

SEXY JAILBIRD SHARON IS REALLY A MAN

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THE BIZARRE case of a honey blonde called Sharon is baffling Britain's prison bosses.

For Sharon Nolan is really a man. But he hoodwinked the Home Office into sending him to Holloway women's jail.

Now he has been switched across London to Wandsworth prison for men—where the lover he calls his "common-law husband" is also serving time.

No wonder the authorities are confused. When we met Sharon in the jail's visiting hall, he pulled up his regulation grey sweater, twanged his lace bra shoulder strap and declared: "I take a 38 B cup!"

EMOTIONS

And his mother told us: "I'm terribly upset that Sharon's in prison. He's a good boy."

Sharon, who is serving two years for deception and fraud, is now campaigning for a transfer back to Holloway.

He said: "I'm a woman and have all the emotions of a woman."

"I shouldn't be locked up like this with 1,500 men."

"I'm allowed to wear the bra but they won't let me wear my skirt. They won't let me use nail polish on my fingers either but I've painted it on my toenails."

At present Sharon is held in Wandsworth's hospital wing—for his own protection.

"But I can never be

truly safe here," he said. "People try to touch me and whenever I have a bath they're always peeping through the spyhole."

"And they won't even let me see my husband John Poole who is in G wing."

Sharon, who changed his name by deed poll two years ago, used to live with 26-year-old John in Thamesmead, London.

They were both convicted on similar charges last October and received the same sentence.

At the trial Sharon claimed he once had a twin brother, Ian, who had died in a boating tragedy off the south coast in August, 1982.

DIFFICULT

But the truth is that Sharon is Ian. When he switched identities he went away and wrote to his family: "When you see me again I'll be a woman and my name will be Sharon."

His mother, 48-year-old Joyce Cunningham recalled the day he returned to her council flat in Aldington Road, Wandsworth wearing a navy-blue skirt and white blouse.

"I didn't recognise him at first," she said. "I



ODD COUPLE: Sharon (right) with "common-law husband" John

thought it was a social worker standing at the front door.

"It was enormously difficult to come to terms with but now I accept the situation and I'm proud to call my boy Sharon. I still love him."

"I first noticed something strange about him when he was 11. He was a normal schoolboy but only liked playing with girls."

"And he was always taking his sister's clothes and dressing up in them."

BALLOONS

"A year ago Sharon told me he was living with John and hoping to marry him. I gave them my double bed when they came to stay."

"I noticed Sharon seemed to have well developed breasts but later I found two little white balloons under the bed."

"But now he is developing a proper bust because of hormone treatment."

A spokesman for the Home Office said: "I'm sure sexual mix-ups can happen, but we can't discuss individual cases."

"It's up to the medical officer at the receiving prison to decide where a prisoner goes."