

= Taylor Swift ( album ) =

Taylor Swift is the debut studio album by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift , released on October 24 , 2006 , by Big Machine Records . Swift was 16 years old at the time of the album 's release and wrote its songs during her freshman year of high school . Swift has writing credits on all of the album 's songs , including those co @-@ written with Liz Rose . Swift experimented with several producers , ultimately choosing Nathan Chapman , who had produced her demo album . Musically , the album is country music styled , and lyrically it speaks of romantic relationships , a couple of which Swift wrote from observing relationships before being in one . Lyrics also touch on Swift 's personal struggles in high school .

Five singles were released from the album , all of which have been certified platinum by the RIAA . " Tim McGraw " was released as the lead single and reached the top ten on Billboard 's Hot Country Songs . " Teardrops on My Guitar " was released as the second single and was the album 's best @-@ charting song on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Our Song " was released as the third single from the album and was Swift 's first number one on Billboard 's Hot Country Songs chart . It made her the youngest person to single @-@ handedly write and perform a number one song on the Hot Country Songs chart . " Picture to Burn " and " Should 've Said No " were released as the fourth single and fifth singles from the album , respectively , and both were successful on the country charts in the United States . Swift promoted the album by performing on tour as the opening act for artists such as Rascal Flatts , George Strait , Brad Paisley , and Tim McGraw and Faith Hill .

Taylor Swift was received positively by contemporary critics , who praised Swift 's talent at such a young age . The album enjoyed commercial success and launched Swift 's career in country music . In the United States , it topped the Top Country Albums Chart for 24 non @-@ consecutive weeks , and was certified five times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) for sales of over 5 million copies . Taylor Swift has logged 275 weeks on the Billboard Top 200 chart as of early 2013 , making it one of the 12 longest @-@ running albums in the chart 's 57 @-@ year history . The album was also successful outside of Swift 's native country , notably , Canada , Australia , and the United Kingdom . The album has sold over six million copies worldwide as of January 2015 .

= = Background = =

Taylor Swift is from Reading , Pennsylvania and developed an early interest in country music and songwriting . When she was eleven , she and her family made their first visit to Nashville , Tennessee in pursuit of a record deal , though nothing came out of it . Swift was judged and neglected by record labels for being too young . In regards to the labels which rejected her , she said ,

" I can understand . They were afraid to put out a 13 @-@ year @-@ old . They were afraid to put out a 14 @-@ year @-@ old . Then they were afraid to put out a 15 @-@ year @-@ old . Then they were nervous about putting out a 16 @-@ year @-@ old . And I 'm sure if I hadn 't signed with Scott Borchetta [ head of Big Machine Records ] , everybody would be afraid to put out a 17 @-@ year @-@ old . "

= = Development and music = =

Swift wrote " Tim McGraw " during her freshman year , knowing that she and her senior boyfriend , Brandon Borello , would break up at the end of the year when he left for college . Rose said Swift showed up at her after school job writing songs for Sony / ATV " with the idea and the melody . She knew exactly what she wanted . " The nostalgic song describes a summer romance and Swift 's hope that when Borello " think [ s ] Tim McGraw " he would " think [ her ] favorite song " ? McGraw 's " Can 't Tell Me Nothin " ? and remember her . Conversely , " Picture to Burn " describes a girl furious after a break @-@ up . Swift says that while the song is about " just being mad " and is " completely , brutally honest " ; she gave it a comedic edge . While at work after school , Swift "

found [ her ] self just sitting there with [ her ] guitar going , ' I hate his stupid truck that he doesn 't let me drive . He 's such a redneck ! Oh my God ! ' , " a line which developed into the song 's chorus . The up @-@ tempo song is heavy with banjos and drums , while the chorus is marked by distorted guitars and big vocals .

The singer penned the autobiographical song " The Outside " as an outlet at age twelve , the year she began writing her own songs . Like many of the other songs she wrote early on , the song describes the unhappiness and loneliness Swift felt when her love of country music alienated her from her peers . Swift wrote " Tied Together with a Smile " the day she learned one of her best friends was bulimic , a fact which shocked her . She recalled , " How can somebody that seems so strong have such a horrible , horrible weakness ? Something that is killing her . " The lyrics to " Tied Together with a Smile " describe a beautiful girl trying to hide her inner turbulence and mourn that " You 're tied together with a smile / But you 're coming undone " . Swift commented , " I always thought that one of the biggest overlooked problems American girls face is insecurity . " She wrote " Should 've Said No " according to " something really , really dramatic and crazy happening to [ her ] and [ her ] needing to address it in the form of music " . The song was a last minute addition to Taylor Swift : Swift had written it two days before mastering was scheduled and booklets were about to be printed ; she then called her producer and completed the song overnight .

" Mary 's Song ( Oh My My My ) " was actually inspired by her next @-@ door neighbors ' long lasting marriage , being the opposite of what tabloids fixate on . Swift wrote " Our Song " for her freshman year of high school talent show with no intentions of including it on the album . She claimed she " just knew there was something about it " and chose to include it on Taylor Swift . " I wrote it about this guy I was dating , and how we didn 't have a song . So I went ahead and wrote us one . " The song is a narrative and describes a young couple who use the events in their lives in place of a regular song . The banjo @-@ riddled song is placed at the end of the album due to its closing lyrics , a request to " play it again " . " Invisible " is ballad describing loneliness and heartache of going unnoticed . Sean Dooley of About.com writes , the " piano @-@ driven song [ ... ] perfectly captures the awkward teenage angst we all endure ? or have endured ? at one time or another . "

= = Recording = =

While recording her demo album , Swift worked with demo producer Nathan Chapman , whom she met in a little shed behind a publishing company she was at . Swift said , " I 'd always go in there and play him some new songs , and the next week he would have this awesome track , on which he played every instrument , and it sounded like a record . We did this for a period of a year to two years before I got my record deal . "

To record Taylor Swift , she had to choose which album producer she would work with : " Then , all of a sudden , it was , ' OK , we 're going to use this producer ' or ' We 're going to use that producer . ' " After experimenting with different producers , originating from Nashville , Swift chose Chapman because of the unique sound he put into songs . Big Machine Records was skeptical about hiring Chapman because he had never done a studio album prior to Taylor Swift , only demos . Swift described the songs he produced as " the right chemistry hit [ ting ] " and therefore , Big Machine Records accepted Chapman producing some of the album 's songs . In the end , Chapman produced all but one of the tracks on Taylor Swift . Recording was executed during a four @-@ month period before 2006 was over .

= = Packaging and release = =

Taylor Swift was released on October 24 , 2006 with eleven tracks . Swift was highly involved in the album packaging , designing doodle graphics herself . She also personally capitalized specific letters in the lyrics from each song to spell out hidden messages , a feat she would also execute for her succeeding albums . On November 6 , 2007 , the album was re @-@ released under the title Taylor Swift Deluxe Edition for a limited time . The deluxe edition contained three new songs : " I 'm

Only Me When I 'm with You " , " Invisible " and " A Perfectly Good Heart " , the radio edits for " Picture to Burn " , " Teardrops on My Guitar " , and " Our Song " , and Swift 's first phone conversation with Tim McGraw . The re @-@ release also bared a bonus DVD with all of Swift 's music videos at the time ( " Tim McGraw " , " Teardrops on My Guitar " , and " Our Song " ) , behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage of " Teardrops on My Guitar " and " Our Song " music videos , and a performance of " Picture to Burn " , among other material . The American retail company Target released an exclusive version of Taylor Swift Deluxe Edition , with performances of Swift during McGraw and Hill 's Soul2Soul II Tour . A third and final re @-@ release appeared on March 18 , 2008 with the three new songs from the Taylor Swift Deluxe Edition and a pop version of " Teardrops on My Guitar " . A karaoke version of Taylor Swift was released on January 27 , 2009 , containing the first fourteen tracks from the album on both CD + G and DVD .

= = Critical reception = =

Taylor Swift received positive reviews from contemporary critics . Jeff Tamarkin of AllMusic described Swift as " a fresh , still girlish voice , full of hope and naïveté , but it 's also a confident and mature one " . He said her " talent to be reckoned " was portrayed through the songs " Tim McGraw " , " The Outside " , and " Mary 's Song ( Oh My My My ) " . Tamarkin criticized producer Nathan Chapman for applying " a gloss that not all [ songs ] really require and in some cases would do better to shed " . Rick Bell of Country Standard Time gave a positive review , saying that Swift had " smart songwriting " and that " her deeply personal , self @-@ penned songs , particularly ' The Outside ' and ' Our Song ' " were " stirring . " He compared her sound to Cyndi Thomson and Hilary Duff . Chris Neal of Country Weekly said that Swift " demonstrat [ es ] an honesty , intelligence and idealism with which listeners of any age will be able to connect " and added that " the more thoughtful material suggests a talent poised to last well past high school . " Ken Rosenbaum of The Toledo Blade wrote Swift " deftly handles lyrics and subjects in that shadowy area between teenager and womanhood . "

= = Commercial performance = =

On the week ending November 11 , 2006 , Taylor Swift debuted at number nineteen on the Billboard 200 due to sales of 40 @,@ 000 copies . It reached its highest sales week on the week ending January 5 , 2008 with 187 @,@ 000 copies sold . After sixty @-@ three weeks on the Billboard 200 , on the week ending January 19 , 2008 , the album reached its charting peak at number five due to sales of 47 @,@ 000 copies . Taylor Swift marked the longest stay on the Billboard 200 by any album released in the decade . So far the album has stayed on the chart for 277 weeks . The album topped Billboard 's Top Country Albums Chart for twenty @-@ four non @-@ consecutive weeks . On the week ending August 2 , 2008 , Swift 's EP Beautiful Eyes replaced Taylor Swift as the chart 's number one album . With Taylor Swift charting at number two , Swift became the first artist to hold the first two positions on Top Country Albums since LeAnn Rimes charted in 1997 with Blue ( 1996 ) and Unchained Melody : The Early Years ( 1997 ) . On February 17 , 2014 , the album was certified five times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for the shipment and sales of 5 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies . As of December 2015 , the album has sold 5 @.@ 56 million copies in the United States .

Like their last album , this one also features CDVU + that includes more than 30 pages of bonus features with an exclusive video performance , 60 printable photos , complete album lyrics , downloadable graphics , and hidden links . In addition , the packaging of the album is made from 100 % recycled materials .

After six years of its release , Taylor Swift made debuted at number thirty @-@ eight on the New Zealand Albums Chart . Taylor Swift peaked at number fourteen on the Canadian Albums Chart and at number @-@ one on the Canadian Country Albums Chart . Taylor Swift was certified platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association ( CRIA ) for the shipment of 80 @,@ 000 copies . In Australia , Taylor Swift peaked at number thirty @-@ three on the main chart and at number three

on the country @-@ genre chart . On the week ending September 5 , 2009 , it entered the UK Albums Chart at number 88 ; the following week , it reached its peak at number 81 . The album has been certified Gold by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) for sales of more than 100 @,@ 000 copies .

= = Singles = =

" Tim McGraw " was released as the lead single from Taylor Swift on June 19 , 2006 . The song was critically appreciated for Swift 's delivery . " Tim McGraw " enjoyed commercial success , peaking at number forty on the Billboard Hot 100 and at number six on Billboard 's Hot Country Songs ; it was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) for the shipment of 2 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies .

" Teardrops on My Guitar " was released as the second single from Taylor Swift . " Teardrops on My Guitar " received critical success for its memorable chorus and crossover potential , as well as commercial success by becoming the best @-@ charting single from Taylor Swift on the Billboard Hot 100 , peaking at number thirteen . It became Swift 's first pop crossover hit , peaking at number eleven on the now @-@ canceled Pop 100 chart . The song was certified double platinum by the RIAA for the shipment of 3 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies . " Teardrops on My Guitar " peaked at number forty @-@ five in Canada and at number fifty @-@ one in the United Kingdom .

" Our Song " was released as the third single from the album . The song was critically favored , being described as " gem " . " Our Song " peaked at number sixteen on the Billboard Hot 100 and was certified quadruple platinum by the RIAA ; it also became Swift 's first @-@ number one on Hot Country Songs . The song peaked at number thirty on the Canadian Hot 100 , becoming the best @-@ charting single from Taylor Swift in Canada .

" Picture to Burn " was released as the fourth single from Taylor Swift . " Picture to Burn " was appreciated by contemporary critics for lyrics reflecting feminism . It became a fourth consecutive top ten single for Swift on the United States ' chart Hot Country Songs and was certified double platinum by the RIAA .

" Should 've Said No " was released as the fifth and final single from the album . In the United States , " Should 've Said No " became Swift 's second number @-@ one on Hot Country Songs and was certified double platinum by the RIAA . The song made its highest international peak in the New Zealand Singles Chart , at number eighteen .

= = Promotion = =

Swift 's first broadcast performance of " Tim McGraw " was on October 24 , 2006 on Good Morning America . Other songs from Taylor Swift have been performed on television programs , award shows , and festivals such as The Megan Mullally Show , the New Faces Show , America 's Got Talent , TRL , the 2008 CMT Music Awards , and the Academy of Country Music . Swift spent much of 2006 promoting " Tim McGraw " and Taylor Swift in a radio tour . In regards to the extensive radio tour , Swift commented , " Radio tours for most artists last six weeks . Mine lasted six months . That 's because I wanted it to . I wanted to meet every single one of the people that was helping me out . "

Swift also promoted the album by performing as an opening act for several country artists ' concert tours . She opened for Rascal Flatts on several dates , from October 19 to November 3 , 2006 , included on the Me and My Gang Tour ( 2006 ? 07 ) , performing a total of five songs from the album . She also served as opening act on twenty dates for George Strait 's 2007 United States tour , and selected dates for Brad Paisley 's Bonfires & Amplifiers Tour ( 2007 ? 08 ) ; Swift served as an opening act during all 2007 legs of the tour . During mid @-@ 2007 , Swift engaged as the opening act on several dates for Tim McGraw 's and Faith Hill 's joint tour , Soul2Soul II Tour ( 2006 ? 07 ) . Swift again opened for Flatts for their Still Feels Good Tour in 2008 . In addition , Swift performed six songs from Taylor Swift on her first headlining tour , the Fearless Tour ( 2009 ? 10 ) .

= = Track listing = =

#### Notes

" I 'd Lie " was available as an exclusive download for copies of the album purchased at Best Buy during the first week of release .

Initial pressings of the deluxe edition replaced the original versions of " Teardrops on My Guitar " and " Our Song " with their respective radio single versions . Later deluxe pressings also replaced " Picture to Burn " with its country radio edit and scrapped the bonus DVD and Swift 's phone call with McGraw and replaced them with the pop version of " Teardrops on My Guitar " .

= = Personnel = =

As listed in liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = = Chart precession and succession = = =

= = Certifications = =