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TAPESCRIP~~T~~PT: Fame

Interviewer: Welcome to the second part of our show. I have with me Linda Thomson, an agent who has worked with many famous musicians and has come to give us some information regarding the problems of being famous. Welcome to the show, Linda.

Linda: Thanks for inviting me.

Interviewer: Now, Linda, perhaps you could explain to us exactly what you mean when you say that famous people do have problems. It is certainly hard for us, ordinary people, to imagine that famous people have any serious problems when most of them have enough money to live a very comfortable life. They also have lots of people taking care of them, like their agents, record companies and so on.

Linda: Well, it might seem like that to the rest of us but when you consider the pressure there is on a famous person to always look good, be polite and friendly, you can begin to get an idea of how being famous can sometimes cause a celebrity serious problems.

Interviewer: Umm... well... I mean it must be great to be able to walk into a shop or restaurant, be instantly recognised and get the best service. I don't think I would have a problem with people stopping me on the street and asking for my autograph!

Linda: Yes, but unfortunately, it doesn't stop there! Imagine you want to go jogging in the park, meet some friends at a café, or even just go shopping with your family on a Saturday afternoon. Your hair, make up and clothes must always look perfect, because you never know when you will be photographed. Not to mention the fact that people constantly come up to you, ask for your autograph and want to tell you how they feel about you and your work!

Interviewer: Well, that still doesn't sound so terrible to me!

Linda: Ok. How would you like to have a security system installed to prevent over-enthusiastic fans from breaking into your house, stealing your laundry off the washing line or taking souvenirs from your rubbish bin?

Interviewer: You've got a point. I don't think I'd like that very much!

Linda: Then, of course, there's the paparazzi, the photographers who secretly follow you around, hoping to get a picture of you doing something embarrassing like taking out the rubbish with curlers in your hair. Your family and friends will also find that they have very little privacy. The children of famous people have a particularly hard time because their classmates and even teachers will sometimes pretend to be their friend, just to get closer to their parents.

Interviewer: That's awful! But there must be some advantages to being famous. For example, having all that money would be nice!

Linda: Even the money can sometimes cause problems. You can certainly afford to have a comfortable lifestyle but the press will always criticise

you. Let me give you an example. If you buy an expensive car, they will say you are showing off. If you buy an inexpensive car, they will say you are cheap or having financial problems. You also have to make sure that you have a trustworthy accountant because the tax department will be keeping an eye on you!

Interviewer: That's a point there. I hadn't thought of that!

Linda: And don't forget, your personal life will become everybody's business. For instance, if you take time off to relax, there will be rumours that you are having a nervous breakdown, and if you ever have to go into hospital everyone will know your personal health details.

Interviewer: As you see, being famous can be quite complicated. You see, most people think celebrities are rich, successful, people enjoying the attention of the public. Only a few realise that they are people too, who deserve some privacy. Thanks a lot, Linda, for helping us understand a little better what celebrities go through. I suppose you really do have to pay a price for fame.