

Contest finalist has song in her heart and eyes for '70s icon

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Elizabeth Kite claims she has no special interest in David Cassidy, the once shaggy-haired pop icon who set girls' hearts aflutter when he crooned "I Think I Love You," and other groovy ballads.

Sure, the 38-year-old Libertyville resident watched Cassidy on "The Partridge Family" back in the 1970s, but it wasn't her favorite show. And she isn't one of those groupies who follow Cassidy as he tromps from one low-level event to the next, all apparently in an effort to reclaim some of his glory days when he graced the covers of numerous teen heartthrob

magazines.

Then why, Elizabeth, did you enter a cereal company contest in which the prize was a chance to sing a duet with Cassidy?

Why, pray tell, did you buy a pretty new dress when you became a Berry Burst Cheerios finalist?

For God's sake, Elizabeth, why did you kiss him? Twice!

"He opened his arms," she says. "You don't turn that down from David Cassidy. And you don't turn that chance down twice. I mean, he is a good-looking guy."

Aha! Elizabeth Kite secretly does lust after the one-time bell-bottomed Lothario.

No, no, no she says. For one thing, she says she only has eyes

for her hubby of 10 years, Michael. For another, Cassidy is too short. And while she admires his songwriting, Kite says, frankly, she could probably outdo him. After all, he didn't even write the lyrics to many of the songs he popularized, she said.

She, on the other hand, is an accomplished pianist and a woman with perfect pitch. A former music composition major, Kite also frequently makes up songs, musical medleys and lyrics.

That's why she decided to apply for a contest sponsored by Berry Burst Cheerios. Entrants were asked to write

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Libertyville's Elizabeth Kite wrote a song for a breakfast cereal contest and got the chance to sing with David Cassidy.