

Jack Cassidy: Man in the Shadows



Shirley Jones settled down comfortably in her set chair ready to answer another group of questions from the interviewer.

She seemed relaxed and willing to talk, but before the writer could begin, Shirley asked what magazine would be running the story. He hesitated, then replied, "*Rona Barrett's Hollywood*."

Shirley stood up abruptly and said, "I'm sorry. Jack wouldn't like me to give out any kind of interview for Rona Barrett. I'm sure you can understand."

The writer couldn't. True, Rona had reported on her TV show about the time Jack moved out of the house and into the Beverly Hills Hotel for three days. But then everyone knows that there have been stormy days in the Cassidy marriage. Also Rona mentioned

that Jack occasionally has given other females the treat of that special Cassidy charm, which probably accounts for Jack's opinion of Our Miss Rona.

Why Jack and Shirley Jones have marital problems is a constant source of conjecture among the Hollywood set, but most seem to agree that their marriage isn't headed for instant divorce.

Jack Cassidy is a man with no ordinary problem. And if sometimes it tends to show up in his actions, there certainly are some well-founded reasons.

To begin with, Jack Cassidy is an actor and a singer with an unusual amount of talent. He's been working at his trade for more than 20 years and at times has come very close to being a star of the first magnitude.

Unfortunately, that is all—very close.

Early in life Jack married a young actress named Evelyn Ward. Together they planned to conquer the Broadway musical stage. The first few years were filled with hope, work and wonderful hours of fun. Evelyn was a beautiful, dark-haired girl who loved Jack very much. They made such a handsome couple that heads often turned on the street when they walked together. It was only natural that they should have a beautiful and talented child. They named him David Bruce when he was born on April 12 in 1950.

The years after David's birth seemed to be even tougher than the earlier ones. Jobs were hard to find and when they did come, Jack found it necessary to be away from home for long