



NEW HEARTBREAK FOR DAVID!

The director said “Cut!” and the brilliant lights on the “Partridge Family” dimmed and went out. The actors — David Cassidy, Dave Madden, and Danny Bonaduce — turned and walked silently off the set. An electric tension was in the air, very different from the usual goofing-off and horseplay that always fills the air between takes of the “Partridge Family.”

David sat alone, brooding in a chair with his name across the back of it. No one went near him, and it looked as if he wanted it that way! Only the grips and lighting men were talking as they arranged the set for the next shot—and even they stopped when the back door to the stage opened and Shirley Jones walked in.

David looked up when the men fell silent, and then looked over his shoulder. He saw Shirley—but instead of greeting her with the warm smile that he saves especially for her, he got up and walked quickly to his dressing room, closing the door sharply behind him! Shirley, looking very sad, watched him go.

That morning the news had gone out: Shirley Jones and Jack Cassidy had decided to get a divorce. Peo-

ple all over Hollywood reacted and talked about it—but no one was hit harder than David!

He had known they had troubles, of course. There had been days on the set when Shirley was quiet and withdrawn, and it didn't take much to see that she and Jack had had a fight. And there had been one or two times when David was going to go over to their house in the evenings, but his father had called him late in the afternoon to say that it might be better if he took a “rain check.” David knew what it meant—that things weren't peaceful in his Dad's and Shirley's house!

In his dressing room, he sat quietly. A guitar leaned forgotten against the couch, and David gazed absently into the mirror, not even looking at himself. Finally he leaned forward and put his face in his hands.

IN A TURMOIL!

Thoughts and confused feelings swirled through his mind. At times he felt as if he knew exactly how he felt, and he would sit up, prepared to step back onto the set and get everything straight—but a moment later he would sit forward again, lost in a whirlpool of confusion. All

he *really* knew was that he hurt inside, so badly that he thought his heart would break!

Memories of his childhood crowded into his mind. This wasn't the *first* divorce in his life! Years and years ago, his father and mother had decided they couldn't stay married any more, and David had gone into a period of emptiness and loneliness that was worse than anything he could remember. He was living with his mom, and she had tried to make everything all right—but she couldn't get rid of the fact that a boy needs his father! David missed his dad terribly! Most of the other boys he played with had both their parents living with them, and David felt an envy he couldn't name every time he went to their homes!

But in a way, that had been a simpler time. His sadness turned to anger after a time, and there was at least someone to blame—Shirley! He didn't really know her that well, and it was easy to feel that *she* had caused the break-up, that *she* was the reason he and his mom were so unhappy! David had hated that

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