?

Writers have all stressed that David came from a show business family and therefore knew exactly what to expect. But this was not the case. David's mother and father were both involved in show business, which made David believe he knew what to expect. But for David, show business is not the same as it was for his parents. Jack Cassidy has been an actor for ages and has made a good living. He's known lean times and times of plenty. It seems certain he warned David of what to expect. But Jack Cassidy knew nothing personally about super-stardom. He has a good reputation as an actor and is well thought of, but the blinding white light of idoldom never hit him. He couldn't have warned David about any of the things that were happening to him in rapid-fire succession this last year. Things David hadn't anticipated.

Like having to leave a groovy home that you were very comfortable in. Because teenage girls rang his bell constantly whenever David was home and when David was not they waited in groups on his front steps for him to return. It's no fun having to move at one a.m. with a few male friends—sneaking around like a common criminal, afraid you'll be seen and followed to the new pad, and will have to do the scene all over again.

Neither had David anticipated being careful when dating a girlfriend in public—worrying that jealous fans might attack the girl.

Talking about the record that started most of this—"I Think I Love You"—David says, "They released it because they thought the young kids might eat it up. I don't know whether I'll be able to live it down. I never thought of myself as a teenage idol! I can't go out any more because I'm recognized wherever I go, so I stay home a lot."

"There are a lot of people out there who care. They see me as something. For me to destroy that image would hurt them, but it's a strange feeling to walk into a hotel lobby and see twenty or thirty fans waiting for me. For some reason they always scream, but when I go up to them they can't think of anything to say. My next vacation I'm going to Jamaica. They don't see "The Partridge Family" down there, so nobody will recognize me."

Another thing his father couldn't have warned him about is the frustration of being a serious actor in a pop-teen TV series. Coming straight from New York and serious work, (continued on page 71)