

Growing up a 2006 Swiftie



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Growing up I listened to one thing, Metallica, and that was per my dad. So, when my older sister got me a CD player on Christmas and the Taylor Swift 'Speak Now' album, I was changed mentally.

In 2006 when I was born, Swift released her first single "Tim McGraw," and then the song spent eight months on the billboard's country single according to Britannica.

I cannot remember the first Swift song I have ever listened to, but I remember listening to "You Belong With Me," which was released on her 2008 album "Fearless,"

according to Britannica.

I can distinctly remember making up dances for the song in my living room and pretending to be the 'cheerleader' on the other side of the phone Swift was talking about throughout the song.

I can even picture my parents yelling at me through the house to change the song because I had it on constant repeat.

When I picture my younger self listening to these dignifying songs about heartbreak and failed relationships, I picture myself dancing and being as happy as I can be.

Even though the songs are not exactly... happy.

In 2012 when Swift's album "Red," came out I was beyond excited, and I had every reason to be. Her songs "I Knew

You Were Trouble," "22," and of course "Red," have been my all-time favorites since I first listened to them.

I remember screaming to these songs in the car with my older sisters when we drove to our grandma's house.

There was even a time when I listened to "Blank Space" from the album "1989," and I recall asking my sister "Why does Taylor always sing about boys?"

The look she gave me was disgusting.

Continuing through the timeline in 2014, is when Swift released her "1989" album also known as her "first official pop album," according to britannica.com. A song in this album includes "Shake it Off."

When I first watched the music video for this song, it absolutely surprised me.

I mean you go from sweet young innocent Taylor Swift singing country songs on her guitar, to grown women shaking their butts, and Taylor in a short tutu singing about those "hella cute guys."

Woah.

I recall people judging and making a big deal over the way she had changed, but to me she had just grown up, matured and I really admired that.

I still do.

In some ways I feel like I have grown with her, matured with her.

Swift's influence is a big reason I am the feminist I am today, especially when I learned about everything she went through. Even though people were calling her names and many ugly articles were written about her, she continued to push through.

In 2009, an argument between

Kayne West and Swift started when West interrupted Swift during her VMA acceptance speech to exclaim that Beyoncé deserved the reward, according to Britannica.

In 2016, West released his single "Famous," which has a lyric that referred to Swift in a malevolent way. Swift said it was "misogynistic," and it soon after created a feud according to USA today.

I was in the fifth grade when this was all happening, so I of course had no idea what the situation was about, I just knew some mean man called my idol a degrading word and I was terribly upset.

West's wife at the time, Kim Kardashian, claimed Swift approved the line and the argument slowly died out until 2017, when David Mueller,



the radio host, tried to sue her for “ruining his career,” according to Britannica.

In June of 2013, Mueller, who had groped Swift during a picture at a meet and greet, made Swift very upset when she had simply wanted a picture with someone who she looked up too, according to CNN. Mueller was then very upset when Swift won the case in statement that “his career in radio had been ruined,” according to CNN.

According to USA today after the case Swift pledged to donate money to other women who were fighting assault cases.

As a little girl, and even as the women I’m beginning to grow into, knowing that someone I look up to, stood up, not only for herself, but for other women who have gone

through something similar really set an example for me to follow.

When the case began to die down Swift to a break from press and to let everything calm down. Then she released her song “Look What You Made Me Do,” on her album “Reputation.”

This was because many West and Mueller fans decided to call Swift names and make unpleasant articles bashing Swifts career and her “Reputation” according to Britannica.

When the album first came out, I was astonished, I didn’t realize someone so happy, someone I looked up to so much, could be so angry.

Maybe for a little bit, I was angry too.

Unfortunately, sixth grade me was not the only person judging Swift’s album.

According to the guardian some people felt as if Swift’s album “seemed to be a conversation about, victimhood, white privilege and freedom of speech.” Some people even said her album was “negative, vindictive, and even preaches some of disposable pop.”

Even for me, I think before I understood the backstory, and the meaning behind the songs, I was judgmental, but now I look up to her for it, because I realize it was a hard thing to overcome.

As we continue squabbling throughout the years, we come across new albums Swift has released like, “evermore,” “folklore” and “Lover.”

Just as swift stood for herself with West and Mueller, she also stood up for herself while creating her

new albums.

Swift took back control of her music, of her own sound, and let me tell you it is so inspiring.

I was scrolling through TikTok when I first heard Swift was recreating her albums, re-recording songs and just giving herself a whole fresh look. So, I got interested and did a little research.

When Swift first started her music career, she had not owned any of her original albums according to CNN.

I was in awe.

When Swift had signed over to a new record Label, she decided to rewrite her albums. In 2021 she released “Fearless (Taylor’s Version),” and “Red (Taylor’s Version),” according to CNN. She even came up with new songs and rewrote old favorites.

When both albums came

out, I stayed up until 11 waiting. Then the next morning I deleted removed all my original playlists and remade them, but this time with “Taylor’s Version,” only.

I was so happy; it was like seven-year-old me listening to Swift all over again. Having a jam session in my room, in the shower, making up dances and even getting yelled at for having the same song playing over and over again.

I had déjà vu.

One thing that was different, from 10 years ago to now, is that now I can relate more to the lyrics she’s singing rather than just the music she’s playing.

I’m ungodly excited for Swift to release more albums, hopefully more rewrites, and I can’t wait to see what impact those have on me as well.

