



**DAVID
CASSIDY'S
DILEMMA**



■ At 23, David Cassidy is probably the hottest teenage idol in America today. His TV series—halfway through its fourth season—is still one of the most popular shows on the air; his concert performances, sellouts; his albums and singles, at the top of the record charts; his lunch boxes, posters, bubble gum and love beads—just to name a few items marketed under his famous name—selling like mad. But with all of this, David is not happy.

He is faced with making what could be one of the most crucial decisions of his young life, and he knows that he must think matters over very carefully before he decides which way he will turn.

David's dilemma is monumental because the time has come for him to decide what to do about his career: whether he should stay with his already successful series, *The Partridge Family*, or leave the show and venture out into new mediums—mediums which may prove to be more meaningful to him, and which he has had a taste of previously.

Before David became a TV star, he studied acting in New

York, and then landed himself a small part in a Broadway show, *Fig Leaves Are Falling*. He got good notices, but the show folded and, after that, there were no more play offers. Seeing that he was getting discouraged, his manager, Ruth Aarons, convinced him to go to Hollywood and try his luck there.

His luck was more than good. In a very short time, David was in demand for guest shots in programs like *Ironside*, *Bonanza* and *Marcus Welby, M.D.* Then he played the role of a dying boy on *Medical Center*, and the fan mail came pouring in. There was no question that viewers wanted to see more of this young David Cassidy. So David

was cast in *The Partridge Family*, and—at 20—he had a hit series; he was a star.

David couldn't have been more thrilled by what was happening. He loved the series, and worked hard to make his



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DAVID CASSIDY'S DILEMMA



(Continued)

role—that of a vivacious 16-year-old boy in a family of four children who live in the suburbs and make their living as a rock and roll band—a realistic one. He adored working with the rest of the cast—especially with his stepmother, Shirley Jones, and the camaraderie of everyone concerned with the show made his work a challenging delight for him.

But three and a half years is a long time for an actor to

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Shocked and hurt, she hurried off the stage, but that wasn't the end of it. The next day a local newspaper printed the final blow: "She is old," it wrote, "and the complications of her sentimental life have taken their toll."

Liz never experienced anything like that before in her life. She's been called many things; but never, never has anybody said that she's a "hag" or that she's "old."

She had an answer for them; a typically angry, salty Liz-style reply: "The customs delayed my baggage," she told a reporter for the London Daily Mirror. "To think I busted my ass to get here—and I walked into this."

But the question must remain—Is she, could she, be getting old? She has an answer for that, too. "One thing about getting older," she says, "is that I find myself much more relaxed and confident and aware. I don't approve of some of the things I've done, or am, or have been—but I'm me. God knows I'm me."

So, operating on the theory that older is better, Liz feels that her age is no handicap in her search for love. And she *does* have a new man in her life. Well, to begin with, let's say *men*.

She has been seen out with Ari Onassis, for one thing. Yes, Jackie's Ari. On several little enchanting Roman tete-a-tetes. They've had some lunches, some dinners, and some long talks, but—so far at least—the talks and the dates are nothing more than one friend turning to another for comfort in unhappy days.

And she's been seen out with a 24-year old Englishman, but he came in and went out of her life so fast that nobody even got his name. Still a 24-year-old isn't bad for a supposed "old hag."

She's also been seeing Andy Warhol and his gang, which has got to be just for laughs. So enough said about that. And Henri Wynberg is still in her life, at this writing, but nobody expects anything permanent to come out of their dates.

Interestingly, Wynberg, just because he's one of Liz' newest suitors, has become kind of a matinee idol on his own. Stories have leaked out that, while he might not be one of the wealthiest men Liz has ever been involved with, he's fantastically rich in his skills as a lover. Now he follows Liz wherever she goes in Rome, and packs of other women follow *him*. One blonde actually chased him down the street—with photographers getting the pictures—until she caught him and kissed him, while he squirmed in embarrassment.

Liz has also been seen strolling arm in arm down Roman streets with Sergio Cagliani—a young handsome Italian who worked with her on her movie, *The Driver's Seat*. One day, Burton went to see her at her hotel for a two-hour long talk. When it was over, he left the hotel looking gloomy and clutching one of Liz' Pekingese dogs. A few minutes later, Liz left the hotel with a big smile—and clutching Cagliani's hand.

And actor Helmut Berger is still in her life. An interesting triangle developed out of this re-

lationship. Seems that 16-year-old daughter Liza liked him, too, and he—according to European journalist—returned the girl's feelings. Apparently, Liz had many long mother-daughter talks with Liza over that!

Reportedly, Berger told the Italian magazine *Eva*: "Everyone was talking about my love for her mother. For some reason, no one thought to ask how I felt about the daughter." At this writing, Liz, Liza and Berger are at a standstill—perhaps, waiting to see who makes the next move.

■ But the *new* man, the really *new* man, in Liz' life now is Burton. Apparently, he's not giving her up easily—and he seems willing to change his whole lifestyle in the hope of getting her back.

When he returned to New York from Rome for a few weeks of getting away from it all, the press turned out in masses to greet him. And they were greeted by a very different Richard Burton. Instead of getting surly or blazingly angry at the mob of reporters and photographers—as he has been known to do in the past—he was very sweet, very smiley, and very cooperative. Asked if he would be contacting Liz, he answered, "Of course."

What would he have to say to her? he was asked. He held his head up and said, "I love you." Then he added, almost inaudibly, "She's an adorable woman and I love her very much."

Then he made the rounds of the New York restaurants and night clubs and theater openings—mostly with his daughter Kate in tow—and he stayed carefully away from drinking anything any stronger than beer. Meanwhile, Liz was reportedly "burning up the trans-Atlantic wires with calls every day to Burton." And, at the same time, attorney Aaron Froesch was preparing the divorce action. Froesch told one reporter that it was a difficult matter because, "the couple's business interests and many private belongings are almost hopelessly tangled up." Then he sighed, the reporter said, and added: "And what may complicate the divorce is the fact that Burton still is opposed to it."

At the time this is being written, Liz and Burton are both in Rome. They've been seen at restaurants—each one spooning the other fetu-tuchine. They've been seen in night clubs. And they've been seen heading up to her hotel room. But will they reconcile? The usually accurate *NY Times* says they're discussing a reconciliation. Columnist Earl Wilson says they're only discussing the settlement.

Whatever the outcome, they *are* seeing each other. And Burton is willing to become a new man for her. He might become—again—Liz' next love. Or an even newer man in her life—one she hasn't met yet—might become her next. One thing is sure, she's ready for love—and ready, for the first time in her life, to work hard and give more to making it last forever.

And maybe next time it will. Micki Siegel

David Cassidy

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play one role, especially a young, ambitious one, and in the last few months David has begun to feel that the show has gone stale for him; that he would like to try to do other roles.

A close friend of his explained, "I think David's a little frustrated with what he's doing now on *The Partridge Family*. He can't demonstrate much acting ability doing that. He knows he has talent; he wants to develop it and direct it to his peers and be accepted by them. That's what he wants to try for now."

But he is also a little bit scared. Right now he knows exactly what's expected of him, and what to expect. If he leaves the show he is not guaranteed anything. He does have faith in his ability, and the assurance of knowing that he was very

much in demand for work before he ever started the series. He also knows, that he is now a better actor than he ever was before. But still, the unknown is always frightening.

So, what will it be, David, will you stay with a sure thing, or venture out into a larger, broader world? The decision, of course, is yours alone. And not an easy one. But we know, whichever road you take, it will be the one that will make you happiest. ■

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