

## The car outside / Lawrence Upton

*A kind quiet man comes out of his study on a cold Sunday night, trying to find the source of strange high-pitched sounds.*

*Eventually he opens his front door to see a car parked on the drive with a man inside, the front door of the car open.*

**Kind quiet man:** *[Raising his voice over the car's howls]* Can I help you?

**Man in car:** No thanks, mate.

**Kind quiet man:** *[Voice still raised]* Sorry, I was being polite. What I really meant is: What is going on?

**Man in car:** You can see! I've got trouble with the car. I'm trying to fix it.

**Kind quiet man:** *[Shouting to be heard properly]* You shouldn't be here at all. I can't say that I mind that much; but you are making a lot of noise.

**Man in car:** *[Studiedly calm, not pausing from his efforts]* You weren't using this space.

**Kind quiet man:** You didn't check with me that I didn't need it tonight.

**Man in car:** I often come here. I often use this space. You never use it.

**Kind quiet man:** Do you indeed? Now you are disturbing me severely.

**Man in car:** Look, mate, why don't you fuck off?

**Kind quiet man:** Funny, that's just what I was thinking about you.

**Man in car:** You prepared to enforce that?

**Kind quiet man:** Oh dear...

I'm prepared to go in now and call the police.

**Man in car:** You think they'll bother?

**Kind quiet man:** Probably not; but they might. I think while I wait to find out that I might start clearing out some rubble from the side there. I think the easiest way will be to throw the stuff over the gate. It might damage your car if you don't move it.

**Man in car:** *[finally suspending his noise-making; one word at a time]* It won't move. What am I supposed to do?

**Kind quiet man:** It'll move if you push it.

**Man in car:** You're joking.

**Kind quiet man:** No, I'm not. Not at all.

**Man in car:** You know what you are.

**Kind quiet man:** Yes, I do, in some detail. I know what you are too. So I'm going to start evicting you. You have less than a minute.

**Man in car:** All right. Give me a chance!

**Kind quiet man:** You've had that.

**Man in car:** I do know where you live.

**Kind quiet man:** I do know your car registration number.

*[The kind man goes indoors and the man in the car gets out of the car and pushes it into the street. The street is on a hill. He gets into his car and lets it drift downhill. Some way down the hill, it starts.]*