

I turn the light on a quick fix of
teal-green, orange & lemon.

Some do heroin; I do jonquils.

PARTNERS

In the beginning there was Mr & Mrs John Smith.
Later on there were Mr John & Mrs Joan Smith.
Then, of course, there were John & Joan Smith
who were to become John Smith & Joan Smith.
My wife, your wife & all our wives somehow
became less possessive than the wife, The wife
despite one last desperate defence of The Wife
via The Dutchess, The Princess & H M The Queen.
But my, your & our possessives weren't enough.
This is how Smith & Smith became friends.
So John Smith used to arrive—& friend
& Joan Smith used to arrive—& friend.
Yes, they knew they were more than friends
but at least they had a friend in common
even if the friend was a different friend.
Would there be room on future invitations for
& close friend & good friend & old friend
without being presumptuous, ageist or a perve? So
partners took partners & partners took partners. So
much easier for partners to take partners' partners.
Just taking up a partner & just taking that partner
so that partner could take home some other partner
became as popular as a wild new dance craze.
It was the end of People Without Partners;
the beginning of Partners Without Partners.