

DAVID CASSIDY
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"The Partridge Family" can be a letdown. "I had been doing all these intense things and then suddenly it was dialogue like, 'Aw, gee, Mom . . .' Can't anybody write the way teenagers really talk?"

The music on his television series also conflicts with David's serious feelings about music. "The music we do is bubblegum to the trade. I think it's a little better than most bubblegum. Sophisticated bubblegum. What it's not is George Harrison. That's what I want to be doing."

David is an honest person, and that also conflicts with what is required of him in his new role. A publicity person dreamed up the idea that it would create more interest if David pretended that his step-mother Shirley Jones didn't know that her TV son was going to be her real life step-son until they appeared on camera together. And David went along with the story. That's the way he told it. But now the truth is out. Shirley didn't use influence to get him the role, but in fact everyone concerned with the show knew about David's relationship to Shirley way back when they were testing him for the role.

When David was just starting to make it, he told of a girl he had once met that upset him. She was gorgeous and he had flipped for her. "When I first met her, she seemed happy and carefree and not hung up. It was all a front, though. She was so insecure, one of the most mixed-up human beings I've ever met—a complete phoney from the word go. What came out from the inside made her unattractive. She was hung up on becoming a star, on being in the right places and knowing the right people. Those were the things that counted with her. She didn't care about people for themselves, only for what they might be able to do for her." Since David was a nobody at the time, the girl had not been on her guard, and David had seen all these qualities of hers come out into the open. But now that David is the number one teen idol, many other girls with similar desires are coming to him with masks that will not be as easily seen through. Being seen with David Cassidy can do a lot for a girl's career. David has learned the fear, the suspicion that must cloud his relationship with any girl he didn't know before he became famous. "What does she really want?" he must ask himself. "Me—or what I can do for her?"

David's father has told us, "Sometimes at various functions he looks at me as if to say, 'What is all this, Dad?'"

Shirley Jones has remarked, "He's a private person. His contemporaries pooh-pooh the family TV series and his friends put him down for the whole teenage idol thing. He really feels as if he's copping out on his friends."

A twenty-one-year-old boy has to grow up fast in Hollywood. Even faster when he's as sensitive as David and as likely to

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