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to leave the show at any time, she'll have no worry about what to do next. The job offers will pour in.

Not that Shirley has any burning desire to leave the show at this point. She is very pleased with it. It looks as if *The Partridge Family* will be around for a long time. The series is so popular that a leading clothing manufacturer just came out with a line of *Partridge Family* togs for tots. And besides the TV career, Shirley has also found more fame than ever before with her vocalizing on the *Partridge* LPs and singles.

Jack, on the other hand, isn't doing well careerwise at all. A brilliant actor, he just isn't receiving the right offers to help his career soar like his wife's. It's not an easy thing for a man to have to fade into the background when his wife becomes a sensation, and Jack has found it doubly difficult, in that even his own son has surpassed him as a star these days.

But whether or not these career conflicts are the source of trouble in the Cassidy marriage is not the question. After a while it no longer matters why things went sour. What does matter is the ultimate outcome. And, frankly, Shirley doesn't seem to give a damn anymore. She has decided to let Jack come and go as he pleases, allowing him the ultimate freedom, giving him—in effect—to other women. In doing so, she has kissed her marriage good-bye. Maybe she's decided it isn't worth the struggle if you are the only one striving to make your marriage work. It takes two to say, "I do," but only one to say, "I won't anymore."

And Shirley seems to be telling Jack, "I won't." She seems to be saying, "You can do whatever you please, but I won't go along with the game anymore."

Perhaps the divorce announcement will have been made public by Shirley by the time you read this. If it has, don't waste your time pitying her. She has little to lose. And the important thing she can save is her pride and her self-respect by playing it all *her* way.

—BENNY BLIVID

LIZ AND DICK

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interest is the Christian Science religion to which she belongs. Over the years, while her daughter was a child star and later a grown-up star, Liz' mom met many important celebrities, with whom she still carries on a lively correspondence. But now, in her later years, she prefers the quiet life—a life completely antithetical to the one which her daughter and son-in-law lead.

But, as much as Liz loves the bright lights and the glamour, she is willing to give them up for a time when the well being of one she deeply loves is involved. Right now, as we go to press, Liz and Richard are ensconced at the Mount Shadow Inn in Scottsdale, Arizona. They were living it up as usual in Los Angeles, where they were completing the lopping on their latest picture, *Hammer-smith Is Out*, when word reached Liz that her mother was ill in Arizona.

Unlike the superstar who has the world at her feet, Liz dropped everything to rush to her mother's side. The nightlife, the jewels,

the witty repartee mean little to her when one of her loved ones is in danger. What did matter to her was getting to her mother's side as soon as possible.

Mrs. Taylor is not seriously ill. She is suffering from a stomach ailment, an ailment that could grow worse with time, but one which is operable. And Liz wants her mother to have that operation, an operation which could simplify her life and her discomfort, very much.

It would all be very simple except for one thing—Liz' mother is a devout Christian Scientist.

Christian Scientists believe in the power of prayer as opposed to the power of medicine. They do not go to doctors—they go to Christian Scientist practitioners, who talk to them and pray for them to get well. They read Mary Baker Eddy's religious handbook (Mrs. Eddy founded the first Church of Christ The Scientist) and seek to cure their physical ills through a cleansing of the spirit.

The Christian Science religion seems to have a great basis in actual fact. Many symptoms of illness have been proven by doctors and psychologists to be purely psychosomatic, that is, having psychological, rather than physical, roots. Still, many people, especially people like Liz, who have Christian Scientist relatives but don't follow the faith themselves, think it is stupidity not to call a doctor when the practitioner and Mrs. Eddy's faith are not healing the patient.

Liz rushed to Arizona in hopes of convincing her mother to have the operation that will help her regain her health. Liz' brother, Howard, also flew in from Hawaii in hopes of persuading his mother to have the operation. Howard has always been close to the family, especially to his mother and to his sister Elizabeth. Elizabeth's children often go to Hawaii to stay with Howard. They have spent many happy vacations on the island with him.

But this family reunion is not a happy one—not when their mother's health is at stake. Liz and Richard have other pressing things to do—when they leave Arizona, they will go to Rome and then on to Budapest, where Dick will begin filming the motion picture *Bluebeard*, co-starring Joey Heatherton.

But you can be sure of one thing—Liz and Richard will not leave Mrs. Taylor's side until she is all right, hopefully not until she agrees to undergo the operation that is advised.

Liz and Richard have added help in their attempts to persuade Mrs. Taylor. Not only did the Burtons fly to Arizona. Liz' brother Howard rushed out. And so did another concerned person, a family friend.

Like Liz' mother, Ginger Rogers is a Christian Scientist. Ginger, the star of many late, great Fred Astaire song-and-dance films, is a wonderful advertisement for the faith. Now, in late middle age, Ginger still looks terrific, almost as young as she did back in the thirties when she was at the peak of a career that is still going strong today.

But Ginger is a Christian Scientist with reservations. Though she considers herself loyal to the faith, she also believes in seeking medical help when it is necessary, as many more liberal believers do. She is firmly in favor of an operation that is deemed called for.

Ginger took a room at the Camelback Inn and set to work immediately helping