

and he realizes as much as I do that it will be difficult for him to find somebody to love. And I certainly don't fit the bill."

What made Susan so sure she and David wouldn't be happy together?

"Well, I don't think I'm giving away any deep secrets if I say that David finds it difficult to trust women. I think he had a couple of unhappy romances when he was very young . . . But that isn't what did it to him. After all, everybody grows out of puppy love.

"But David's family has been split up several times in his life and it has left him with emotional scars that are hard to heal. He has some bitter feelings about show business and what it does to married couples, and I don't think that he could even consider the idea of marrying a girl who wanted to have her own career.

"You see, David's parents were very busy with their careers when he was just a little boy and he spent a lot of time with his grandparents. Of course, they were wonderful to him but he still would have liked to have had his dad around all the time.

"Then when his father, Jack Cassidy, divorced David's mother and married Shirley Jones, David felt as if his world was caving in. I know that he and Shirley really get on well now, but there must have been times when David felt that she had 'stolen' his Daddy.

"After all," Susan said wisely, "young children sometimes find it difficult to believe that adults have their own emotional lives and personal problems. Kids want grown-ups to be perfect and strong and it is something of a shock to discover that this isn't ever true.

"David finally adjusted to Shirley and his mother got married to a director, I think his name was Elliott Silverstein. David told me that he directed *Cat Ballou* which was the funniest Western I've ever seen. But when David was in high school his mother and Silverstein also separated, and that really tore him up.

"Well," said Susan sadly, "the point is that David is looking for someone who can give him a very stable, secure emotional life. He always acts as if he were happy, but I suspect that there isn't anyone with whom he really feels super-close. Maybe," she shrugs, "there never will be. I hope that isn't true—he deserves so much more. But that's the reason, if you must know, why I'd rather be an old maid than marry David Cassidy!"

She paused for a moment, sighing. "As far as a romance, well, right now it would be better if David and I could react to each other as close friends.

And then maybe become "super-close" and someday marry?

Susan, eyes twinkling, refused to answer.

