

Hold the Door Open

Drake Oranwood

Intro:

/F#m7 -- / F#m -- / B7 -- / B -- / G -- / A -- /
/ D -- / --- / G -- / A -- /

Verse 1 (Opening)

D (2) G D
Will you harken a while, for I must speak of Gareth:
G A D Bm
My brother, my teacher, my friend;
G A Bm D
Of the youngest and best of the four brothers Orkney,
G D Am A
But all stories come to an end.

D (2) G D
He inquired once, "Gawain, will you do me a service?
G A D Bm
My friend here needs somewhere to stay."
G A Bm D
It was Brangwin, the handmaid of Princess Isolde;
G A D (2)
I had heard she'd been stolen away.

C A D
"Please, Gawain, keep her safe from all eyes,
Bm
I implore you."
C A D Bm
I said, "Gareth, what's this affair?
C A D
For what business should knights keep young women
Bm
in hiding—"
C A Bm (2)
He cut off my words with a glare.

(Pre-refrain)

G Em A D
"Are we chivalry's legends? Read closely the tale,
Em C A7 Bm7
In the margins it shows if we thrive or we fail.
G Em A D
Dear Gawain, eldest brother I prize and adore,
E7 E A
You will learn that as knights we owe more...

(Refrain)

F#m G A D
"What might we hold, if we hold the door open?
F#m Bm G D A
What could we have, if a haven we make?
Dm Am C G
If we stand in need, and we hold the door open,
F#m7 F#m B7 B
The might of our Table won't break.
G A D (2)
The might of our Table won't break."

/ G -- / A -- /

Verse 2 (Brangwin)

D (2) G D
Brangwin said, "My Isolde is in love with a young man,
G A D Bm
But she was to marry a king.
G A Bm D
So her mother contrived to ensure this alliance,
G D Am A
And she took me under her wing.

D (2) G
"I would pour her a drink that would change Isolde's
D
passion,
G A D Bm
Make her husband king in her eyes.
G A Bm D
I refused to do wrong to a lady's consent—
G A D (2)
Then she seized me, ignoring my cries.

C A D
"A cold night in the woods might bring me to my
Bm
senses,
C A D Bm
So I was left bound to a tree.
C A D Bm
Palamedes the Saracen came to my aid;
C A Bm
He believed me, and he set me free.

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G **Em** **A**
"Will you keep Gareth's promise that I won't be
D
caught?"

Em **C** **A7** **Bm7**
"Lady Brangwin, forgive me, I'd given no thought—"

G **Em** **A** **D**
"Sir Gawain, women all, be we servants or wives,
E7 **E** **A**
Should have sovereignty over our lives...

F#m **G** **A** **D**
"What might we hold, if we hold the door open?
F#m **Bm** **G** **D** **A**
What could we choose, with a choice freely ours?"

Dm **Am** **C** **G**
If we stand in trust, and we hold the door open,
F#m7 **F#m** **B7** **B**
Our kingdom might shine like the stars.
G **A** **D (2)**
Our kingdom might shine like the stars."

/ G -- / A -- /

Verse 3 (Palamedes)

D (2) **G** **D**
So I left her and sought after Sir Palamedes,
G **A** **D** **Bm**
Who, each man he faced he'd unseat;
G **A** **Bm** **D**
But no matter his valor, each tournament day
G **D** **Am** **A**
Would the Saracen end in defeat.

D (2) **G** **D**
"Palamedes," I asked him when we were alone,
G **A** **D** **Bm**
"Have you been holding back from your best?"
G **A** **Bm** **D**
He said, "One of my color outshining these knights?
G **A** **D (2)**
Sir Gawain, that's a risk I'll not test.

C **A** **D** **Bm**
"Many say that I'm pining for Princess Isolde,
C **A** **D** **Bm**
But it's Brangwin who's captured my heart;

C **A** **D** **Bm**
She accepts me in fullness and gave me her word
C **A** **Bm (7)**
That my faith would not keep us apart."

G **Em** **A** **D**
I said, "Good Palamedes, a fool have I been!
Em **C** **A7** **Bm7**
For your chivalry's not in your faith or your skin."
G **Em** **A**
When he held Brangwin close on the day they were
D
wed,
E7 **E** **A**
I remember the words that he said...

F#m **G** **A** **D**
"What might we hold, if we hold the door open?
F#m **Bm** **G** **D** **A**
What is it worth, if we value each soul?
Dm **Am** **C** **G**
If we stand in truth, and we hold the door open,
F#m7 **F#m** **B7** **B**
Our kingdom might truly be whole.
G **A** **D (2)**
Our kingdom might truly be whole."

/ G -- / A -- /

Verse 4 (Gareth)

D (2) **G** **D**
You recall, Gareth first came to Camelot nameless,
G **A** **D** **Bm**
And served in the kitchen a year.
G **A** **Bm**
You discovered his virtues, and you gave him
D
knighthood,
G **D** **Am** **A**
But there's more I need you to hear.

D (2) **G** **D**
A few days before Yule, I approached him in private
G **A** **D** **Bm**
And said, "There's a kinship I sense:

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G A Bm
I could swear you were Gwyneth, my sweet darling
D
sister—
G A D (2)
What mean you behind this pretense?"

C A D
"O Gawain, hear me please, that is my name no
Bm
longer,
C A D Bm
For lady nor lord strikes me true.
C A D Bm
But it's knighthood that calls me: if you keep my secret,
C A Bm (2)
Then I'll be a brother to you."

G Em A D
Thus, at Pentecost next, our young knight won acclaim,
Em C A7 Bm7
For a place at the Table Round bore Gareth's name.
G Em A D
Oh, we Orkneys, we kept this conspiracy fast,
E7 E A
But he idolized you to the last...

F#m G A D
What might we hold, if we hold the door open?
F#m Bm G D A
What could we dream, if we dreamed it for all?
Dm Am C G
If we stand in pride, and we hold the door open,
F#m7 F#m B7 B
Our fellowship, how could it fall?
G A D (2)
Our fellowship, how could it fall?

/ G - - / A - - /

Verse 5 (Mordred)

D (2) G
Some months back, Gareth said, "Keep your eye upon
D
Mordred:
G A D Bm
He's stirring up fear and dissent."
G A Bm D
I responded, "What mean you? He is our half-brother.
G D Am A
How can you malign his intent?"

D (2) G
"Brangwin told me, Gawain, that he laid hands upon
D
her,
G A D Bm
And when she declared she was wed,
G A Bm D
Mordred hinted this place knew its share of adultery,
G A D (2)
A queen might be caught in her bed.

C A D Bm
"Have you heard how he whispers that Saracen blood
C A D Bm
Is a blight with no place in our court?"
C A D Bm
"Gareth, Mordred is kin, and the son of King Arthur,
C A Bm (2)
I've seen nothing like you report."

G Em A
"You must heed me, Gawain! There are those who
D
speak fair,
Em C A7
But their words they are venom, their questions a
Bm7
snare.
G Em A D
They will rise up by fostering division and hate,
E7 E A
Don't you see what's at risk if we wait?..."

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F#m G A D
"Who must we hold, if we hold the door open?"

F#m Bm G D A
Who of our kind, is unkind at the core?

Dm Am C G
If we stand alert, and we hold the door open,
F#m7 F#m B7 B

There are some we must show the door.

G A D (2)
There are some we must show the door."

/ G -- / A -- /

Verse 6 (Gawain)

D (2) G D
We arrive, Lancelot, at the end of our story,

G A D Bm
For Gareth, he died at your hand.

G A Bm
When you saved Guinevere, you saw not who her

D
guard was,
G D Am A

Precisely as Mordred had planned.

D (2) G D
With his death, I fell prey to my grief and my fury

G A D Bm
And Arthur, I pledged him to war.

G A Bm D
Though I know you loved Gareth as dearly as I did,
G A D (2)

I could not forgive anymore.

C A D Bm
I helped Camelot fall as I sought you in combat,

C A D Bm
And this wound may cost me my life.

C A D Bm
Palamedes at last gives the counsel I needed:

C A Bm (2)
My brother sought justice, not strife.

G Em A D
So I ask, Lancelot, will you pledge Gareth's creed?

Em C A7 Bm7
Will you welcome the lost, and defend those in need?

G Em A D
Will you pass on this mission, until your last breath,

E7 E A
So our brother-knight lives beyond death?...

F#m G A D
What might we hold, if we hold the door open?

F#m Bm G D A
How could we live, if we lived what we learned?

Dm Am C G
If we stand in love, and we hold the door open,

F#m7 F#m B7
Could we see our kingdom returned?...

F#m G A D
What might we hold, if we hold the door open?

F#m Bm G D A
How could the cost not be worth the reward?

Dm Am C G
If we stand in hope, and we hold the door open,

F#m7 F#m B7 B
There may come a day it's restored.

G A D (2)
There may come a day it's restored.

/ G -- / D -- / G -- / A -- / D -- /

End on D