

# APRIL ASHLEY NEAR SLAVERY SAYS A JUDGE

**A**N agreement signed by model April Ashley came near to slavery, an Appeal Court judge said yesterday.

Miss Ashley, a former merchant seaman who had a sex-change operation, is to appeal against a Divorce Court judge's decision that she is a man.

Yesterday two judges heard of her "disappearing assets."

Mr. Joseph Jackson, Q C, for Mr. Arthur Corbett, who won a nullity decree because Miss Ashley was a man when they married, said that Miss Ashley had made a lot of money from her recent divorce.

She had put it out of the reach of the court so that she would be unable to pay the costs if

she lost her appeal Mr Jackson said.

Miss Ashley had an agreement with a firm which paid her £60 a month, gave her a rent-free flat, and in return took all her earnings.

Lord Justice Winn said: "Slavery is supposed to have been set aside, but this agreement comes very near to slavery."

Mr. Jackson said there was an incident when she sold a story to a newspaper for £10,000 and got rid of the money "in circumstances which have never been explained."

Miss Ashley, of Egerton Garden-mews, Chelsea, was ordered to pay £500 into court as security for the costs of her appeal.

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