

Sex, drugs and bubble-gum pop

C'mon Get Happy . . . Fear and Loathing on the Partridge Family Bus

David Cassidy (Warner, \$11.99)

By Georgea Kovanis

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When David Cassidy agreed to write a book about his life, he also agreed to tell the truth.

"When you agree to tell the truth about something," Cassidy says during a telephone interview from Philadelphia, "you've got to say 'I'm not going to tell a little lie here.'"

So, in *C'mon Get Happy . . . Fear and Loathing on the Partridge Family Bus* (Warner, \$11.99) we learn that former teen heartthrob Cassidy:

- Once threw a cup of urine at some overzealous fans.
- Did a lot of drugs.
- Got kicked out of high school.
- Went out to dinner with John Lennon and Yoko Ono.
- Palled around with Don Johnson and then got blown off by the former *Miami Vice* star.
- Got cut out of his father's will.
- Had musical tastes that leaned more

toward Jimi Hendrix rock than the bubble-gum pop he was singing on *The Partridge Family* TV sitcom and on tour.

- Is embarrassed to admit he started the puka-shell necklace trend.
- Had a "semiaborted sexual experience" with co-star Susan Dey.
- Slept around — a lot. (Regarding women: "I find them enchanting creatures. . . . I enjoy giving them attention," Cassidy says in the book. "The difference between me now and me in my early 20s is I enjoy giving a lot more than I enjoy receiving. Back then, I was more self-centered.")

Whew.

Cassidy became an idol when he was cast to play happy-go-lucky Keith Partridge on the 1970s ABC-TV series *The Partridge Family*. For a while, he was hotter than fire. Then, the show went off the air in 1974. Cassidy went into the deep freeze. After years of nothingness, he re-emerged last year, in a kitschy sort of way, when Nickelodeon began showing *Partridge Family* reruns.

His book, co-authored with Chip Deffaa, concentrates heavily on his teen-idol years, and sounds a lot like therapy.

It's full of unflattering anecdotes (sex with groupies), situations unglamorous to a teen

idol (gallbladder surgery; bouts with acne) and rationalizations that are a little amazing coming from an adult.

Consider this one. He writes:

"Every 20 minutes that I could get free would be spent with women. In my dressing room, in the lot, in my car, anywhere. This was not out of boredom. This was out of having no life."

At least Cassidy, 44, is being honest.

And that's the whole point.

Cassidy says he wrote the book to get everything out in the open so he can move on. And he has, actually, enjoying success and a *People* magazine cover from his role in *Blood Brothers* on Broadway and writing the theme song to *The John Larroquette Show*. Cassidy even has a TV pilot in the works.

Plus, he says, he wanted to document the '60s lifestyle he lived with such gusto.

"If you were alive anytime during the period of 1965 to, let's say, '80, the world was a vastly different place than any other time in this century," Cassidy says. "Those 15 years were, from a social standpoint, the loosest, most reckless, wildest period of time. . . . I was in my peak wildest, jerkiest period of time."

Thank you, David, for sharing.