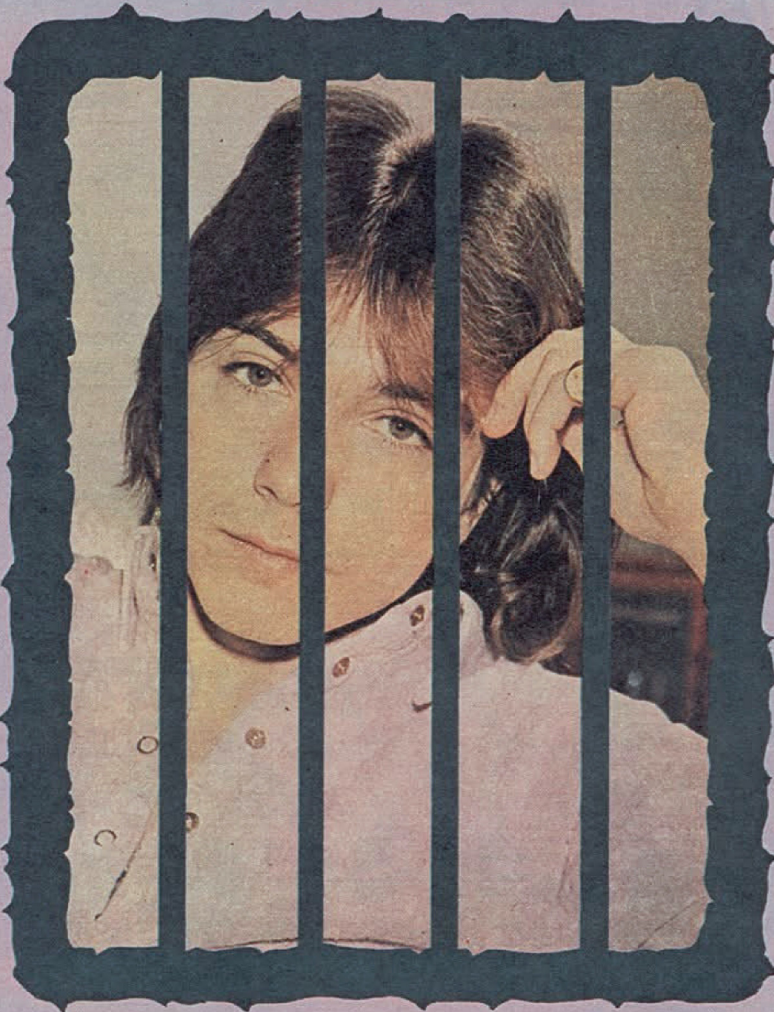


Part one of our exclusive three-part interview

DAVID — A PRISONER OF LOVE...



DAVID CASSIDY looked tired. And it was hardly surprising. The pace at which he works is terrific.

In Hollywood, when he's filming "The Partridge Family", David works from 6.30 a.m. every morning—and never expects his day to finish until 12.30 a.m. the next morning!

The pace wasn't that bad when he made a four-day trip to London. And he hadn't been whooping it up round the clubs—because as he explained, "that's not my scene at all."

But he was still rubbing his eyes through our interview—even though the previous night had only been spent watching TV.

Rubbing his eyes, perhaps because the strain was beginning to show.

"I feel absolutely shattered, exhausted," he told me.

Even for those four days, the pressure had been hard. All day long, a crowd of girls had waited outside the hotel. By mid-afternoon, there were sometimes several hundred standing hoping to see him step outside the doors of the Dorchester.

The afternoon before, he had. And one girl had badly scratched his arm as he left the hotel—just trying to get close to him.

Several times a day, the postman came with armfuls of mail—which had to be removed to the fan club by the sackful.

Even in London David felt a prisoner in his hotel; he didn't feel free to walk down the street window-shopping.

"I've got used to this in America," he said. "But I never expected it here in London."

We were sitting side by side in his Dorchester Hotel suite on a green brocade settee. David was wearing slightly tattered jeans, a light lilac patterned shirt, and furry boots.

I noticed that all the fanmail had British stamps on.

"No-one in America knows I'm here," said David, (his American fan club has 2,000,000 members). "I have to keep all my movements fairly secret. No-one knew

which plane I was catching to London—and no-one knows which plane I'm travelling back on. That's the only way to organise things so that I can move about fairly normally."

David's life has been like this for the past two years. He's spent those years filming the first two series of "The Partridge Family". In May, he returns to the studios to film the third.

"It's all become quite a burden," he said, explaining that in those two years he hasn't been able to go out and do any of the ordinary things of life.

"I can't go to a rock 'n' roll concert, I couldn't take a girl to the cinema, I couldn't walk round a supermarket or a laundromat.

"In fact, I haven't been into a shop of any kind in the last two years—not

one!

"I can never go out and choose any clothes of my own, so someone from the studios goes out and gets me a pair of jeans when I need some; or a new shirt. I don't really mind that, what else do I need to wear?"

In that time, he's also had to move house three times. Now, he's been advised to tell any fan who gets near his present home in San Fernando Valley that if she doesn't leave at once, the police will be called.

"It's awful that it should have to be like this, but there's nothing anyone can do about it. It all has to be kept under control."

Nevertheless, he says he's still worried wherever he goes; he was really scared that afternoon the girl scratched him outside the Dorchester.

"I'm always afraid that it might get out of hand, and I might be seriously injured," he says. "Crowds really upset me but I try not to let it show."

"It's such a pity, you know. I really would like to meet all the people who try to see me. If there were just one or two, it would be fine—but the whole thing somehow snowballs, and it's just not possible, unfortunately."

"I'm virtually a prisoner these days!" Under a pressure as great as this, how does David Cassidy relax?

"My home is an escape," he says. "I'm always glad to get back there."

"And then when I have a few days to spare, I go off on holiday. I toured Europe for a few weeks, driving myself in a little car, and nobody knew who I was. Then other times I fly off to Hawaii."

"A friend of mine has a house there, near the beach, a really fantastic place. I just laze in the sun, go swimming, and generally unwind."

"I do nothing at all for two weeks—and I'm always sorry when the time comes for me to leave."

"I wish I could stay there for months, and forget all about work."

Next week: David's early life, his home, his friends.

