

### **Back to December** (Taylor Swift)

“Back to December” addresses a first for me, in that I’ve never apologized to someone in a song before. In the good, or bad, or the apology, the person I wrote the song for deserves this. This is about somebody who was incredible to me, just perfect to me in a relationship, and I was really careless with him, so these are the words that I would say to him -- that he deserves to hear.

### **Enchanted** (Taylor Swift)

I wrote “Enchanted” about a guy who I was enchanted to meet, obviously. He was somebody that I had talked to a couple of times on email, and then I was in New York and went to meet him.

I remember just the whole way home thinking, “I hope he’s not in love with somebody.” It was just wonderful, that feeling. Like, “Oh my gosh. Who’s he with? Does he like me? Does he like somebody else? What does it mean?” I got home and he had emailed me and said something like, “Sorry I was so quiet. I was just wonderstruck meeting you.” And so I incorporated the word *wonderstruck*, into the song as a, “Hey this one’s sorta for you.”

### **Haunted** (Taylor Swift)

“Haunted” is about the moment that you realize the person you’re in love with is drifting and fading fast. And you don’t know what to do, but in that period of time, in that phase of love, where it’s fading out, time moves so slowly. Everything hinges on what that last text message said, and you’re realizing that he’s kind of falling out of love. That’s a really heartbreaking and tragic thing to go through, because the whole time you’re trying to tell yourself it’s not happening. I went through this, and I ended up waking up in the middle of the night writing this song about it.

I wanted the music and the orchestration to reflect the intensity of the emotion the song is about, so we recorded strings with Paul Buckmaster at Capitol Studios in Los Angeles. It was an amazing experience - recording this entire big, live string section that I think in the end really captured the intense, chaotic feeling of confusion I was looking for.

### **Long Live** (Taylor Swift)

“Long Live,” (in parentheses “We Will Be Remembered”), is the first song where I’ve ever had parentheses in the title. Besides that, though, this song is about my band, and my producer, and all the people who have helped us build this brick by brick. The fans, the people who I feel that we are all in this together, this song talks about the triumphant moments that we’ve had in the last two years. We’ve had times where we just jump up and down, and dance like we don’t care how we’re dancing, and just scream at the top of our lungs, “How is this happening?”

And, I feel very lucky to even have had *one* of those moments, nonetheless all the ones that I got to have.

“Long Live” is about how I feel reflecting on it. This song for me is like looking at a photo album of all the award shows, and all the stadium shows, and all the hands in the air in the crowd. It’s sort of the first love song that I’ve written to my team.

### **Mean** (Taylor Swift)

The song “Mean” is about, well, when you do what I do, which is you put yourself out there for a lot of people to say whatever they want about it, there are a million different opinions from a million different people.

I get it that not everyone is going to like everything that you do, and I get that no matter what, you’re going to be criticized for something. But I also get that there are different kinds of ways to criticize someone. There is constructive criticism. There’s professional criticism. And then, there’s just being mean. There’s a line that you cross when you just start to attack everything about a person, and there’s one guy who just crossed the line over and over again. Just being mean, and saying things that would ruin my day.

This happens...no matter what you do, no matter how old you are, no matter what your job is, no matter what your place is in life. There’s always going to be someone who’s just mean to you. Dealing with that is all you can control about that situation, how you handle it. “Mean” is about how I handle it, and sort of my mind set about this whole situation

### **Mine** (Taylor Swift)

Lately I’ve had this bad habit of running away from love. Kind of getting to the place where it’s about to commit, and then you just, like, run in the opposite direction. “Mine” is about the idea that I could find someone who would be the exception to that, someone who would be so sturdy and so much of a sure thing that I wouldn’t run from it. Sometimes I look back on a lot of examples that I’ve seen of love, long term, and a lot of times it doesn’t work out. There are goodbyes and people get really hurt, so I tend to be a little ‘run-awayish.’ But I’m never past hoping that at some point that could change.

This song is the first single because it has this...there was this moment between Nathan and I, my producer, when I brought this song in and when we made this demo in one day in his basement and we just kinda looked at each other and we were like, “This is it. This is the one. All of the times that I’ve had “The Moment” with songs of “This is the one,” it’s been a good call, so I’m hoping for the best on this one. Wish me luck.

### **Speak Now** (Taylor Swift)

This song was inspired by one of my friends who was telling me about her childhood sweetheart, crush guy. They were kind of together in high school and went their separate ways, and it was kind of understood that they were gonna get back together. Then, she one day comes in and tells me he's getting married. He had met this girl who was just this mean person who made him completely stop talking to all of his friends, cut off his family, had him like so completely isolated. And I just, kind of randomly, was like, "So, you gonna speak now?" She was like, "What do you mean?" And I was like "Oh, you know, like storm the church, speak now or forever hold your peace? I'll go with you. I'll play guitar. It would be great." She was just kind of laughing, and later on I just was wrapping my mind around that idea of how tragic it would be if someone you loved was marrying somebody else.

Later I had a dream about one of my ex-boyfriends getting married, and it just all came together that I needed to write this song about interrupting a wedding. For me, I like to think of it as good versus evil, and this girl is so completely painted as the evil one. So this is "Speak Now."

### **Story of Us** (Taylor Swift)

The "Story of Us" is a song that I wrote about an awkward situation where, well... Let me just preface by saying that I have happened to run into exes in strange places lately. This is about one of those situations where the strange place that I ran into him was an awards show.

I was seated a couple of seats away from him and there was so much that needed to be said, and neither one of us was willing to say it. We were both acting like we were engaged in conversations with people that we don't even know. It was just miserable. I was telling my Mom about it later, and I said I felt like I was standing alone in a crowded room. And then I was like, "Gotta go. Bye!" And my Mom is used to that at this point so, that's what this song is about.

### **Better Than Revenge** (Taylor Swift)

"Better Than Revenge," well, that's a song about a girl who, a few years ago, stole my boyfriend. I think she probably thought I forgot about it, but I didn't.

### **Dear John** (Taylor Swift)

The song "Dear John" is sort of like the last email you would ever send to someone that you used to be in a relationship with. Usually people write this venting last email to someone and they say everything that they want to say to that person, and then they most often don't send it. I guess by putting this song on the album I'm pushing send.

### **Innocent (Taylor Swift)**

“Innocent” is about something that really intensely affected me emotionally. It took a while to write this one. I was fortunate enough to get a chance to perform this song on the VMAs, and that’s the first time that anyone ever heard it. Putting out an album called *Speak Now* -- where you’re supposed to say what you feel when you know how you feel - - I felt that performing this song on that particular awards show was appropriate. I hope everybody likes this one.

### **Last Kiss (Taylor Swift)**

The song “Last Kiss” is sort of like a letter to somebody. It’s about all of those desperate, hopeless feelings that you have after a breakup. Going through a breakup you feel all of these different things -- anger, confusion, frustration. Then, there is the absolute sadness. The sadness of losing this person, losing all the memories, and the hopes you had for the future. There are just times when you have this moment of truth where you just admit to yourself that you miss all these things. When I was in one of those moments, I wrote this song.

### **Never Grow Up (Taylor Swift)**

“Never Grow Up” is about the fact that I don’t quite know how I feel about growing up. It’s tricky, how growing up happens without you knowing it. And, growing up is such a crazy concept because a lot of times when you’re younger you wish you were older. I look out into a crowd every night and I see a lot of girls that are my age and going through exactly the same things as I’m going through. Every once in a while I look down and I see a little girl who is seven or eight, and I wish I could tell her all of this. There she is, becoming who she is going to be, and forming her thoughts and dreams and opinions. I wrote this song for those little girls.

### **Sparks Fly (Taylor Swift)**

“Sparks Fly” is about falling for someone who you maybe shouldn’t fall for, but you can’t stop yourself because there’s such a connection and chemistry. This is a song I wrote a few years ago and I have been working on it ever since. It’s been awesome to see it change over the years. The fans have heard it before in concert, but there have been some really cool changes that I am very proud of and can’t wait for them to hear.