

# BOY MEETS GIRL

**Tula and her boyfriend want to get married. They have already picked the church — a little rural chapel where Tula's younger sister held her wedding — but there is an unusual obstacle in their path. Tula's birth certificate declares that she is a he.**

Until the *News of the World* revealed that she was a transsexual — under the screeching headline 'Bond Girl Was A Boy' — Tula used to enjoy a successful career as a top commercial model. She told her own story last year in an engaging autobiography 'Tula: I am a Woman' (Sphere, £2.95).

Tula's current problem is that under section 11c of the Matrimonial Causes Act (1973), 'a marriage is void unless it is between a male and a female.' And, in the words of the Home Office, 'following this Act the courts have held that a person's sex has been fixed at

birth and any subsequent change doesn't change that.'

Tula says that in Italy, where her boyfriend is from, the law was changed three months ago to allow transsexuals 'after surgery full rights as a woman, including the right of getting married'. She claims that the situation is similar in most other Common Market countries.

Her only hope lies in a change in the law, but who is going to help her lobby Parliament? *Time Out* spoke to noted feminist author Angela Carter, who only expostulated: 'That doesn't sound like a grievance to me. I don't want to get married. Why do transsexuals always want just those aspects of "femininity" that most of us reject?'

Which political party's 1988 manifesto will be the first to promise equal rights for transsexuals? A new constituency is there for the wooing.

*Matthew Hoffman*

Well, they said anything could happen.



Actually not quite anything. Slim-limbed *Tula* is enough of a woman to fuel male fantasies and persuade them to drink vodka but not enough to get legally married. It'll take more than a swig of vodka to change the law.