

When He Was Here

Janis Ian

He got the new car, she got the kids
They sold the house and lived apart
I kept the memories of how it had been
Kept every picture in my heart

When he was here, she would smile
They would laugh for a while
She would ask, "Am I still your only one?"
They would dance cheek to cheek
By the light of our TV, and she
Never needed memories when he was here

He found his freedom, she found a job
And gave away the wedding gown
Spent every weekend calling her old friends
Asking discreetly, "What's he doing now?"

When he was here, she would smile
They would laugh for a while
She would ask, "Am I still your only one?"
They would dance cheek to cheek
By the light of our TV, and she
Never needed memories when he was here

The letters and the photographs are locked away
For rainy days when we are brave
I ask her, did she taste forever in his kiss?
Does it have to end like this?
Both of us just wishing he was here

She would smile, they would laugh for a while
Then she would ask, "Am I still your only one?"
And they would dance cheek to cheek
By the light of the TV, and we
Never needed memories when he was here