

Candle Write

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

The warm light shines from the semi
A look of cosiness and contentment
Porch light highlighting green front door
I stand outside in the rain
The gate a full stop to the street
Yellow glow reflecting on the puddled path
Like a dolls' house all the family inside
Colours flicker from the vast TV
Illuminating the Joneses in every room
As if they are in their own TV show
I imagine the theme tune to this scene
But all I hear is 'The Sound of Silence'
Hello darkness my old friend
The double glazing emits no noise
A white plume rises from the side alley
The gas boiler working like a shire horse
Pumping constant heat throughout
What conversations are they having I wonder?
Is the dinner cooking whilst a hot bath is running?
They may be content with their lot
But every house in the road looks the same
Lights ablaze and systems running
Temperatures rising, energy sources depleting
How much energy is being used in one street?
Do they know there's an energy crisis?

Helen Nicell © March 2023

