



How
David
Cassidy
tried to
hold
Shirley
Jones'
marriage
together—
and why
he failed!

For all his tender years, David Cassidy has seen enough sadness in his family to last him a lifetime. First it was divorce between his father, Jack Cassidy and his mother. Now, it's Jack and Shirley Jones—the woman David's grown to know and love and consider a second mother. And this time, the trauma of his father's second failure at marriage may be, in its own way, even more disillusioning and heartbreaking to him than that first painful, tragic time he saw love die between his mother and his father.

As a youngster, David really didn't have a home as most youngsters come to think of one. He came from a show-business family who lived in a show-business kind of life. He was practically born in a trunk, and when he was allowed to travel with his mother—much to his delight—he just lived out of one as well. There was a home, with his grandparents in New Jersey, but that was really the place David waited for his family, his mother and his father, to come back to. When trouble between his mother and his father developed, David was confused and alone. Being an only child, we can imagine that he spent many nights feeling small and scared when he heard his parents argue. With no brother or sister to talk to, how could he feel any other way?

Then, the big blow came. His parents divorced. The father he loved so much—the father he'd wait for longer. David was heartbroken... a little boy lost. He lived in New York with his mother while his father moved to a place called California. How many days and nights David would dream about this far-away place his father now called home. How many days and nights David would think, "Someday I'll get there and be near my dad."

Not that David didn't love and want to be near his mother, but his dad seemed so far away. If only he could visit.

One day, David did take that trip West. He loved it. It was a land of sunshine and palm trees and his dad and a pretty blonde lady named Shirley Jones Cassidy, his father's new wife, his step-mother. David hadn't thought he was going to like her. Like the child he was, he somehow blamed her for what had happened. But he knew at once that he was wrong. Maybe because she always seemed to sense that David had a real mother back home—and because she couldn't take that mother's place and didn't want to.

Yes, it was wonderful out there in California—like a new magic place where all sorts of things could happen. His dad lived in a beautiful home in Beverly Hills, where Shirley Jones had slowed her career down somewhat to be mother to three young sons—David's half-brothers—she bore his father. For the first time, he wasn't an only child—he had brothers. Here he found a family way of life.

True, David's mother also gave up a career—entirely in fact—to take care of David and be a family. But now, for the first time, David began to believe that it was possible to have a family and still be involved in show business. He saw how entertainers, whom he once believed lived strictly on the road, did have homes and families. And they came to his father's home for dinner and business meetings. It was a new way of doing things, a new view of show business and his talents and he loved it. Where once he'd been afraid of show business and his talents because he'd seen how destructive they could be to family life, now he started feeling differently about it. He decided he wanted to stay in

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