

A Review of Taylor Swift's *evermore* Album

I dedicated a long walk with no particular destination in mind just to listen to Taylor Swift's *evermore* album when it came out in the nightmare that was 2020. I have been listening to Swift's music since I was eight years old: I received a CD of *Fearless* for Christmas in 2008, and I can remember melodramatically laying on a paisley quilt on my bed, listening to Swift's angsty interpretation of love and heartbreak on my HelloKitty stereo. Those days are gone, but here's the bright side: Swift has grown up.. And *evermore* is the proof of that.

While some may feel uncomfortable with the idea of Swift creating an Alternative/Indie album after spicier, more cut-throat albums such as *Reputation* or *Red*, Swift's voice is clearer without the extra noise and distractions; in fact, the raw emotion that Swift so eloquently portrays is quite refreshing. We can actually *hear* what she sounds like: a talented, creative musician and vocalist with something more to share than pretty-sounding words. Amidst a pandemic, Swift mirrored the imposed quiet that the whole world was experiencing as we sat cooped up in our homes. Getting comfortable with a slower, more honest, more authentic pace, Swift explores a world of story-telling through different perspectives: Swift morphs into a disenchanted spouse in "happiness," a nostalgic granddaughter in "marjorie," and an ally for a murderer in "no body, no crime" (featuring HAIM). No song sounds exactly alike: "willow" bends and flows with upbeat acoustics, "dorothea" drawls out the lazy, blissful haze of feeling in love, and "closure" matches the rough clinks and clatters of an emotional breakup. While "champagne problems," "happiness," and "gold rush," may be a little more expected in their tone and content for Swift, "coney island" (featuring The National) is quite unexpected: it switches tone and pace suddenly and The National and Swift's voices take turns in their time to shine, coming together in perfect harmony for the chorus. Unlike her past albums, Swift has a quiet confidence that shines through creative lyrics, baring to the world that she has grown up from her *Reputation* days.