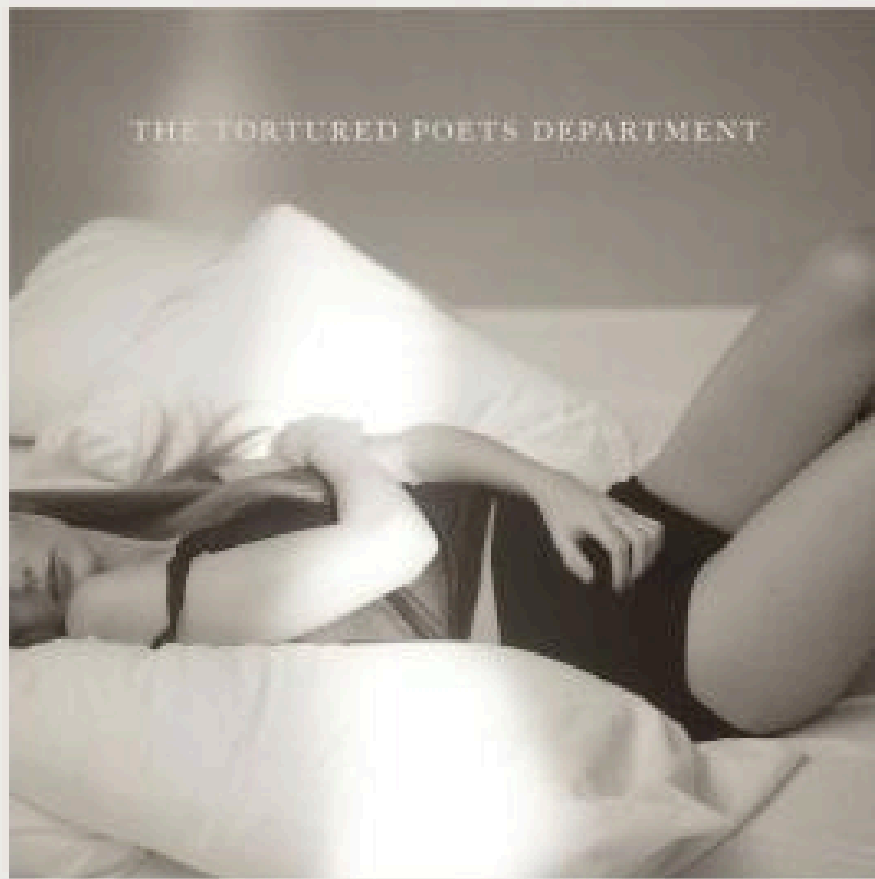


*“She sounds confused, bitter, ragging, vulnerable, yet more glorious and chaotic than we've ever seen her before.” - Rolling Stone*



## INTRODUCTION

Taylor Swift is an American singer, songwriter, and director. She grew up with the love for playing the guitar and singing. Her lifelong dream was always to be able to perform



in front of hundreds of people. Her first album came out in 2006, and her fame only grew from there. She went from playing in small cafes in front of a couple of customers to performing sold out shows wherever she went in front of over 70,000 people. Her most recent album, The Tortured Poets Department shows Taylor Swift's music career and fame aren't coming to an end anytime soon.

The newly released Taylor Swift album The Tortured Poets Department may be the best album Taylor Swift has ever written. The album is heart wrenching and explores many different types of grief. Taylors impeccable lyrics show yet again, this time we even see a new version of her we haven't seen before. This album is definitely one of her most significant ones, it dives deep into new emotions and feelings as well as marking the end of a chapter. The album was released on april 19 2024, and later that night at 2 am swift surprised fans with the drop of a double album. Taylor told fans:

“ The tortured poets department is a secret double album. I'd written so much tortured poetry in the past two years and wanted to share it with you all. So here's the second installment of TTPD: the Anthology. 15 extra songs, and now the story isn't mine anymore .... It's all yours.”

## What the Album Represents

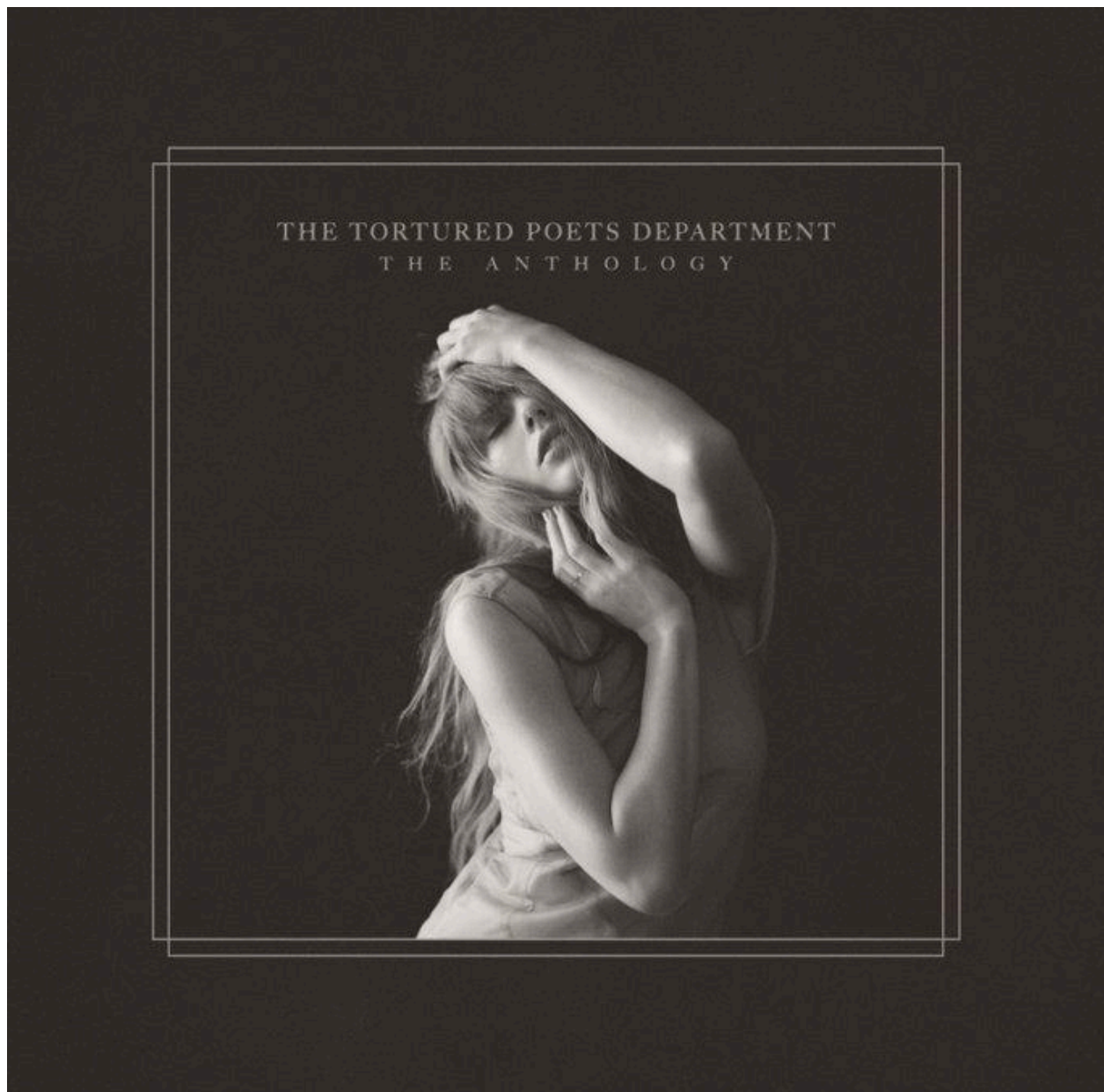


The Tortured Poets Department may resemble a normal album at first glance, but Swift has divided her album into the five stages of grief; denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and then acceptance. Swift described The Tortured Poets Department as “An anthology of new works that reflect events, opinions, and sentiments from a fleeting and fantastic moment in time, one that was both sensational and sorrowful in equal measure.” This album represents a period of her life that is now over and boarded up. She also writes “and

upon further reflection, a good number of them turned out to be self-inflicted. This writer is of the firm belief that our tears become holy in the form of writing on a page. Once we have spoken our saddest story, we can be free of it.” This album goes through stages of grief, anger, sorrow, and also acceptance. It shows how painful a breakup is, but also that these feelings pass and old chapters close, bringing new ones to life.



*“Taylor Swift busts out the quill pen and delivers an epic double album with TTPD: The Anthology.” - Rolling Stone*



## Making of This Album

Taylor's recording and writing process for this album included her best friend and producer Aaron Dessner. Aaron produced and worked on many of Taylor's past albums as well. This is what he has to say about the making of this album, "we started working on these songs over two years ago and it feels like they have kept us company and evolved in beautiful and unexpected ways through so much life lived during this process."



"It's hard to believe Taylor and I have now recorded over 60 songs together (17 across the anthology) in the four years since we began working together on *folklore* in 2020. I am forever grateful to Taylor for sharing her insane talents with and trusting me with her music." Another producer that has worked with Taylor for years is Jack Antonoff. He has known Taylor since 2012, and began working together soon after. This is what Jack posted on Instagram for the release of *The Tortured Poets Department*. "TTPD is here, my favorite work we have made together/ made in the most wild unhinged moments. All the pain distilled in this album and all the laughter that came out of it. I will hold those days in the studio forever as the most inspiring of my life. I adore this album and the way it came out together, TTPD forever."

## Songs

### 1. "Clara Bow" 4.9/5

*Clara Bow* represents how Taylor has seen women artists and herself being treated in the music industry. They are always getting compared to each other, the industry picks apart these women. This goes to show that the music industry is not perfect, and we still have a long way to go until it is.

This is Taylor described her inspiration for this song:

“ I used to sit in record labels trying to get a record deal when I was a kid. And they'd say ‘you know, you remind me of,’ and then name an artist, but they'd say something disparaging like ‘but your this, your so much better this way or that way.’ and that show we teach women to see themselves, as like you could be the new replacement for this woman who’s done something great before you.”



Taylor then goes on to explain why she chose Clara Bow and Stevie Nicks to name drop in this song. “they're women who have done great things in the past, and have been these archetypes of greatness in the entertainment industry.”

Here are the lyrics that mention these two incredible women:

“ You look like Clara Bow in this light, remarkable.”

“ You look like Stevie Nicks in '75 the hair and lips.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcVUbmdQfaE>



2. *Florida ft. (florence + the machine)* 5.0/5.0



This song goes through Taylor's thoughts about what would happen and where she would want to go to reinvent herself. This was her inspiration:

“ I'm always watching dateline, people have their crimes they commit, where do they go and skip town? They go to Florida. They try to reinvent themselves, create a new identity. That was the jumping off point. Where would you go to reinvent yourself and bland in? Florida!”

An example in one of the lyrics in this song :

“ I need to forget so take me to Florida, I have some regrets, I'll bury them in Florida.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEssK8o3jKg>

3. *Who's Afraid of Little Old Me ?* 5.0/5.0

In This song Taylor explains how she feels in the music industry. How it pits you against other artists, tear you down, and judge everything about you.

This is her talking about the inspiration:

“ *Who's Afraid of Little Old Me* was a song I wrote alone, sitting at the piano in one of those moments when I felt bitter about just all the things we do to our artists as a society and as a culture. We put them through hell , we watch what they create, then we judge it. We love to watch artists in pain, often to the point where I think sometimes as a society we provoke that pain and we just watch what happens.”

This is one of my favorite lyrics from this song:

“I was tame, I was gentle till the circus life made me mean, don't you worry folks we took

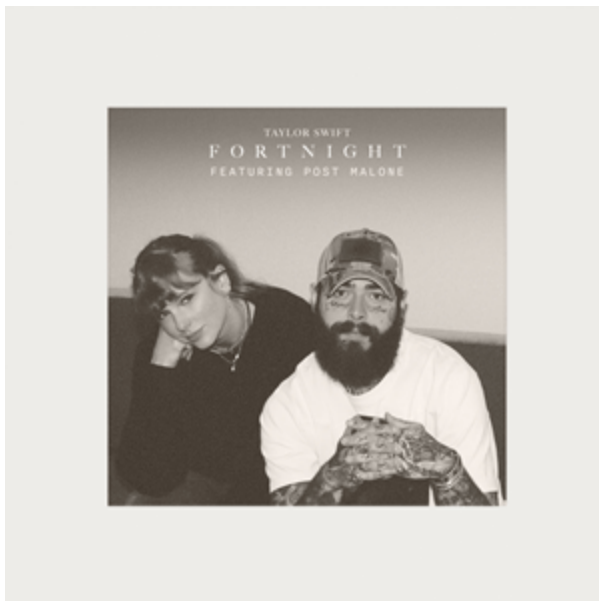
out all her teeth.”

This lyric is comparing the music industry to being a part of a circus, You're in the center being judged, pointed and laughed at. She explains that she was gentle and kind before the circus life made her mean, which is referring to how the music industry changed her gentle personality into more of a mean one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOZFiX6hDXQ>

#### 4. *Fortnight ft. (Post Malone)* 4.8/5.0

*Fortnight* is the lead single from *The Tortured Poets Department*, it dives into the feelings after a heartbreak. She feels as if she's stuck in the same endless loop everyday, and her love for him is “ruining her life”, because she can't seem to move on from him.



This lyric represents that feeling of being stuck in the past and not being able to move on:

“All my mornings are Mondays stuck in an endless February, I took the miracle-move on drug, the effects were temporary. I love you, it's ruining my life.”

This song is also the only one with a music video. The video features the cast from *The Dead Poets Society*, Ethan Hawke and Josh Charles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3zqJs7JUCQ>

#### 5. *My Boy Only Breaks His Favorite Toys* 4.9/5.0

This song is a metaphor for a toy being played with and being thrown out or discarded once it breaks to being in a relationship and your partner is all interested with you, but once they've gotten their fun and become bored they toss



you out.

This is what Taylor says about her inspiration:

It's a metaphor from the perspective of a child's toy. Being someone's favorite toy until they break you, and then they don't want to play with you anymore. Which is how a lot of us are in relationships where we are so valued by a person in the beginning. And then all of a sudden they break us or they devalue us in their mind.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRKXAAV6jh4>

#### 6. *Down Bad* 5.0/5.0

This song explains the feeling of being love bombed. They bedazzle you and make you fall in love with them, then they leave you wanting more. They leave you wondering what is wrong with yourself? Why did they leave?



This is some of my favorite lyrics that I think really capture the meaning of this song:

“ Did you really beam me up in a cloud of sparkling dust just to do experiments on? Tell me I'm the chosen one, showed me that this world is bigger than us, then sent me back where I came from,”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Uoe8W649pw>

#### 7. *I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can)* 4.8/5.0

This song tells the story of Taylor being desperate to fix her boyfriend who the public and most of the internet see as a bad person. She ignores what everyone around her is saying because she is so deep in denial and truly believes she can fix him.

“ They shake their heads saying, God help her when I tell them he's my man. I can fix him, no really I can, and only I can.”

That is the start of the song and towards the end we see her second guessing herself ,

“ I can fix him, no really I can ( no, really I can). Whoa, maybe I can't.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKWfv-x2rdU>

#### 8. *I Can Do It With A Broken Heart* 5.0/5.0

This song shows Taylor trying to put a smile on and convince everyone she's okay, following her breakup with Joe Alwyn after 6 years, while on tour.

Here are some lyrics I believe really encompass the meaning of this song:



“ cause i'm a real tough kid I can handle my shit they said babe you gotta fake it till you make it and I did.”

“ light, camera, bitch smile even when you wanna die.”

This shows how utterly shattered and heartbroken she was after this breakup, but even so she put on a performance for her fans and the world.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8\\_w\\_m6HLJ0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8_w_m6HLJ0)

9. *thanK you aIMee* 4.8/5.0

This song shows the heartbreak and the emotions Taylor felt during the feud between her and Kim Kardashian in 2016.

This lyric shows perfectly how she felt:

“ I can't forget the way you made me feel. Screamed fuck you aimee to the night sky as the blood was gushin.” Taylor also capitalized the letters kim in the song, confirming the song is about their past feud.



“ I dont think youve changed much, so I changed your name and any real defining clues, and one day, your kid comes home singing a song only us two are gonna know is about you.” This song is very significant as it was a way for Taylor to write out and process all the bottled emotions from this feud. She explains how kims actions really hurt her, and it shows that to Kim it was just a small funny prank, but it destroyed Taylors entire career and her self esteem.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaBJlKXBvjk>

## 10. *I Hate It Here* 5.0/5.0

This song is about looking at your life and not liking how it is, and so you go into your imagination to escape.

Here are some example lyrics :

“ I hate it here so I will go to secret gardens in my mind, people need a key to get to, the only one is mind.”

This song is very significant because it shows that even celebrities need to escape from reality sometimes. They too become overwhelmed and stressed and need to leave their world for just a bit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpkmUfv1I4Q>

## Reception

The Tortured Poets Department had really good reception, people were beyond excited, especially when realizing it was a double album. I've seen fans both absolutely adore the album, and some that weren't really fans. Personally, this album is one of my new favorites from her.

Here are some reviews :

“The Tortured Poets Department is an album that defies mere description, Its an immense journey into the depths of vulnerability, creativity, and raw human emotion. This collection of songs stands as nothing less than a soul stirring testament to Taylor Swift's unparalleled ability to translate the complexity of the human condition into a symphony of sound that resonates with an indescribable beauty.”

“ I believe that these songs are some of the most lyrically acute, intricate, vulnerable, and cathartic Taylor has ever written.”

## Achievements so far

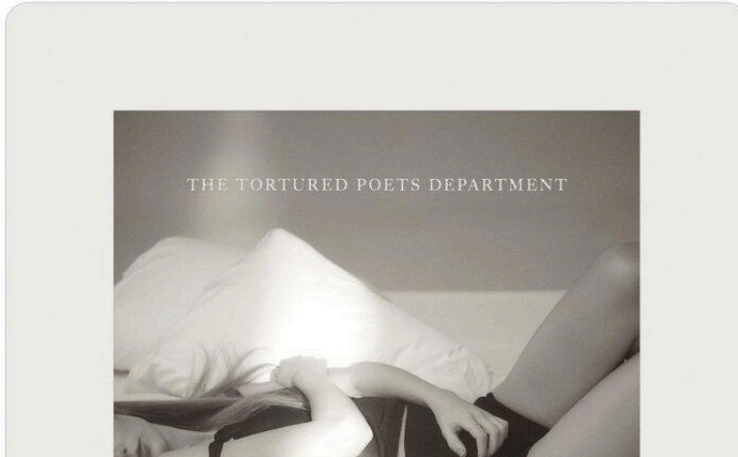
While the album only just came out it is breaking all sorts of records on multiple

platforms. Here are the achievements of TTPD so far :



**Talk of the Charts** @talkofthecharts · 1m

Taylor Swift's 'The Tortured Poets Department' to debut at #1 on the Billboard 200 with a minimum of 2 million units in its opening week, according to @HITSDD. It will mark the biggest debut of her career.



- Best selling album of 2024 accomplished in only 48 hours.
- This album extended Swift's record as the artist with the most weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 (106 weeks and counting.)
- Most top spots on billboard hot 100 (14 spots.)

- Spotify's most presaved countdown in history
- Spotify's most streamed album in a single day in platform history (314 million.)
- Third largest sales week ever
- No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 200 chart giving her 14th chart topping album.

## The Significance of This Album

This album is quite significant because it wasn't made for the fans or the charts like her other albums, it was made for herself. She wrote this album as a way to process her emotions and let go and deal with the swirling emotions. She needed to feel these emotions one last time before moving on and starting a new chapter in life.

She even states how important making this album was:

“ I needed to make this album, it was really a lifeline for me. It sort of reminded me why songwriting is actually something that gets me through life and I've never had an album where I've needed songwriting more than I needed it on Tortured Poets.”

## Conclusion

In conclusion the lyrics in this album are truly astounding. You can tell how much raw and pure emotion she put into every song. I absolutely love the addition of the five stages of grief, as fans across the world can go through their own heartbreaks and grief right with Taylor.

This album has taught me that while heartbreak is devastating and painful it is so incredibly important to process and feel those emotions. Because if you bottle them up you will never fully move on, which will impact the next chapter you begin. This new album has become an all time favorite not only for the devastating lyrics but also because of the beautiful significance this album has to Taylor.

It is an album not made for the fans or the charts but solely for her to process her emotions and end the chapter she was in, and open a new one. And maybe anyone who listened to this album will get the courage to finally start a new chapter in their life too.

Overall this album is incredible and devastating, my overall rating is 4.9/5.0

