

(2019)

# Lover

WE NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE

TAYLOR TIDBITS

Here are some lesser-known facts about Swift



Swift partly grew up on a Pennsylvania Christmas tree farm.



Her mother Andrea Gardner Swift spent part of her childhood in Singapore.



Swift is an avid cook who has shared her recipe for chai sugar cookies, among others, with fans.

Cornelia St

The song Cornelia Street was inspired by a Manhattan apartment she briefly rented in 2016.



The song The Last Great American Dynasty was inspired by American socialite Rebekah Harkness, who once owned Swift's Rhode Island home.



With a height of 1.8m, Swift towers over most Singaporeans.



Her younger brother by three years, Austin, once sang on a stripped-back cover of Swift's Look What You Made Me Do under the fake band name Jack Leopards & The Dolphin Club.



She has used pseudonyms, such as Nils Sjöberg for a writing credit on the Calvin Harris track, This Is What You Came For (2016), featuring Rihanna.



She has had many iconic musical collaborations over the years, such as with Zayn for I Don't Wanna Live Forever (2017) on the Fifty Shades Darker movie soundtrack, and Kendrick Lamar on a remix of Bad Blood (2014). British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has teamed up with her four times, starting with Everything Has Changed (2012).



She is the subject of multiple university courses dedicated to her songwriting, including one at Harvard University.



Swift reportedly wrote her first song, called Lucky You, at the age of 12, after learning her first three chords on the guitar.



Grandpa Swift, father of the pop star's dad Scott, fought in World War II. Taylor Swift writes about his experience – and those of front-line medical workers during the Covid-19 pandemic – in Epiphany (2020).



Swift's maternal grandmother Marjorie once sang in an opera at Singapore's Victoria Theatre.

In this sixth instalment of The Straits Times' nine-part daily Taylor Swift infographic series, correspondent **Yamini Chinnuswamy** and executive artist **Billy Ker** explore the 34-year-old American pop star's seventh album. This is ahead of The Eras Tour in Singapore from March 2 to 9, named for the different musical "eras" of her career

## TAYLOR'S DIARY

December 2018 to April 2019

Swift participates in the filming of *Cats* (2019), a movie adaptation of the hit West End musical. The role of Bombalurina is the pop star's first acting role in five or so years.

Speaking of cats, Swift adopts her third pet cat, Benjamin Button, around this time. She falls in love with the kitten while filming the music video for ME!

Benjamin Button



3 Butterfly effect

As Swift writes on social media: "For me, the *Lover* album is open fields and sunsets and summer." What better to represent the heady days of summer than the butterfly, whose population hits a peak during this season. To drum up hype for the album, she commissions a colourful butterfly mural in her adopted home town of Nashville, Tennessee.



March 2019

In an essay for *Elle* magazine, Swift reveals that her mother is fighting a second battle with cancer.

The candid piece also sees the singer getting vulnerable about issues such as body image. "I learnt to stop hating every ounce of fat on my body," she writes.

June 2019



Swift's former record label, Big Machine, is acquired by Ithaca Holdings, a company founded by American music mogul Scooter Braun. Braun famously scouted Canadian pop star Justin Bieber and managed the career of Swift's long-time foe, American rapper Kanye West, from 2016 to 2018.

With the acquisition, Braun gains control of the master recordings for Swift's first six albums. She takes to Tumblr to express her disappointment at the news: "This is my worst-case scenario." She describes "the incessant, manipulative bullying I've received at (Braun's) hands for years", explicitly linking him to her 2016 conflict with West, which led to her being "cancelled" by online mobs.

August 2019

Swift's one-time best friend, American model Karlie Kloss, is seen holidaying with Braun, leading to media reports that their friendship is officially over. Notably, Swift skipped Kloss' wedding

festivities in June due to unnamed "prior commitments". Among the guests were Braun, as well as American pop star Katy Perry – a former Swift nemesis.

September 2019

City Of Lover, a one-off concert to promote *Lover*, takes place in Paris, France.

Swift announces her plans to play the festival circuit in Europe in summer 2020. They are to be followed by half a dozen *Lover* Fest stadium shows in the United States and Brazil.



The smaller scale is in stark contrast to the Reputation Stadium Tour, which encompassed 53 stadium shows around the world. "I've got some pretty intense things happening with my family right now. I can't go on a long tour," Swift later explains in an interview, alluding to her mother's cancer diagnosis.

December 2019



The *Cats* musical film drops to poor reviews. However, the song that Swift writes for the movie, Beautiful Ghosts, is nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Original Song.

January 2020

The documentary film *Miss Americana* is released on Netflix. It takes an intimate look at Swift's life in early 2019, as she begins work on *Lover*. Swift is seen embracing her boyfriend since end-2016, British actor Joe Alwyn. "We decided together that we wanted our relationship to be private," she says in the documentary.

She opens up about body dysmorphia and disordered eating, referring to times when scrutiny over her body "triggered me to just starve a little bit – just stop eating".

March 2020

The world begins to shut down due to the spread of Covid-19. Summer music festivals such as Glastonbury in England – where Swift is due to perform – are cancelled.

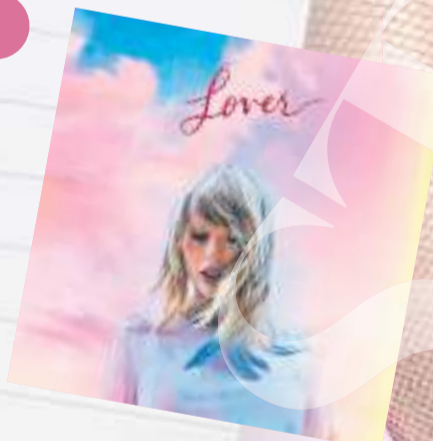
In April, Swift announces that all her live music performances of 2020 would be scrapped or postponed to 2021. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, this comes as no surprise to fans.

But they are certainly surprised in July, when Swift puts out a new album, *Folklore*, less than a year after unveiling *Lover*.

REPUTATION

## AT A GLANCE

- 7th album, released in August 2019
- 1 million copies sold in the US in 2019, the only album to do so
- 2nd best-selling album of 2019, behind Arashi's 5x20 All the BEST!! 1999-2019
- 7th most-streamed album on Spotify in 2023



## LINER NOTES

- Swift describes the album as a "love letter to love". Many of its songs seem to grapple with the ups and downs of settling down into a long-term relationship, as she sings on the title track ("Can we always be this close forever and ever?") and on the ballad Cornelia Street ("I hope I never lose you, hope it never ends").
- For the first time, she also grapples with political themes in her music. In *Miss Americana & The Heartbreak Prince*, she sings: "American glory faded before me." And in *You Need To Calm Down*, she voices her support for the LGBTQ community.
- The Covid-19 pandemic ends the *Lover* era prematurely, but the album ages well, thanks in part to Swift's 2023 Eras Tour in the Americas.
- The concerts help the *Lover* track Cruel Summer go viral on social media – so much so that it became Spotify's sixth-most-streamed song of 2023.

## ASSEMBLE YOUR OWN POSTER

This is the sixth of a nine-part infographic that will be published daily until Feb 25. Combine all nine pages to create your own mosaic poster of Taylor Swift. Or stand a chance to win a limited-edition collectible poster. Find out more: [str.sg/TSwift](https://str.sg/TSwift)



MIDNIGHTS