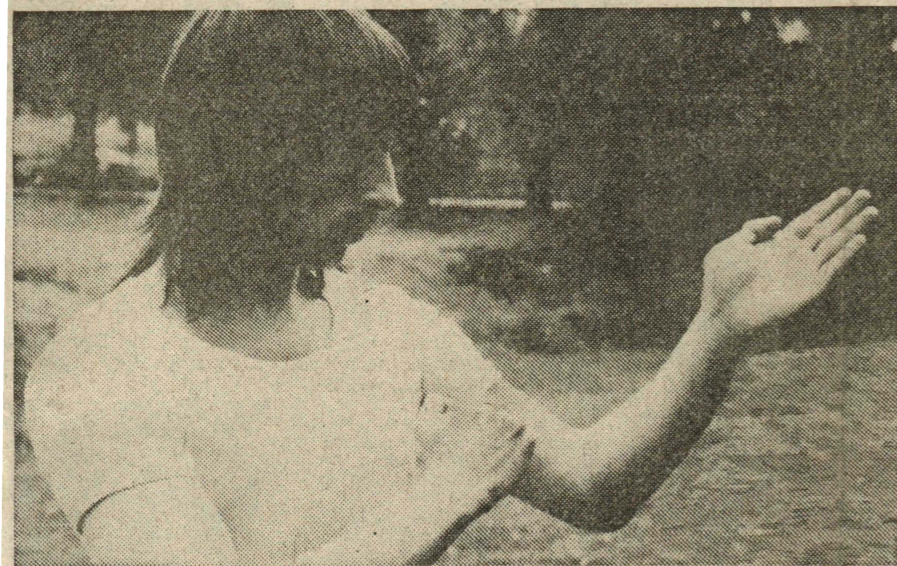


# LOVE FOR A KUNG FU FIGHTER



THE WAY Eugene was: "I didn't feel like a boy"

who were Kung Fu experts and they gradually taught me everything they knew.

"It was my salvation. Before I had black depressions about my sexuality. Now I had no time to brood on my problem.

"My meeting with Anne seemed like fate. That first evening out left me in a turmoil. I knew I had met a soul-mate."

Anne too, knew she had met a kindred spirit and was determined to make a new life with Eugene.

"I felt at ease for the first time in my life," she says.

## Fake

"I had gone through the motions of what was expected of me as a girl and woman, knowing all the time I was a fake.

"My marriage was already breaking up. Things had not been right for a long time. It only needed something like my meeting with Eugene to finish it altogether.

"As I drove back to my home and my husband Andrew, I thought about the secret I had kept hidden all those years.

"Right from the start I was a tomboy. I hated all the dolls I was given

and I used to swop them for guns and battleships.

"Everyone imagined it was a phase I would grow out of. Only I knew that this was the real me.

"At school, I wore my hair cropped short and was always being mistaken for a boy.

"I was 13 when the other girls suddenly started being interested in boys and I just didn't understand it.

"I didn't think of confiding in anyone, it all seemed so hopeless. I tried to pretend I was normal.

"I did the one thing that convinced everyone that I was just like anyone else, I found myself a boyfriend in Andrew.

"We spent most of our time walking and talking seriously about politics. We were an odd couple.

"I saw him as a friend first and a boy second. He saw me as a girl, of course. Ironically, ours was a good sexual relationship.

"I had trained myself to be 'normal' and didn't really have any hang-ups. I wouldn't admit even to

myself that I was play acting. I just kept trampling on my true self—on my masculinity.

"When Andrew suggested we get married I agreed. But I couldn't bring myself to even go and choose a dress for the wedding.

"The big change came in our lives when Andrew wanted to settle down. I didn't like it one bit.

"He had asked me on several occasions if we would have children. I always said no.

"I didn't feel able to cope with being a mother and looking after a child. I would have gone berserk. It caused a lot of arguments.

"I went away on a course, and when I came back the gulf between Andrew and myself had grown. We shared just the roof and a bed.

"When I went along to the Kung Fu classes, it was to find an outlet for my energies. A way of channelling my increasing awareness of being in the wrong body."

Anne went away to Devon to think about her future and her new

## EUGENE:

*I could floor the biggest guys in seconds. Imagine if I'd told them I was a woman.*

romance with Eugene.

She recalls: "I stopped near Stonehenge. I sat there wondering what I would face if I turned my whole world inside out by admitting I was a man.

"It was then I faced the glaring truth. I wasn't a lesbian, I wasn't even a woman—I was a man.

"All my mixed feelings about my body suddenly fell into place. I knew I couldn't continue to live as Andrew's wife.

"That night I told him our marriage was over."

Anne moved in with Eugene, but there were many problems still to conquer.

## Sleep

Says Eugene: "We'd never spoken of the sexual side of things and I wasn't sure how she would react.

"I went to my father and mother and told them that someone was going to live with me. When I told them it was a girl they were quite relieved.

"That first night we didn't sleep together, because it wasn't right. The next night Anne asked me to sleep with her.

"I took a deep breath and said: 'I hope it doesn't start like a heterosexual relationship, because it doesn't feel like that.'

"Anne said: 'I don't care what you do, just sleep with me.' That

night she put her arms round me and we fell asleep.

"I felt taken care of, like a woman and I know that Anne felt that she was behaving like a man.

"It was maybe the next day that I said: 'You know I'm not a man, don't you?' She said: 'I gathered that, but I'm no woman.'

"It was a relief to have it out in the open. I wasn't scared of what our sexual relationship might be after that.

"The main thing was, that for the first time in our lives we were living the truth.

"We knew that we had to go one step further and have a sex change. We might be outcasts in the eyes of society, but at least we had each other to rely on.

"Before we took that irrevocable step, there would be a lot of heart searching. But together we felt ready to face anything."



THE WAY they are now . . . Eugene, left, and Anne: "We want the world to know"

**NEXT WEEK**

**We decide to have a baby**