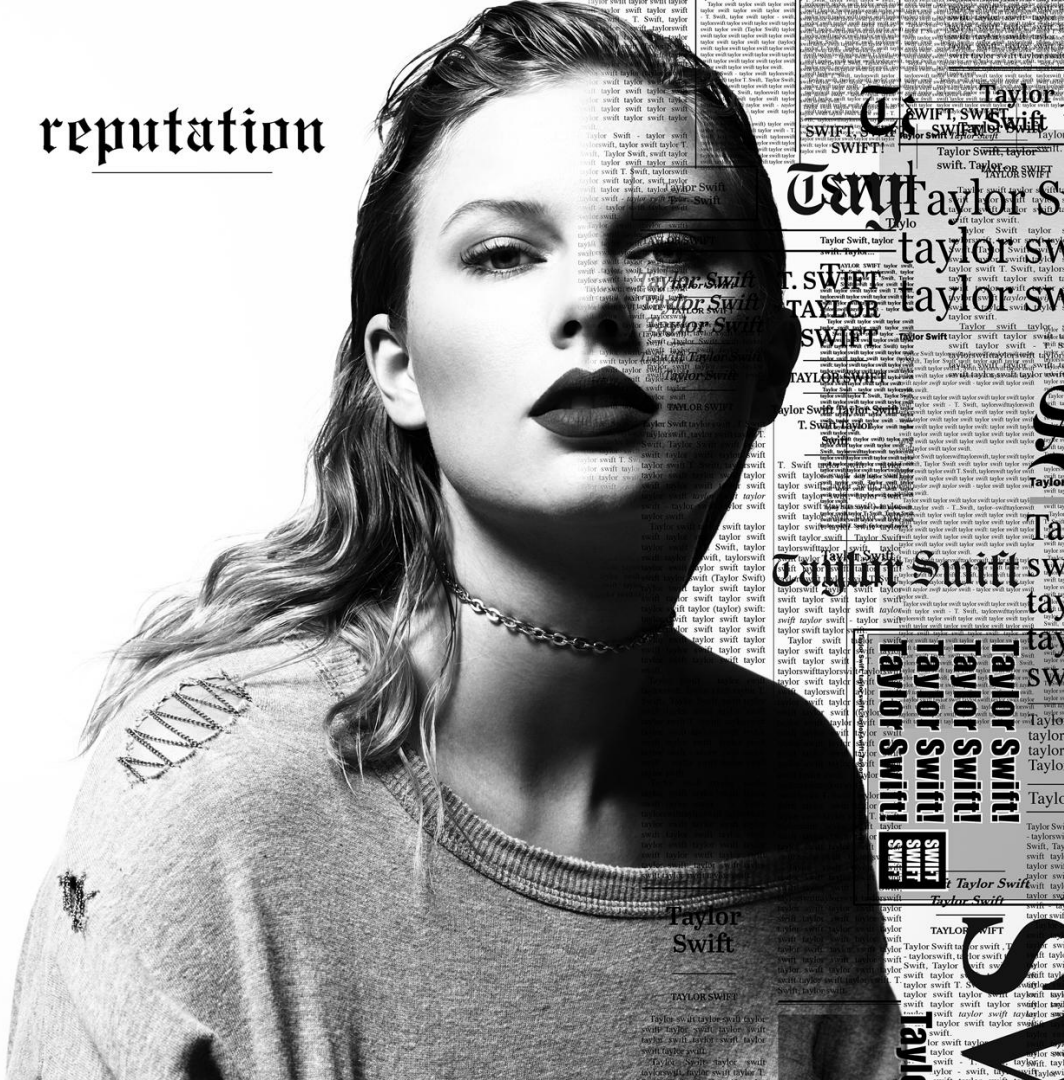
Reputation is about Karlie Kloss

A comprehensive guide to the gayest album of 2017



WHAAAT?!??

Be prepared to open your eyes, bitch!

Disclaimer: everything listed here is my personal **opinion & speculation! I am not claiming to know Taylor personally. I'm also not here to label her sexuality for her- she could be bi, lesbian, asexual, questioning, she might even identify as straight! That's not our business! **If y'all can speculate these songs are about men, I'm allowed to speculate they're about a woman!**

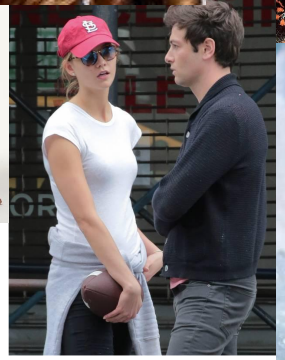
If you're here to hate... good. I hope this powerpoint makes you so mad it ruins your entire day.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Who is Karlie Kloss, anyway?

According to Taylor Swift…

- "A Victoria's Secret Angel lady"
- She has "shiny abs"
- "Actual sunshine"
- Taylor's favorite person to dance with



Other fun facts:

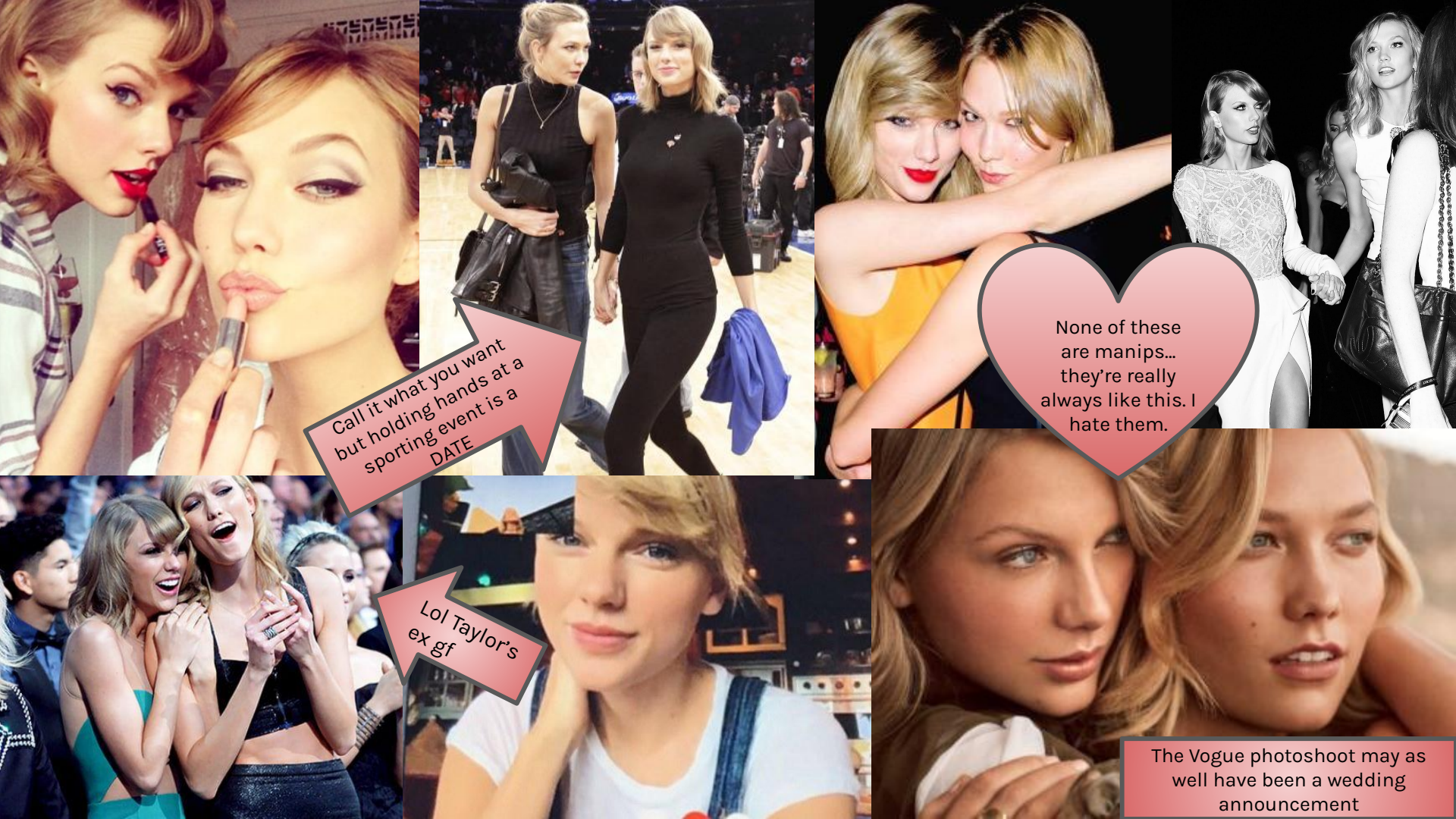
- She created Kode with Klossy, a program to teach young women how to code
- She's a mega-successful super hot fashion model (she was scouted at 14!!)
    - Taylor DID NOT make her famous, despite what some may claim!
- She & Taylor drove to Big Sur & Tay played *1989* for her before anyone else heard it
- Taylor almost moved to London but Karlie convinced her to move to NYC (x)
- Also is publicly married the one and only Josh Kushner (m. 2018)

Kaylor: a Brief Overview

I'm not gonna give you the whole spiel here,
but here's what you should know:

- K & T officially met at the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in November 2013
- They took a totally platonic trip to Big Sur in March 2014, which resulted in many totally-not-gay photos likes the ones shown here
- The pair were inseparable leading up to and during the *1989* era. They were constantly gallivanting around NYC and platonically holding hands. According to *Rolling Stone*, Karlie has her own bedroom in Taylor's apartment that Taylor keeps stocked with her favorite snacks. Doesn't matter that Karlie has her own damn apartment a few minutes away - she needs her own room at her best friend's house! How convenient.
- Public interaction between the two died down when they were caught dancing,, very closely... at a The 1975 concert in December 2014 (more on that later)
- The most recent publicly documented Kaylor interaction took place at rep tour Nashville in August 2018
- As far as we know, they remain close "friends" to this day

For further Kaylor-related research I suggest [reading over this website]


Call it what you want but holding hands at a sporting event is a DATE
None of these are manips... they're really always like this. I hate them.
Lol Taylor's ex gf
The Vogue photoshoot may as well have been a wedding announcement

Reputation Secret Sessions

Before the album even dropped we were assaulted with heteronormativity from fans who attended the reputation Secret Sessions. For those that don't know, a Secret Session involves Taylor inviting fans into her home to listen to her latest unreleased album.

Though Taylor had taken a vow of celibacy from the media at the start of the *Reputation* era, she made sure every teenage girl at the rep Secret Sessions understood that the love songs on *reputation* are about her "ANGEL BOYFRIEND OF ONE YEAR, NO ONE ELSE!"

This is very odd behavior, considering in the past Taylor has always maintained a policy of never naming who her songs are about. She's held on to this policy for years- even refusing to disclose the inspiration for seemingly obvious tracks like "Dear John" and "Style."

Taylor (allegedly) told SSers to "go after" anyone who dared say the songs were about anyone besides Joe

OKAY SO ALL I'M GONNA SAY IS THAT REPUTATION IS SHADY AND SEXY AND TAYLOR IS FINALLY WITH A MAN WHO LOVES HER AND YOU'LL DIE

Is "Gorgeous" Actually About Joe Alwyn? Taylor Swift Fans Think We Have The Song All Wrong

Bustle - 6 hours ago AMP

just gonna say i heard it from the Queen's mouth herself, it's about joe, now stop trying to make stories for the sake of it 👌 our girl is in love and this song is about that byeeeeeeeeeeeee

I probably should've brought sunglasses to the secret session because Taylor was shining so bright that it was blinding

#reputation secret sessions #I AM IN LOVE #SHES SO HAPPY #THANKS JOE DUDE

Anonymous said

So going by that nashville food and music outfit, that first clip of her singing was the very beginning of September. Was Tom the original "older boyfriend" and she met Joe in August/early sept? 👀 or you think she just had the song in mind originally and made it fit Joe.

No. This song is about Joe, she is referencing Ch and she **does not lie to her fans** and she specifically in a SS said this was about Joe. It is clear she met Joe prior to the Tom situation when she was still with Ch.

Scott Swift told me Reputation was supposed to come out months ago but the trial pushed it all back and they still haven't gotten the $1 so they have to sue for it now because "scum will be scum" but he is so proud of Taylor

3:56 AM · 14 Nov 2017

Interesting note about the album release timeline

Hollywood Reporter, shortly before the release of Red, Oct. 2012

Taylor Swift has made a career for herself as a kiss-and-tell kind of girl -- or kiss and semi-tell, since she usually refuses to name names in her confessional songwriting. So the idea of her tap

Every time Swift releases a song, there are always rumors swirling about who the song is about, yet she never reveals the answer. She explained, "I don't feel there is any injustice when people expand beyond my music and speculate on who certain songs might be about. I've never named names, so I feel like I still have a sense of power over what people say—even if that isn't true, and even if I don't have any power over what people say about me. The fact that I've never confirmed who those songs are about makes me feel like there is still one card I'm holding."

GQ Interview, October 2015

basically taylor made us all promise that if anyone made any accusations of who this song is about, we tell them it is 100% about her angel boyfriend of 1 year.

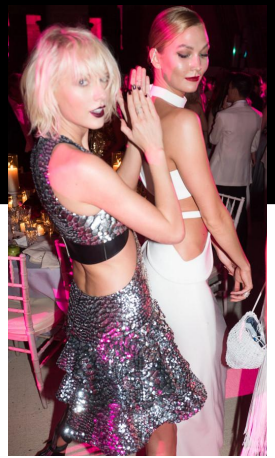
(this isn't a secret, she wanted us to tell people)

3,505 notes Oct 19th, 2017

Tumblr fan who attended a Secret Session, Oct. 2017

Quite the shift in attitude in just a few years... could it be she wanted to shut down speculation before the album even came out? By telling her fans to spread the word, Taylor avoided lying to the general public..

"*But Taylor would never lie!!*" Listen. She is a great singer, songwriter, idol, etc., but she is first and foremost a brand. She has a *ahem* reputation to uphold. Lying is simply part of the entertainment industry.. Don't take it personally! Let's take a look at the timeline of events leading up to rep...



May 2016

Taylor & Joe meet at the Met Gala. Taylor is dating Calvin Harris at the time, but she is so taken by Joe (Gorgeous.mp3) that she decides to break up with Calvin and date Tom Hiddleston for 2 months

Taylor & Tom fly around the world in what is perhaps the most obvious PR relationship of all time. No one is having it

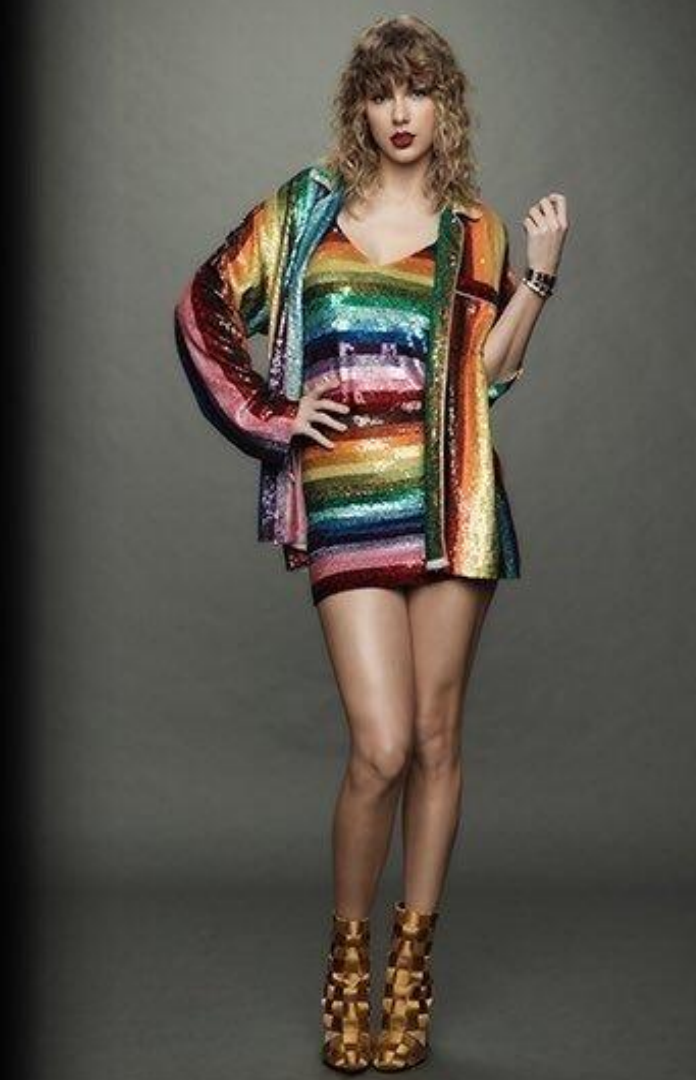
June 2016

Kim Kardashian West
@KimKardashian
Wait it's legit National Snake Day?!?!?They have holidays for everybody, I mean everything these days! 🐍🐍🐍

there will be no
straightsplanation
only

reputation

out now



Rep Prologue

Sister dragged all of us in this 1-page essay

The entire prologue is very important and often ignored. Interesting word quotes to highlight:

"… Gossip blogs will scour the lyrics for **men** they can attribute to each song.."

"… slideshows backing up each **incorrect** theory?" (How could she be so sure that each theory would be incorrect?)

"… We **think** we know someone, but the truth is we only know the version of them they have chosen to show us."

She's really out here telling everyone that they don't know her on an album largely centered around the themes of a secrecy & hidden love. You do the math!

Here's something I've learned about people.

We think we know someone, but the truth is that we only know the version of them they have chosen to show us. We know our friend in a certain light, but we don't know them the way their lover does. Just the way their lover will never know them the same way that you do as their friend. Their mother knows them differently than their roommate, who knows them differently than their colleague. Their secret admirer looks at them and sees an elaborate sunset of brilliant color and dimension and spirit and pricelessness. And yet, a stranger will pass that same person and see a faceless member of the crowd, nothing more. We may hear rumors about a person and believe those things to be true. We may one day meet that person and feel foolish for believing baseless gossip.

This is the first generation that will be able to look back on their entire life story documented in pictures on the internet, and together we will all discover the after-effects of that. Ultimately, we post photos online to curate what strangers think of us. But then we wake up, look in the mirror at our faces and see the cracks and scars and blemishes, and cringe. We hope someday we'll meet someone who will see that same morning face and instead see their future, their partner, their forever. Someone who will still choose us even when they see all the sides of the story, all the angles of the kaleidoscope that is you.

The point being, despite our need to simplify and generalize absolutely everyone and everything in this life, humans are intrinsically impossible to simplify. We are never just good or just bad. We are mosaics of our worst selves and our best selves, our deepest secrets and our favorite stories to tell at a dinner party, existing somewhere between our well-lit profile photo and our drivers license shot. We are all a mixture of selfishness and generosity, loyalty and self-preservation, pragmatism and impulsiveness. I've been in the public eye since I was 15 years old. On the beautiful, lovely side of that, I've been so lucky to make music for a living and look out into crowds of loving, vibrant people. On the other side of the coin, my mistakes have been used against me, my heartbreaks have been used as entertainment, and my songwriting has been trivialized as 'oversharing'.

When this album comes out, gossip blogs will scour the lyrics for the men they can attribute to each song, as if the inspiration for music is as simple and basic as a paternity test. There will be slideshows of photos backing up each incorrect theory, because it's 2017 and if you didn't see a picture of it, it couldn't have happened right?

Let me say it again, louder for those in the back…

We think we know someone, but the truth is that we only know the version of them they have chosen to show us.

There will be no further explanation.
There will just be **reputation**.

… Ready For It?

No one has to know

We're welcomed into the world of *reputation* with an anthem of secrecy, crime, and passion. We'll revisit these theme throughout the album.

First things first: let's distinguish the difference between two subjects: the third-person "him" in the verses vs. the "you" in the chorus .Let's say the "him" refers to her public boyfriends while the "you" refers to Karlie.

The "him" is the jailer, the thief, the killer, the ghost, Burton to this Taylor (which was not a healthy relationship!!) etc., while the "you" gets the declaration of passion and secret love

"Some boys are trying too hard, he don't try at all though" → She's not interested in the any boys, so it doesn't matter that her beard "doesn't try at all"

"Touch me and you'll never be alone" → Her public boyfriend will be hounded by paparazzi & gain exposure by association

The entire chorus she's pining for a love that she can't have now, but she knows they'll be together in the long run… See these 2 interpretations for more:

akemper18 Follow

Ready For It

This might have been said before, but listening to Ready For It I notice Taylor switches pronouns often. At first she uses he: "Knew he was a killer first time that I saw him" then she switches to you saying, "You should see the things we do baby, I know I'm gonna be with you so I take my time". It is like she is talking about two people and two situations. The he she refers to could be her beard, and the you she is speaking directly to is someone else, someone she knows she will be with soon so in the meantime she takes her time…."No one has to know" She switches back to 'he' every time she is talking about the jailer, the robber, ransom, thief, but when she sings of passion and secret love she switches to 'you'. Two different people… beard and lover.

therainshow Follow

If you really listen to Ready For It™, the verses are different than the chorus in that the sound is different and the lyrics seem to be describing two different relationships. I am convinced the verses describe Taylor's reputation and the dynamic between herself and her beards, which is largely responsible for her reputation. When it switches to the chorus and she sings "in the middle of the night in my dreams, you should see the things we do," Taylor is not singing about the same person she is singing about in the verses, or the same relationship. The lyric "I know I'm gonna be with you so I take my time" is the most telling. Taylor is saying: "I know you and I are going to be together, but I don't want to mess this up, so I'll take my time" aka go through the bearding process, etc. It's obvious that in the chorus she is singing to somebody she is in love with, but the verses describe a relationship that is holding both parties captive, even jailed, and at the very least has bad intentions. However, she sings about both relationships in the same song and they seem to be going on simultaneously. This is the only explanation of the song that makes any sense.

...Ready For It? Music Video

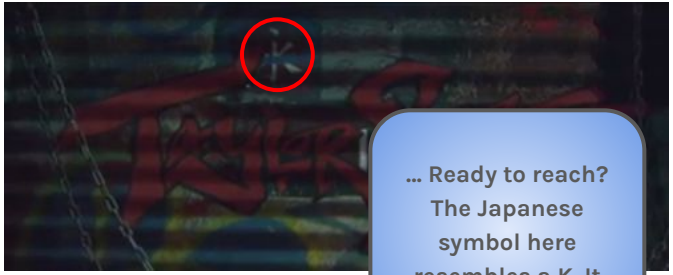
This was the first romantic song off the album to get a music video, so it was a surprise when the song about ~island breezes~ ended up with a live-action anime as a MV. In fact, none of the reputation music videos have a heterosexual love interest.

There has been plenty of discourse surrounding the meaning of the 2 Taylors in the ...Ready For It? MV

The general consensus is that the black-hooded Taylor is her fake media persona, while the trapped Taylor is her true self

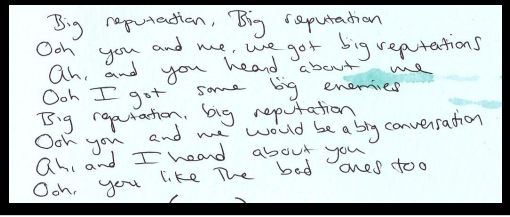
Fake Taylor is keeping Real Taylor in her glass box, which represents how Taylor feels constrained by her public image

The two personas volley for power until finally, Real Taylor is able to break the box with her voice. Hooded Taylor is sacrificed so Real Taylor can be free.



... Ready to reach? The Japanese symbol here resembles a K. It means “eternity.”

End Game


Big reputation, Big reputation
Ooh you and me, we got big reputations
Oh, and you heard about me
Ooh I got some big enemies
Big reputation, big reputation
Ooh you and me would be a big conversation
Oh, and I heard about you
Ooh, you like the bad ones too

“Big Reputation” hook → J** doesn’t have a big reputation (especially before he started dating Taylor), but you know who does have a big reputation? Fashion industry maven Karlie Kloss!

“You and me would be a big conversation” → “White girl with a white dude, both unmarried, what’s a big deal about it? Maybe if Taylor started dating Leonardo DiCaprio or Justin Bieber, that would be a big conversation. But if America’s Sweetheart, who started in country music and is known to GP for dating various guys and then writing song about them, was dating a woman… well… “(x)

The song is about a “forever” relationship. About a person she’s been dating for a few months at best? Taylor has a reputation for falling fast, but she’s a grown adult.

“It’s like your body is gold” → Exhibit A
(also a potential reference to the golden tattoo in Dress, but we will get to that later)

Karlie Kloss Liked a Single Taylor Swift Instagram
https://www.elle.com/culture/.../karlie-kloss-liked-a-single-taylor
Apr 11, 2018 - **Taylor** Swift went on an **Instagram** spree last night, sha

Karlie likes an Instagram post and this magazine writes a WHOLE ARTICLE about it… “you and me would be a big conversation” TEA!

End Game MV

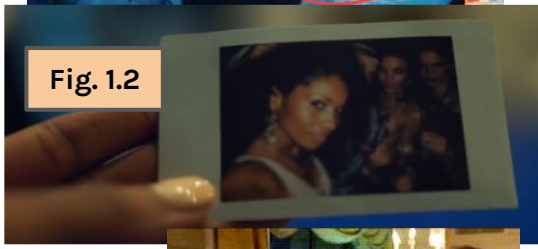
The song about finding “the one,” so naturally were expecting a love interest. When the video came out there was no clear sign of a romantic interest at all. The only men she interacts with in the entire video are Ed and Future.

But subtle signs may point to a female love interest! For example:

Figure 1.1 Girl in “dark jeans and Nikes” (Delicate.mp3) seated next to Taylor

Figure 1.2 This girl is featured prominently throughout the video

Figure 1.3 Taylor’s wearing a rainbow dress and kissing girls on the cheek (How You Get the Girl.mp3) on what looks like a New Year’s Eve party



treacheroustown Follow

someone else talked about this but i cant find the post but taylor not wearing red lipstick in the end game video while singing “here’s the truth from my red lips” is probably to indicate that she’s withholding the truth 👁 or not sharing every single detail of her life which suits the reputation theme 👀 👀

I Did Something Bad

If a man talks shit
Then I owe him nothing

This song is not about Karlie (obviously) but it *is* about Taylor's general distaste and use of men for her personal gain! I also think it's meant to be satire, like many of the songs on the album.

"I never trust a playboy, but they love me" → Self-explanatory but worth noting

"I play them like a violin, and I make it look oh so easy" → Older guys are just play things for her to use (Don'tBlameMe.mp3)

"I fly them all around the world, and I let them think they saved me" → Taylor + Tom (very publicly) travelled around the world during the summer of 2016, which gathered tons of attention (and mockery) from the media

"If a man talks shit then I owe him nothing" → This could be in response to many situations: The Kimye incident and subsequent *Famous* video, Calvin Harris' temper tantrum post-breakup, her sexual assault trial.

The Taylor Swift / Tom Hiddleston world tour continues

THE new couple are in Rome, walking hand in hand through the city streets — with a paparazzi pack following their every move.

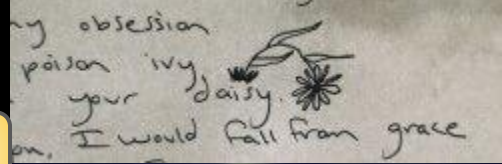
Don't Blame Me

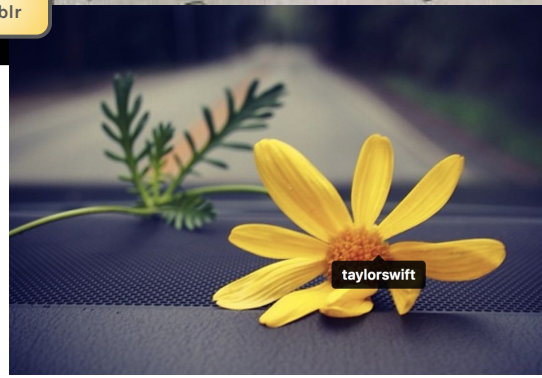
"I would fall from grace just to touch your face" → "I would fall from grace just to touch your face" is the gayest thing I've ever heard.

A fall from grace has connotations of religion, sin, and public rejection … ALL of which are understandable fears if Taylor is in a relationship with a woman, and NONE of which make any sense if she's in a relationship with a sweet, boring British boy who no-one knows and who has no scandal whatsoever attached to his name.

Seriously. Joe doesn't have a douchebag reputation like John Mayer, or a fake "womanizer" one like Harry. The Toe shippers own timeline establishes that the worst Taylor did was "secretly fancy him while dating someone else", which no-one in their right mind would consider a terrifying, unforgivable sin.

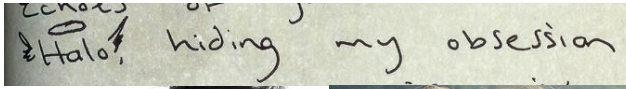
Kaydar on tumblr





"Trip of my life" → a Big Sur reference? Perhaps!

"Halo, hiding my obsession" → They met at the VSFS where Karlie was an ANGEL

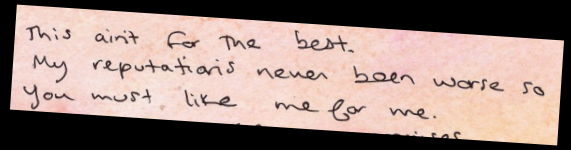


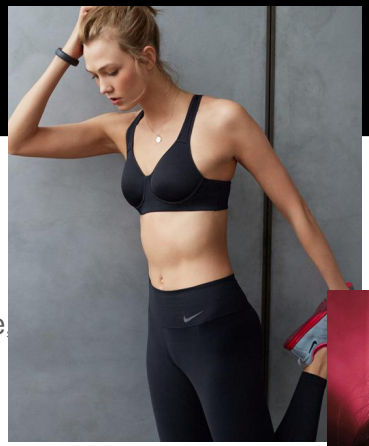
"I once was poison ivy but now I'm your daisy" → Karlie literally instagrammed this picture with the caption "Best. Road trip. Ever." & tagged Taylor as the daisy, and Taylor sketched this VERY SIMILAR DAISY in the reputation booklet… like… what more could you possibly want

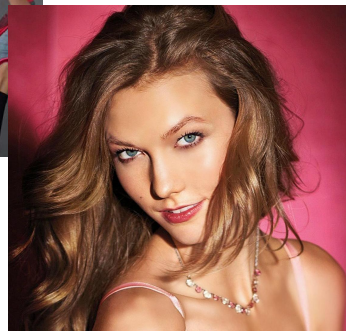
Bonus: Karlie was wearing this daisy in her hair in a bunch of pictures over several days! Here she is wearing it while DECLARING HER LOVE FOR TAYLR (misspelled) ("My name is whatever you decide" tea)

Did Taylor pick this daisy for her? I need to lie down

Delicate







First of all, Delicate is gender-neutral, so jot that down

It's "You must like me for me" not "He must like me for me"

"3rd floor on the west side, me & you" Karlie's NYC apartment is on the West side, the master bedroom is on the 3rd floor (I'm not going to post the floorplan here but it's true!"

"Dark jeans and your Nikes" → Karlie used to be an ambassador for Nike

"Oh damn never seen that color blue" → Karlie's eyes can appear as green or blue

Taylor's been wearing a lot of rainbows this era. She wear s a rainbow dress for the rep Tour performance of Delicate. It's true that the Gays™ don't own the rainbow, but it's also impossible to be living in the year of our Lorde 2018 and not understand the gay connotations of a rainbow. Especially Taylor, who is very aware of her public perception.

Delicate

believeinbayern Follow

‘’ Sometimes when I look into your eyes I pretend you're mine, all the damn time’’

I’ve always asked myself the explanation that the ‘’fans” have for it, because for me that screams KAYLOR.

I once read that ‘’it was so cute because when he goes to work she has to shared him with the world and ‘’ and that’s not healthy, and she is trying to sell a healthy relationship, but specially that’s a lie, when he is away he is still taylor swift’s boyfriend, wherever he goes he is hers.

For me that sound about a person that has to go to dates with someone else, that hires paps to photo them ‘’kissing”, that goes to New Year dates with a bunch of friends, that is called Joshua’s gf in the newspapers, that has to walk of somebody else’s hand around the world, and because of that can’t be Taylor’s all the damn time

akemper18 Follow

Coming out is what’s delicate

Maybe the delicate part she’s talking about isn’t the newness of the relationship. Maybe saying how she feels and being together and moving too fast with the person isn’t what’s happening too soon. Maybe what’s delicate, what it might be too soon for, is coming out to the world. “Is it too soon to do this yet? Cause I know that it’s delicate”. Maybe she’s giving delicate so much attention because her coming out to the public has been a very delicate process for her. And now she’s slowly revealing this to everyone.

Delicate MV

Everyone was anticipating Delicate to be a soft, wholesome, heterosexual music video, but instead we got a video where Taylor is INVISIBLE, being her best self away from the public eye, and has an off-screen, ungendered love interest!

Seriously, why didn't it show the love interest? They could've hired Sean Opry to stand in the corner and smirk but sister kept it ambiguous ON PURPOSE

The ending is the most bisexual thing I've ever seen... the first time I saw it I literally thought she was coming out as bi. Boys AND girls? Sis!

Some claim that she's smiling to the man behind the bar, but she actually looks in the opposite direction... perhaps towards this mysterious blonde figure in the corner. **Are you ready to reach?** The Karlie lookalike is the 5th person at the bar and Delicate is track 5.

Some have speculated that The Golden Gopher (bar at the end of the MV) is a gay bar, though I personally have not found enough evidence to have an opinion

No offense but here's Taylor looking at Karlie & Taylor at the end of the MV

So It Goes...

Karlie wiping away something on her face, leaving a red mark

"So it goes" is also a lyric in *1989*'s "You Are In Love," which is another song widely speculated to be about Karlie (more on that here)

"Gold cage, hostage to my feelings" → The closet can feel like a cage & Tay feels trapped by her public persona

"You make everyone disappear" → fame since her early teens. The writer Durga Chew-Bose told me that "being with Karlie is probably the one time when Taylor can feel invisible.'

"We break down a little, but when you get me alone it's so simple" → Being unable to be together in public puts a strain on their relationship, but it makes sense when they're alone

"Wear you like a necklace" → Before the release of *reputation*, Kaylors predicted that the album would have references to a necklace. K and T have matching initial pendants.

"Get caught up in a moment, lipstick on your face" → I like this lyric in particular because we don't know if Taylor's referring to her lipstick on her lover's face, or her lover's lipstick

Gorgeous

First thing's first: this song is a bop and a half & if you don't like it you're allergic to fun. THAT BEING SAID....

Let's start with the title: *Gorgeous*. A traditionally feminine adjective. Even the lyric video is hot pink. I get it, *gender is a social construct, words can't be gendered*, I feel you. So let's move on.

If the song is about Joe, why was it written

1) After they met at the Met Gala and

2) Several weeks before they started dating? (refer to Making of a Song screenshot in the next slide)

I'm not even going to mention how she has an all-female group of dancers during this song on tour, because that has nothing to do with the album.

This video, however, leaves little doubt that the song was written and recorded *before she'd even met Joe*.

Nova

And that's because Taylor was spotted in Nashville on 18 September 2016, wearing the *exact same outfit* she wears in the penultimate clip of the video.

Twitter: @tswiftnz, youtube.com

Gorgeous cont.

"He's in the club doing I don't know what" and "I haven't seen him in a couple of months" (original lyrics) are both telling → She is out-of-touch with her public boyfriend

"You should think about the consequence of you touching my hand in a darkened room" → (also a callback to "our secret moments in a crowded room")

"If you got a girlfriend I'm jealous of her, but if you're single it's honestly worse" →If her crush is single, Taylor won't know if she's into girls

"There's nothing I hate more than what I can't have" → In what world can Taylor "Hottest Girl in the World" Swift not have any man she wants?

"You're so cool it makes me hate you so much," "You are so gorgeous it makes me so mad," "I'm so furious," → This was literally me as a baby gay. I would hate girls I thought were too pretty because I was upset about being attracted to them.

"I'm so curious, what's it like making me feel this way?" (original lyrics) → GAY!

Not to mention the time she literally said "I can't say anything to your face, 'cause look at your face" during an interview with Sophie Monk

'You are so gorgeous, it's hard to talk to you': In a throwback video, Taylor Swift is seen fan-girling over Sophie Monk while complimenting her enviable cheekbones

Getaway Car(lie)

This song could be taken as a metaphor for bearding. Let's distinguish between the "you" and the "he" in the song. The "he" is likely Calvin Harris. Some time into their relationship, Calvin "poisoned the well" by getting papped at happy ending massage parlors and generally looking miserable when they were together. Taylor was about to release an album full of love songs & she needed a male figure to fill the role of muse. Her whirlwind globe-trotting relationship with Tom was her getaway car.

"The ties were black, the lies were white" → A reminder that Taylor is not immune to bending the truth from time to time

"But you didn't see it, and I didn't mean it" → Of course she wasn't into it… she's was in love with someone else

"A circus ain't a love story" → The media circus surrounding her public (straight) relationships does not constitute a real romantic relationship. She's telling you it's all fake and that the the three of them were a sideshow.

Dancing With Our Hands Tied aka the Kissgate Anthem

This is the most obvious Karlie-inspired song on the album IMO... there's just no way this applies to any of her straight public relationships. I've seen people attempt to attribute this song to many relationships, but none of them quite fit...

- Oh, you thought it was about Calcium Hambone? First line: "I, I loved you in secret." Next!

So what is Kissgate, you ask? Well...

12/4/2014 - Taylor, Karlie, Lily Aldridge, and a few other pals head to a The 1975 concert in NYC

There were rumours going around that Taylor was romantically linked to The 1975 lead singer and professional bad boy Matty Healy. It's a good PR deal - they're papped wearing each other's merch leading up to the show, The 1975 gets exposure in America, Taylor gets a "bad boy" to spice up her "good girl" image

So the girls head over to the concert, everything is fine, except for one thing: *they're drunk*.

I suddenly understand why Rep has all the alcohol references. They're fuckin **wasted.** Exhibit B:

Karlie and Taylor are dancing and hanging all over each other. Taylor is singing 3 inches from Karlie's face. Matty dedicates the song *Girls* to Taylor, which she effectively ignores and continues to dance with Karlie. People are recording them on potato-quality phones & the videos are going viral..

By the time they left, Lily and Karlie looked *pissed*. Maybe they had sobered up and figured out the grainy videos of Taylor playing koala bear were going viral.

Dancing With Our Hands Tied cont.

The tabloids run wild with this scandal- Taylor Swift, America's sweetheart, caught mackin on a lady? My pearls!

Bonus:
Hungover Taylor
12/5/14

The morning after, Taylor tweets this snarky non-denial:

and likes this post on tumblr calling Kaylor shippers freaks:

> *"As my 25th birthday present from the media, I'd like for you to stop accusing all my friends of dating me. #thirsty"*

FINALLY SHE SAID IT. NOW YOU FREAKS ON TUMBLR CAN FINALLY STOP MAKING POSTS ABOUT "Karlie and Taylor dating" nonsense.

Public interaction between the girls takes a nosedive.

Dancing With Our Hands Tied cont.

At first it may seem like a break up anthem, but consider this: She's reminiscing with her partner about what she would do over if she had the chance. This song is Taylor expressing her regrets about her behavior in the aftermath of Kissgate

"I, I loved you in secret, First sight, yeah, we love without reason" → After they met at the VSFS, K+ T were attached at the hip. Their friendship escalated very quickly.

"I, I loved you in spite of deep fears that the world would divide us" → Taylor had anxiety about what would happen if the two were found out, like they (nearly) were at the concert

"But we were dancing with our hands tied" → To have one's hands tied is to be unable to act freely. They could never act how they wanted to in public, but they danced together regardless.

"I'd kiss you as the lights went out, swaying as the room burned down" → The lights were LITERALLY going out and they were LITERALLY swaying at the 1975 concert

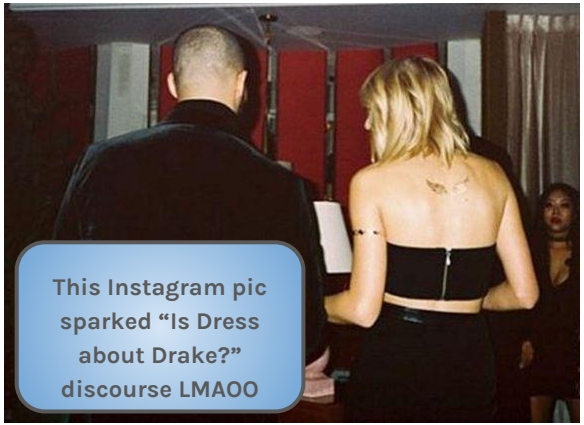
"If i could dance with you again... 'd hold you as the water rushes in" → I'd hold onto you through the media storm, I wouldn't like those nasty posts, I wouldn't push you away, I'd be proud of us.

Dress - Background Info

This is probably the 2nd gayest song on the album so it's only fitting that it comes after DWOHT. Compared to the anxious production of DWOHT, Dress is calm and quiet. The reprieve after the storm.

The significance of the golden tattoo: Karlie and Taylor donned matching gold flash tattoos to Drake's birthday party in 2016.

They also debuted the first of these polaroids. Several months after Drake's birthday party, Karlie posted the second polaroid for Taylor's birthday. We still don't know what's on the third polaroid and quite frankly it haunts me every day.



Dress

Poking more holes in the timeline

"This is a song called 'Dress'. This song was one of those things where almost every line is something I came up with a year before and then when I was the writing the song, I just cherry-picked and was like '[I] Like that, like that, like that. And I was really proud of the hook of this because it sounds like a pick-up line and yet it is a love song about deep and tender feelings."

— Taylor introducing 'Dress' during the Rhode Island Secret Sessions

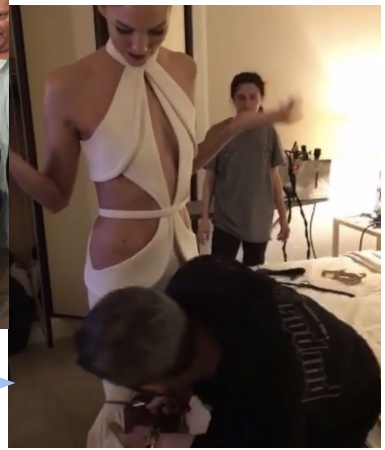
"Our secret moments, in a crowded room, they have no idea about me and you" → They have plenty of sweet moments in crowded rooms- for example, Taylor running to hug Karlie backstage at the 2015 VMAs.

"I don't want you like a best friend" → This is such a telling hook. What straight person has to distinguish their feelings like this? That's super gay. I'm pretty sure I've said a variation of this to girls I've dated.

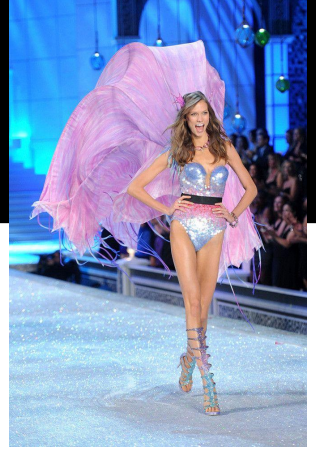
"Everyone thinks that they know us, but they know nothing..." → No one knew about Taylor & Joe until they went public in May 2017.

"My hands are shaking from holding back from you" → Why would she need to keep her hands off a man? Look at how tense her hands are here. She looks nervous. **Bonus:** Swift, giggly in the front row with Kloss, declined to comment on her presence at the show, though it's hard to imagine she could have said anything remotely controversial considering the occasion. **"My publicist would get mad at me," she said. (x)**

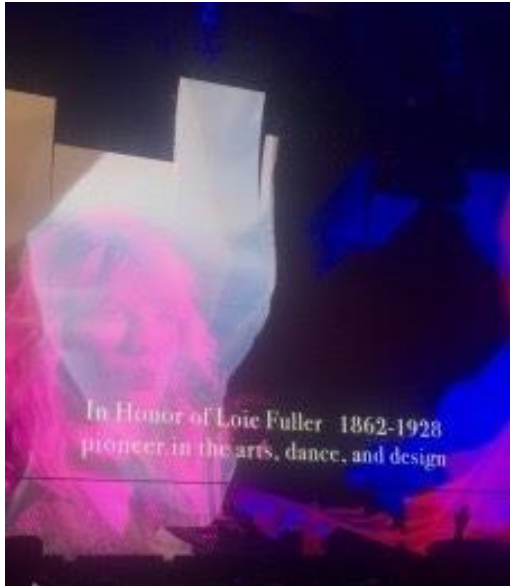
Are you ready to reach? At the infamous 2016 Met Gala, Karlie spilled wine on her white gown and the designer had to cut it quickly...
I guess you could call that... a *buzzcut*



Dress - Live Performance



On the reputation tour, Taylor dedicates her performance of *Dress* to LGBT activist and pioneer of dance Loie Fuller. While she's singing the first chorus, a dancer runs up behind her and mimes angel wings with fabric. While the lights flash pink and purple, aka the colors of the bisexual flag. I MEAN.....



Loïe Fuller, Lesbian Electric Fairy of the Belle Epoque

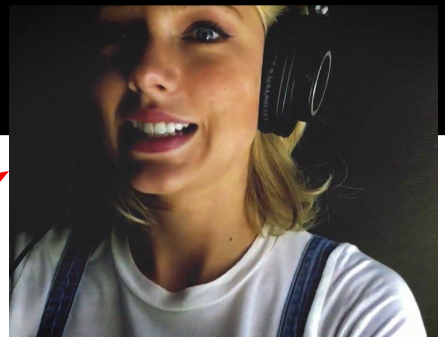
Claire Mead 1 year ago

This modernism weaves itself into her queerness, which she discovered and embraced first in Paris. Loïe's very introduction to the city, fleeing an unhappy marriage which seems to have been no more than a failed attempt at "fitting in", started with a first lesbian relation with the painter Louise Abbéma, who was also, allegedly, Sarah Bernhardt's former lover. She introduced her to a buzzing sapphic socialite scene, notably

King of My Heart

Was King of My Heart written in August 2016? Some experts (me) say yes!
Let's examine the evidence…

This screenshot is from the KOMH Making of a Song. Note the hair & outfit.



Now here is a tweet from Karie on her birthday in 2016:

Hair? Check. Overalls? Check. White t-shirt? Check. She sent Karlie flowers from across the world & Karlie hauled the whole-ass vase to a picturesque field so they could Skype-watch the sunset together. Platonically.

King of My Heart

You may think, “Surely there’s no way she wrote a song called *King* of My Heart” about a woman?” Well, heteronormativity works hard, but I work harder!

“I made up my mind, I’m better off being alone” → Leading up to the *1989* era, Taylor had sworn off publicly dating in an attempt to shed her serial-dater image. Leading up to *rep* she was publicily linked to several men.

“You try on calling my baby like trying on clothes” → Again, Karlie is a fashion model

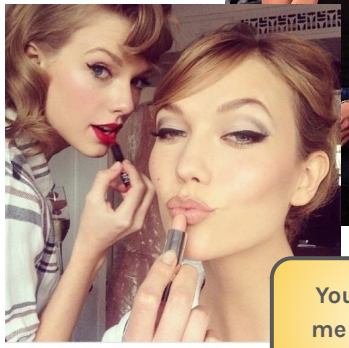
“Change my priorities” → Taylor was set on moving to London, but Karlie convinced her to move to NYC instead (as per the BBF video)

“All the boys…. Never took me quite where you do” → Self, explanatory and GAY

“Salute to me like the American dream” (original lyrics) → Before they met, Karlie often referred to Taylr as the “American Dream” & often describes herself as a “normal American girl”

“Your love is a secret I’m hoping, dreaming, dying to keep” → Further themes of secrecy

Drinking beer outta plastic cups



You move to me like I’m a Motown beat

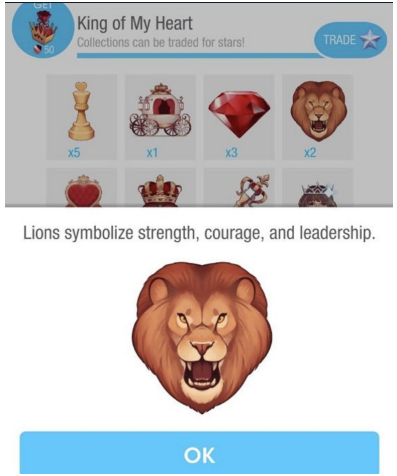
taylorswift

Hair/make up/Motown dance party

King of My Heart (cont.)

Taylor explained during the Secret Sessions that KOMH is about the various stages in a relationship. It seems far-fetched, then, to assume that the song was inspired by a relationship that was a few weeks old at time the of writing.

Are you ready to reach? Karlie Kloss is a LEO, and there just so happens to be a lion Taymoji in the KOMH pack on The Swift Life:



With "King of my Heart," she used both the lyrics and the tempo to create a piece of art that mimics the stages of a relationship. "There seem to be these very definitive phases," she said, of love stories. "It doesn't matter how long that phase lasts, there seems to be a moment where you know it transitioned to the next phase."

"I always wanted to structure the song where each individual section of the song sounded like a move forward in the relationship, while still being listenable." She finally achieved it with "King of my Heart," saying, "I wanted the verse to seem like its own phase of a relationship, the pre-chorus to sound like its own phase of a relationship, and the chorus to sound like its own phase of a relationship. I wanted them to all have their own identity but seem like they were getting deeper and more fast paced as the song went on."

In conclusion:

Karlie What You Want

WHY did she choose a song title that sounds SO MUCH like “Karlie.” She’s smart. She knew what she was doing. If the homonym was unintentional, it was the biggest coincidence of all time. If it *is* intentional, she’s a genius for figuring how to hide under the guise of heteronormativity with clever wordplay.

Do I think she *really* sings Karlie What You Want on the album? Honestly, I’m not sure because it would be kind of careless. But the second “Call it/Karlie” at 2:40 makes me think maybe she stopped giving a fuck.

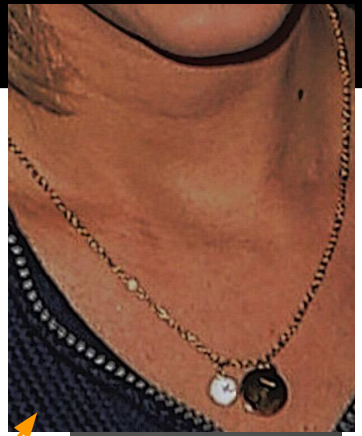
“My castle crumbled overnight, they took the crown but it’s alright” → Likely refers to the Kimye incident, which, if we will refer back to the timeline, was during the time she was with Tom

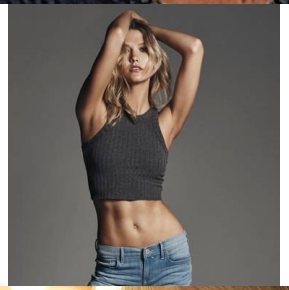
“I want to wear his initial on a chain round my neck” → Before the infamous J necklace of the rep era, we had this necklace from when Taylor was dating Tom. If you don’t believe the tiny white pendant is a K, fine. But it is worthy to note that Karlie has a matching K pendant. (Refer back to the So It Goes… slide)

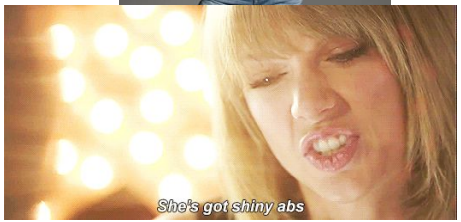
“My baby’s fit like a daydream” → Again, Karlie is a fitness model with “shiny abs”

“Loves me like I’m brand new” → Implies longevity. If it were a new relationship, Tay *would* be brand new.

“I recall late November” → T + K met at the VSFS in November 2013 and they were together at VSFS 2014







Karlie What You Want

Taylor posted this home video of her serenading an unseen figure on her Instagram story. Some have theorized that the reflected figure in her guitar is a woman smoothing down her pony tail. What do you think?

New Year's Gay

Honestly, I tried to articulate my thoughts on this song, but nothing I say could be as eloquent as these explanations:

Credit thoseflashinggreeneyes on tumblr

"New Year's Day" – A circus ain't a love story, but this song is – literally! "Don't read the last page" means that Taylor already knows the ending: she's going to stay with her partner for the whole long road. In private moments cleaning up the apartment after a party, squeezing hands in the back of a taxi, recognizing each other's laughs, they have found comfort, longevity, and lasting love in their secret world. They will hold on to each other, and despite the deep fears that the world would divide them, their joy and their memories see them through.

Credit howyougetthenerd on tumblr

The atmosphere is different from the whole album, we can picture easily a living room, or an hotel ballroom late at night after the New Year's Eve celebrations. The lights are soft because it's late and maybe there's someone sleeping on a couch, too drunk to care. Taylor isn't. She's awake and thinking about her lover, who at this point into the album I think we all got it who *really* is. If not, it's Karlie.

The purity in this song outshines and hits you right in the feelings when she's being a comfort and she reassures her that she's staying whenever there's something wrong or she's scared, or they're making mistakes (no one is perfect) because all she wants is sharing midnights, the celebrations and even regular things like cleaning up a room after the party.

You squeeze my hand three times in the back of the taxi
I can tell that it's gonna be a long road
I'll be there if you're the toast of the town, babe
Or if you strike out and you're crawling home

This part is pretty significant, it's where I started bawling my eyes out, and with *"you and me forevermore"* you can really tell that she's found the one and they're thinking about spending the rest of their lives together.
The reassurance from a simple gesture (hand squeeze) makes me think about the quote "I'm not telling you it's going to be easy - I'm telling you it's going to be worth it." Self explanatory, isn't it? Life isn't all a flat riviera road where you won't find any bumps or traffic. Not at all, but if you have someone who's willing to be there with you on that path, **for better or for worse**, then it's worth it.

The toast of the town is an antiquate expression, which can desribe someone who's very popular, respected and admired in society. In origin, back in history, it represented also a woman who was considered the reigning belle of the season, later it was used to indicate non gender specific person who's celebrated and applauded by a toast. Now, Taylor is not singing from someone else's point of view, and she's an A-list celebrity, but we can say that her lover is famous and admired by everyone as well, and lives under the spotlight too. Again, everyone knows Karlie and how big is her popularity, which has increased like crazy in the last 5 years.

In conclusion, as I quote under, Taylor admits that she's had the lines about "memories" and "becoming a stranger" written before even putting the song together. It get alongs with the timeline of their relationship and how she didn't want Karlie to become a stranger, like her exes (that's the only reference at Di in this whole song) or like those who went away. She switches from memories, representing the past and what they have been, to herself holding on to her, and this, in my opinion, is an allusion to the plan about the future together.

In conclusion...

This album is one long rumination on secrecy and how it affects us – the secrets we keep from ourselves, from our lovers, and from the strangers who think they know who we truly are. In the introduction to Reputation, Taylor writes very explicitly about this idea – but in her lyrics, she gives us an intimate view into her own emotional process in grappling with the secrets that have dominated her life. The album charts a beautiful progression from Taylor coming to terms with her own secrets, finding someone else to share those secrets with, and, finally, finding a comfortable and happy way to live with those secrets despite the public and the media bearing down on her from every angle. In refusing to give interviews during this era, she is living the solution she has shown us on this album.

Taylor Swift's *reputation* is about Karlie Kloss. Thank you for coming to my TED talk!

You can find me on twitter.com @screaminggogogo

You can send anon hate to me on tumblr @buylookwhatyoumademedo

I have an Etsy shop where I sell Taylor-inspired postcards @SarEllsbeth

Special thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped with this

- @DashboardDaisy
- @SheKeepsHerWord
- @IDidSomethingGay