

TAYLOR SWIFT - "RED"

By: Joeseeph R. Atilano

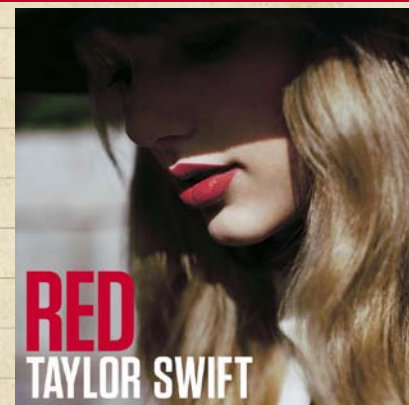
Taylor Swift's failed relationships and her longing for someone right has pushed her to reveal more intimate, heart-wrenching and detailed lyrics that loosely follow the last two years of her life. It is in this most personal state that she has found the way to elevate her song-writing skills and to explore other sides of herself that perhaps she never knew existed.

The first song 'State of Grace'—will serve as a slow and warm welcome for loyal Taylor Swift fans. This song will also serve as "familiar ground" to those who have purchased her first three albums. You couldn't really tell the difference with this track. 'I Knew You Were Trouble'—starts off as a fun song that goes awry when the dub-step influence makes its way in. '22'—A sad song which is coated in a danceable beat. '22' sounds more like a celebration of youth than anything else and coincidentally, 22 is also her age now. There is a deeper meaning to this song than Taylor Swift lets out. 'We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together'— Sounds more like an Avril Lavigne song made years ago. This is a perfect example of a "Bubble-Gum POP" song. 'The Last Time' Feat. Gary Lightbody—This song

is the most mature of the entire album and proves she is ready for the adult-pop realm that. This song comes out nicely because it represents a darker tone of the album. 'Everything Has Changed' Feat. Ed Sheeran — Ed Sheeran does nothing more than complement the vocals of Taylor Swift here. This is the second track in which she has guest vocals. 'Begin Again' — For the hopeless romantic and we get to hear Taylor Swift's guitar-picking skills here. This is a nice delicate and mellow ender to "RED".

RED is a mixed result. There are tracks here that clearly show how far she has gone from being a teen pop-star to making the transition to a certified adult-pop artist. While there are a few tracks in "RED" that still rely on her singing radio-friendly melodies with easy-to-digest lyrics and catchy hooks, Although, Taylor Swift has shown that she has the courage in trying her hand even in the latest trending genres like dub-step which can be seen as a way for to make her presence felt for the club-ready crowd.

The album is quite varied depending on the musical styles because she has acoustic-based songs like ('I Almost Do' and 'Everything Has Changed' Feat. Ed Sheeran), a dark folk-ballad ('On The Last Time' Feat. Gary Lightbody), one experimental track in the dub-step infused ('I Knew You Were Trouble') and heavier country-pop songs (State of Grace and Sad Beautiful Tragic) and a couple other tracks not really worth noting. You can tell why it took two whole years for the album "RED" to be finished.



TRACKLIST

- 1 STATE OF GRACE
- 2 RED
- 3 TREACHEROUS
- 4 I KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE
- 5 ALL TOO WELL
- 6 22
- 7 I ALMOST DO
- 8 WE ARE NEVER EVER GETTING BACK TOGETHER
- 9 STAY STAY STAY
- 10 THE LAST TIME
- 11 HOLY GROUND
- 12 SAD BEAUTIFUL TRAGIC
- 13 THE LUCKY ONE
- 14 EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED
- 15 STARLIGHT
- 16 BEGIN AGAIN

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT TAYLOR:

- 10.) SHE WEARS GLASSES
- 9.) THE THOUGHT OF GETTING A TATOO TERRIFIES HER
- 8.) SHE WAS THE FIRST CELEBRITY TO HOST SNL AND WRITE HER OWN MONOLOGUE
- 7.) SHE LIVED ON A CHRISTMAS TREE FARM
- 6.) HER GRANDMOTHER WAS AN OPERA SINGER
- 5.) SHE WROTE A NOVEL WHEN SHE WAS TWELVE
- 4.) THE DIXIE CHICKS WAS ONE OF HER ROLE MODELS
- 3.) SHE HAS A BROTHER WHO IS A PHOTOGRAPHER
- 2.) HER FATHER OWNS 3% OF HER RECORD LABEL
- 1.) SHE WON THE NATIONAL POETRY CONTEST AS A CHILD



Taylor is nominated for 3 Grammy awards, one for new single off the album Red, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."



KATY PERRY- "THE COMPLETE CONFECTION"

By Ben Norman

The sophomore album from Katy Perry does everything the singles promise it to. It pops, and it pops big. "California Gurls" was far from what I expected when I heard about new Katy Perry. Something about that particular chord progression (think Ke\$ha's "Tik Tok," Kylie's "Love At First Sight," and Madonna's "Get Together") really draws me in. Perhaps the rest of the world feels the same way, which would explain how "California Gurls" became such a massive hit. The track was electronic and effervescent, proving that there is plenty of room in the pop world for Perry, Ke\$ha, Gaga, and all of those other wacky female artists. The follow up single, "Teenage Dream," is another slice of pop perfection. This track centers around love and feeling good, feelings most of us have felt, with a guitar-based pop production that is instantly familiar and welcome. Both tracks feel somehow like sequels of the singles from *One of the Boys*, but at the same time a progression. Which means that, within the first two singles from *Teenage Dream*, Katy Perry has already done what she set out to do: create a sophomore album that doesn't stray too far from what made fans love her in the first place.

With equal candor she sings about realizing your self worth ("Firework")



with swirls of symphonic melody, "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)," which could be considered "Waking Up In Vegas" in it's lyrical recounting of events she didn't remember. "Circle The Drain" is a rather dark and poignant song describing her attempts to urge her man to give up drugs and focus on their relationship.

Most of *Teenage Dream* is aimed at making you feel good. The album isn't really intended to be serious, nor is it intended to be taken that way. Katy just wants you to have fun. "The One That Got Away" truly sounds like a more boring version of "Teenage Dream." The production is a little more tedious, the lyrics are a little more forgettable. "E.T." is a deliciously dark slice of electronica that deserves to be heard. "Hummingbird Heartbeat," which sounds like an 80s hair metal anthem, sadly falls a bit short of the mark. "Pearl" is a curious track that requires more than one listen to appreciate. Perry's performance is a bit heavy for the light and ponderous production, but you may find yourself singing along if the first listen doesn't put you off entirely.

This is until you are walloped with the beauty of "Not Like The Movies." This is the type of pensive piano ballad you'd expect from Terra Naomi or Charlotte Martin, not from the hyper-charged Katy Perry. In the track, Perry laments that reality doesn't match what she sees in films, and it is possibly the most moving track she has put out on any album. The song grows in insistency, going from simple piano to a full orchestra. The album itself is definitely a lot of fun.

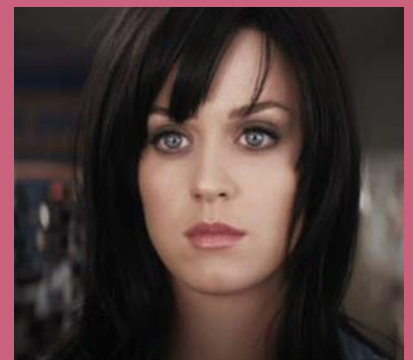


TRACKLIST

- 1 TEENAGE DREAM
- 2 LAST FRIDAY NIGHT
- 3 CALIFORNIA GURLS
- 4 FIREWORK
- 5 PEACOCK
- 6 CIRCLE THE DRAIN
- 7 THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY
- 8 E.T.
- 9 WHO AM I LIVING FOR?
- 10 PEARL
- 11 HUMMINGBIRD HEARTBEAT
- 12 NOT LIKE THE MOVIES
- 13 THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY-ACOUSTIC VERSION
- 14 PART OF ME
- 15 WIDE AWAKE
- 16 DRESSIN' UP
- 17 E.T.-FEATURING KANYE WEST

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT KATY:

- 10.) SHE HAS A CAT NAMED KITTY PURRY
- 9.) KATY'S REAL NAME IS KATHERYN HUDSON
- 8.) SHE WAS A CHRISTIAN SINGER BEFORE SHE BECAME A POP STAR
- 7.) BOTH OF HER PARENTS ARE PASTORS
- 6.) SHE CO-WROTE EVERY SONG "ON ONE OF THE BOYS"
- 5.) SHE WAS BRIEFLY MARRIED TO RUSSEL BRAND
- 4.) ONE OF HER INFLUENCES IS THE BAND QUEEN
- 3.) HER NATURAL HAIR COLOR IS BLONDE
- 2.) AS A TEEN, SHE WASN'T ALLOWED TO WATCH MTV
- 1.) SHE PLAYED 'SMURFETTE' IN THE SMURFS



Teenage Dream The Complete Confection had six #1 hits, including the new single, "The One That Got Away."