

I FORGIVE ROSIE FOR SEX-SWOP LOVE AFFAIR

ROUND-THE-WORLD sailor Colin Swale, whose wife Rosie ran off with a sex-change witch, has been talking for the first time of his heartbreak.

Colin, who has been cruising the Caribbean with their children Eve, 11, and Jimmy, nine, said: "Of course I forgive Rosie. My feelings for her haven't changed.

"She's the mother of my children and I still love her very much. If she came knocking on the door and wanted to come back we would all be very happy."

It is now more than two years since Rosie, 31, left her husband to live with 45-year-old Tracey Stamp, who used to be a merchant seaman called Bernard.

And Colin, 42, is still bitter about the way his family was torn apart. He said:

"I believe Rosie was enticed away from me. Tracey put a spell on her — her mind has been completely taken over.

Make no mistake Tracey is evil, very evil — and avaricious too.

She was our bad fairy. She has a very powerful personality, like Hitler. In fact, she's a very Hitlerian character.

SEDUCED

Tracey seduced Rosie. With luxury, attention, clothes and make-up.

Now I think she's just using my wife and Rosie's daft enough to allow herself to be manipulated.

I blame a lot of it on Erica Jong's book *Fear of Flying* in which the heroine goes off with a lesbian. Rosie was reading

EXCLUSIVE

By **FIONA MACDONALD HULL**

that at the time she left me for Tracey.

Yet I somehow can't believe that they're having a lesbian relationship.

I don't even know if it's possible with a sex-change man.

But then I have never come across people like that before.

Rosie is a very loving person and I'm quite sure her emotions are involved. But I don't think they're having a physical affair.

As for Tracey's sex-change operation, I don't think she's a woman.

She's a man, very heavily into homosexuality, masquerading as a woman.

My feelings for Tracey are strange. I don't know the ethics involved in

dealing with a man who's had a sex change.

Can you punch him on the nose? Or does he qualify as a woman?

I was always brought up not to punch a woman on the nose.

Actually, I don't think sex was the problem. It was always very good for Rosie and me.

We used to have sex regularly, right up to the end. Rosie didn't have any weird hang-ups or anything, but she used to like making love a lot — and we did.

Wednesday for some reason was our night. We used to try to break all the world records on a Wednesday.

Rosie had had a lot of affairs before she met me, but she told me after we first made love that was the first time the earth had ever moved for her.

And it went on moving, right to the end.

Now it's the children I worry about. They've suffered most from all this.

I can't bear to think

what it's done to them. Of course it has affected them, but I don't know how much.

They've adapted very well, but it's not a nice thing to happen to them.

The children have always played a large part in the epic story of the sailing family Swale.

Eve was only two when they made their historical trip around the world, the first in a catamaran.

The flamboyant trip meant the family was famous. So, too, was the nude picture Colin took of Rosie at the helm of the boat.

POPULAR

Newspaper features and TV and radio interviews all followed.

Colin recalls: "We even had a supporters' club with every eminent politician and artist you've ever heard of as members.

"In her own way, Rosie was one of the most popular people in the country at the time.

"And then she blew the lot. Everything we had worked for she just threw away."

The crisis came when Colin, Rosie and the children were living in a caravan outside Southampton while they were preparing a boat for a new nautical adventure.

There were sponsorship difficulties and delays in fitting out the boat; conditions in the caravan were terrible.

Says Colin: "We thought it would take only a year. Instead it took four.

"Rosie had a book contract she couldn't honour

and we had a marvellous television contract we couldn't meet because we couldn't get that boat afloat.

"I think you can destroy any family if you put enough disappointments and difficulties in their way.

"And with the sort of pressures we had, we started to needle each other a bit.

"Silly things like always being in competition. For instance, when we wrote books we'd work on them together but it was only Rosie who had her name on them.

"That peeved me but she used to say we only became famous because of her bosom, implying I'd had nothing to do with it.

"She always thought the best way to engage spon-

sors was to show acres of lily-white bosom and as she used to be a nude model it was rather difficult to stop her.

"One day we really had a bad row and it spoiled what was to have been a very special moment.

"At last the masts had just gone up on the boat. I was going to take her in my arms and give her a hug and a cuddle.

COMFORTS

"I forgot to tie a knot in the halliard, Rosie let go of it and it all collapsed.

"A red mist came down over my eyes and I can't even remember what we said to each other.

"So much for that special moment.

"Then, when we were at our lowest ebb, Tracey



SHIPMATES: Rosie and her sex-change lover Tracey Stamp

Stamp and her lover, Keith Vincent, came into our lives.

"They lived in a house near the caravan and offered us home comforts at a time when we were at our most vulnerable.

"They said we could go up there to wash and eat. That's how it happened.

"Rosie began spending more time there. Then she left."

Since the break-up, Rosie and Tracey have lived as witches in a cottage in the wilds of West Wales.

Colin was speaking after his wife was given a nine-month suspended jail sentence following her conviction for administering poisonous laburnum seeds to Keith Vincent.

Then Rosie was found guilty of soliciting. She claimed she was collecting material for a book on prostitution.

"I want to shake her and stop her doing these terrible things to herself.

"But most of all I — and the kids — want her back.

"Once, she asked me for a divorce, but to me, marriage is a contract and I wouldn't give her one.

"There's been no one else in my life. It would be difficult to find anyone after Rosie.

"She's a hard act to follow."

Now she's off to sea again

COLIN SWALE'S dreams of a reconciliation with his wife seem to have been sunk — by Rosie herself.

For minutes after Tracey Stamp was cleared of a poisoning charge, Rosie announced they planned to sail around the world in a yacht called Two People. The couple kissed and

hugged on the steps of the court in Southampton after the dramatic verdict.

Rosie, who was accompanied by her bulldog Bossy Boots, which had its claws painted red, said: "I'm so pleased. It's wonderful."

She said she was taking Tracey on her voyage because "she's so experi-

enced at sailing. I wouldn't take a man because they take all the credit."

Tracey said of her acquittal: "It's been a shock but a nice one."

It was the second time she had stood trial accused of poisoning her former lover Keith Vincent with laburnum seeds. The first jury could not agree on a verdict.



ABANDONED: Colin Swale with his children Jimmy (left) and Eve