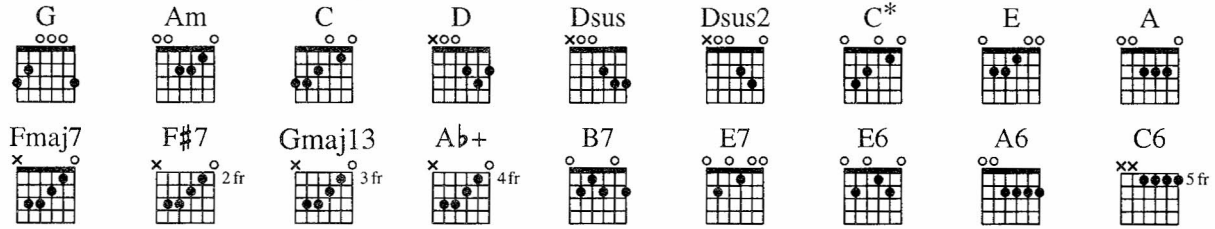


# AMERICAN WAKE



Words and Music by  
**LARRY KIRWAN**

Moderate Waltz

1. O - pen up the door, — she's stand - in' there — With a  
2.-4. See additional lyrics

smile in her eyes — but the grey in her hair — Be - trays the fact you

strayed far from home With your drink and your smok - in' your whor-in' a - round —

Sit down by the fire, put your feet on the grate Spend the

night re-mi-nis-cin' 'til the ho-ur — grows — late Al-ways re-mem - ber at the

end of the day — You can al - ways go home you just can't

1.,2.  
G C D G

stay

C G C D

2. Then it's  
3. Then you

3.  
E A C D Fmaj7 F#7

stay

Gmaj13 Ab+ C D

And you swear to your-self time and time a-gain It was

G B7 E7 E6

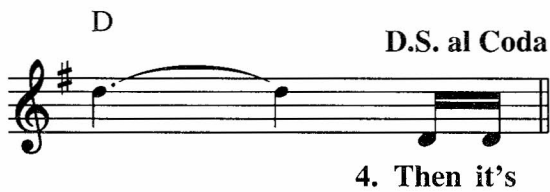
all in the past, she don't mean an - y-thing Now your life is full of

A6 C6 C Am Break

laugh - ter and bars \_ What did \_ you leave be - hind \_ just the sun, the moon and the

G C D

stars \_



*Additional lyrics*

2. Then it's off to the pub for to see your old mates  
 Ah, they all look older, but nothin' has changed  
 And you drink 'til you're nearly out of your head  
 "Hey, what are yez all doin' snakin' off to bed"  
 Then you're outside her flat but she's no longer there  
 The tears scald your eyes as you think of her hair  
 In the photo they sent you of her wedding day  
 You can always go home - you just can't stay
3. Then you see her at Mass with the kids at her side  
 And it all comes back in the blink of an eye  
 The tears and the laughter, the love and the lies  
 And that dress she wore the night you said good-bye  
 Then her husband says "It's good to have you back"  
 And she smiles for a moment and squeezes your hand  
 But you know what she's thinkin', she doesn't have to say  
 You can always go home - you just can't stay
4. Then it's up in the mornin' at the crack of dawn  
 With your stomach churnin', she says "C'mon now, Sean,  
 You'll be late for the plane," but that crack in her voice  
 Betrays the fact that you made your choice  
 A long time ago, now there's no turnin' back  
 'Cause last night you had your American Wake  
 And the bells are still ringin', can't you hear what they say  
 You can always go home - you just can't stay