

David laughed on cue and laughed as though he had heard the funniest, zaniest gag of his entire life! He let the laughter continue for a moment and waited for the director's call to cut.

"Okay, cut David," he said. "That was a take. It was perfect. Just perfect! You sure must be in a good mood."

"A good mood!" David exclaimed to himself. "If he only knew! If he only knew!"

#### THE LONELINESS

The director's words couldn't have been more wrong. He didn't know that the lump in David's throat made it awfully hard for him to hold back his tears.

He didn't have any idea of the loneliness that David sometimes feels. The isolation that any teen idol has to endure from time to time is unbearable. It's just part of the privilege of making fans happy.

A picture of a smiling, applauding audience filled with fans' faces flashed through David's mind and made a faint smile creep over his lips and ease the lump in his throat.

He was beginning to relax once again when he heard a familiar voice.

"David. Sorry, but they're having camera trouble. We have to shoot the scene again!"

The director couldn't have picked a more difficult task for David. The last thing he felt like doing was laughing. He really felt like crying hysterically! It was one of those awful days when a real smile was impossible.

#### DIFFICULT TASK

"I've got to make myself laugh," he thought. There must be a way.

"Action," commanded the director. The camera began to roll with Danny repeating his gag. Then David's turn came. He felt the lump leap up in his throat and fought it back with all his might. It seemed like an hour when he knew it was only a second. The picture of his loving fans at his concerts and accidental-chance meetings with fans immediately warmed David's heart. And then the laughter began at least. The laughter grew and grew until David seemed to roar!

"That was GREAT!" cried the director. "A perfect take! Even better than that last one. David, you're a real pro!"

#### KEEPS ON GIVING

Once again the cast and crew milled around the sound stage waiting for the next scene to be shot. They gathered in small groups around the edge of the set, chatting about small things.

David found himself alone on the sidelines. He thought about you and all the love you give him. He didn't know he was smiling until Susan Dey came over.

"You sure are in a great mood today," she said. "I wish you could cheer me up."

Susan smiled at him and David smiled back. He was glad that he covered up his tears with smiles. He prayed that his moments of loneliness would always pass away—thanks to Susan and all his other friends like you!

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