

reputation

Taylor Swift clears her reputation with new album

By Livvy Cohen
editor-in-chief

As an avid Spotify user, I anxiously awaited the arrival of Taylor Swift's new album, "Reputation," to streaming services. My ever-increasing anticipation was met with excitement and absolute shock when her new album finally hit Spotify on Dec. 1, almost two weeks following its initial release on Nov. 10. Swift used this new release as a way to reinvent her artistry, for the better.

When Swift released her first single off of "Reputation," "Look What You Made Me Do," I was honestly disappointed in the route Swift was taking in her

artistry. The song was bland, repetitive, and very pop-heavy. During the song, Swift sings, "I'm sorry, the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now / 'Why?' / 'Oh, 'cause she's dead!'" This gave me somewhat high hopes that the rest of "Reputation" would stray away from a 'top-hits radio' sound.

The typical "country turned pop" persona that Swift was labeled with for the past several years is no longer even in her atmosphere. The innocence that typically followed Swift's name was nearly forgettable when the opening track, "...Ready For It?" began. With a bass-heavy intro, Swift's good-girl motto was nowhere to be found.

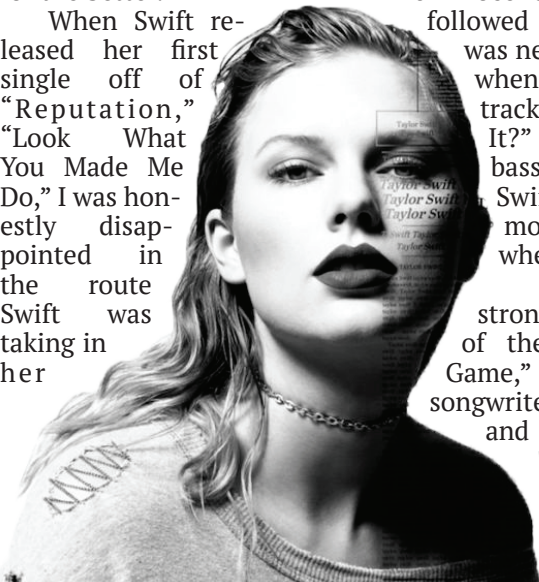
One of the strongest tracks of the album, "End Game," features singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and rapper Future. This song may have gotten lost in the chorus, but both

Sheeran and Future thankfully saved it from an inevitable cliché pop sound.

Swift ventured through several genres during this album, but the most surprising may have been the electronic-inspired, "I Did Something Bad." Heavily reminiscent of famous electronic artists Disclosure or Flume. One of my favorites on her album, this track was almost nothing like Swift has ever released and showed her progression as an artist throughout the years.

"Getaway Car," however, returned to the iconic sound of her last release, "1989," which I appreciated as that has been my favorite album by Swift yet. She was evidently holding strong to her past, while also accepting that she is growing in her career and adulthood.

Possibly my favorite track on the album, "New Year's Day," closed the album with a tranquil sound, giving an emotional and delicate close to what ended up being a superb album. I had low hopes following the first single, but I was met with a pleasurable and successful album.

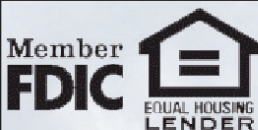


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SONG	ARTIST
Peace On Earth/Little Drummer Boy	David Bowie
Common Sense	John Prine
Happy Xmas (War Is Over)	John Lennon
Must Be Santa	Bob Dylan
Holy, Holy, etc.	Sufjan Stevens
I Thank God	The Avett Brothers
Hard Candy Christmas	Dolly Parton
White Winter Hymnal	Fleet Foxes
Ding! Dong!	Sufjan Stevens
Sister Winter	Sufjan Stevens
Christmas in Prison	John Prine
Boxing Day Blues	Courtney Barnett
Silent Night	Sufjan Stevens
Christmas Must Be Tonight	The Band
Do You Hear What I Hear?	Bob Dylan
Cool Yule	Louis Armstrong
Wonderful Christmastime	The Shins
Little Saint Nick	The Beach Boys
Just Like Christmas	Low

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