

# folklore

reviewed by someone who listened to 2000+ hours of it



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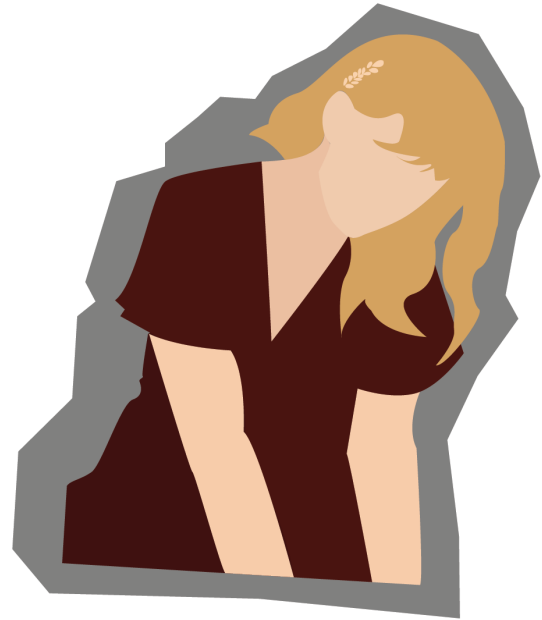
“folklore” review

# why did you listen to 2000+ hours of “folklore”?

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I am ranked number one globally on the Apple Music leaderboards for the number of “folklore” hours I have listened to. There is no real reason as to why I decided to do this, but the main reason why was because I really enjoyed the album. “folklore” really spoke to me and I could relate to every single song on the album. I perceive Swift as a lyrical genius and as an artist she has continued to grow as a songwriter since she released her first album, “Taylor Swift”. Even as a teenager, she showed the world that she was an unstoppable and creative songwriter. Swift’s music has always had a special place in my heart ever since my older sister played “Our Song” in the car. As a child I was drawn to her music and her mystical voice, but recently I became more invested into her music.

In late 2019, I decided to revisit Swift’s music in full and listen to every single song on each album. I knew many of her songs through my sister, but I did not really appreciate her albums alone. I started off with “Red”, her fourth studio album and the first track, “State of Grace” instantly became my favorite. I never heard this song in my sister’s car so I had no idea it even existed, but the song is a lyrical masterpiece. “Red” instantly became my new favorite album to put on repeat and I would listen to it everyday on shuffle. In all my classes I was



listening to “Red” and whenever I hear a song from the album now, I think back to my experiences in those classes. I knew most of the songs from “Speak Now” and when I was relistening to the album, I got so many flashbacks to 2010 and my life in elementary school. Songs like “Mine”, “Mean”, “Speak Now”, “The Story of Us” and “Back to December” brought me back first grade. Songs off of “Taylor Swift” and “Fearless” gave me so much nostalgia and it made me realize that I was essentially raised by her music. Whenever I think back to any album that she made, I can remember what I was feeling or doing when I was listening to them. This is why I listened to “folklore” for 2000+ hours, I wanted to create a memory of when I was listening to the album. Thus making “folklore” a part of my daily life because I always had it playing when I was doing homework, eating dinner, etc.

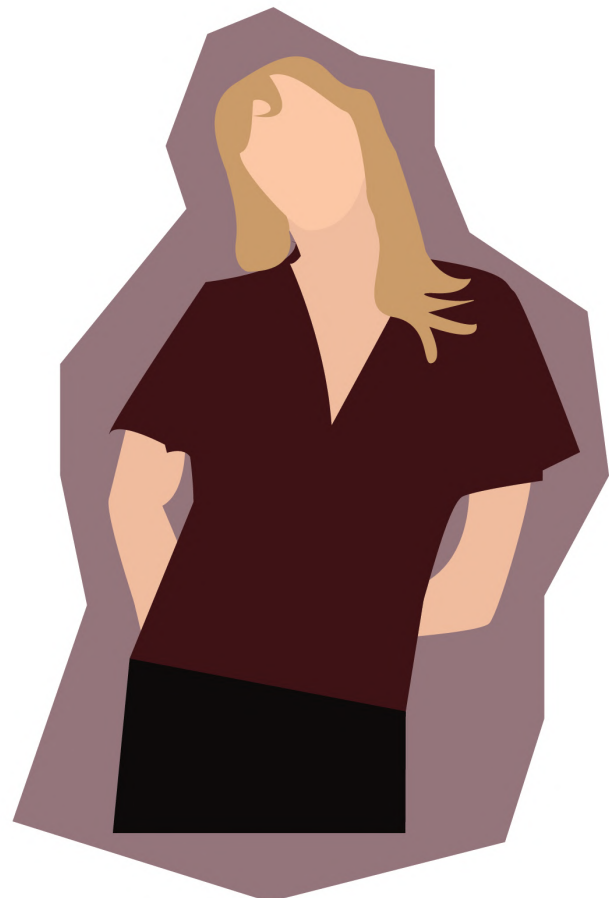
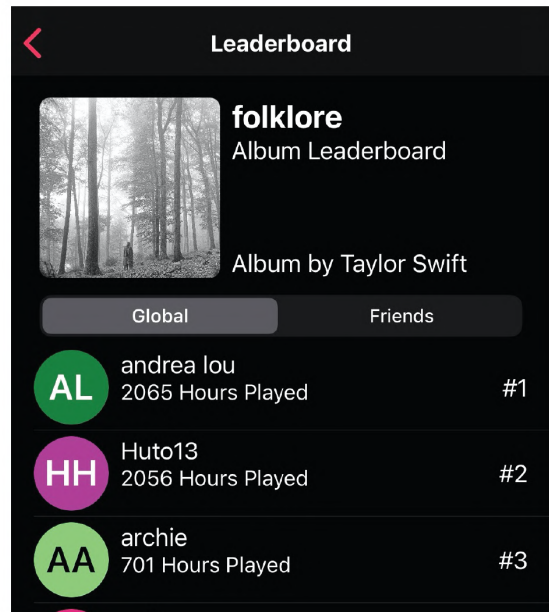
“folklore” is totally different from her recent three albums, “1989”, “reputation”, and “Lover”. Whenever I listen to “1989” I feel a sense of sadness and happiness at the same time and whenever I listen to “reputation”, I feel like sitting in a car with all the windows being rolled down. “Lover” to me is one of her best lyrically written albums if you lookover tracks like “ME!” and “You Need to Calm Down”. “Lover” still gets a lot of hate from Swifties, but they have to remember that “Cruel Summer”, “Death by a Thousand Cuts”, “Cornelia Street” and “Daylight exist on that album. “folklore” is Swift’s first alternative/indie album and the album demonstrates her maturity and brilliant songwriting skills.

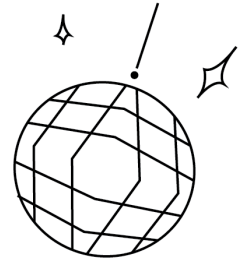
“folklore” became my everyday lifestyle, it was always on and it did not even annoy me. I was so immersed into Swift’s life when I was listening to it because her lyrics are so intimate even though a few of the songs are not even about her life. A few months ago I found this app called “snd.wave” and it tracked how many hours of music one

has listened to on Apple Music. I saw many Taylor Swift fans using this app and one feature was that you can join leaderboards for albums to see who ranked high on the amount of hours of music one has listened to. When Swift dropped “folklore” on July 24, 2020, I joined the leaderboard for “folklore” and slowly I was getting my way up to the number one spot. After two thousand hours, I have maintained my number one rank on the global leaderboards for the amount of “folklore” hours on Apple Music. Two thousand hours is the equivalent of listening to eighty-three days of “folklore”, essentially bounding me and the album together for eighty-three days.

There were some challenges of trying to maintain listening to “folklore” all day. One of them was listening to other music on my phone or scrolling through TikTok because if I played a song that was not on “folklore” it would not count towards my hours that I listened to the album. Also if I entered an app that plays music, it automatically pauses my own music which meant that I had to choose between listening to “folklore” or going on an app that paused my music. This created a sort of an addiction to the album and I refused to listen to other albums that I also enjoyed because I was paranoid that someone would take my spot on the leaderboard. However, if I wanted to listen to other music, I would go on my computer to listen, but I was always afraid of losing my spot.

The main takeaway I got from doing this was that I realized how important an artist’s music can make one feel. I have my own personal interpretations of Swift’s songs and lyrics and other people have different interpretations of her songs, which makes her music so universal. Even after two thousand hours of listening to “folklore” I am still not bored of the songs, and that is the best thing about Swift’s music. No matter how long time has passed, her music still has this personal connection to me whenever I listen to it. “folklore” will always have a place in my heart even though it is only a few months old, but it is already a classic.





## “folklore” review

“folklore” is the best album of 2020, both lyrically and sonically. I do not think any other album released in 2020 can top what Swift did with “folklore” and she wrote it in just a few months during quarantine. To me, that is impressive because artists take years to make an album, but Swift can write and record a perfect album in a matter of months. All of the songs on “folklore” are beautifully written with passion and love and that is how music should be made. Swift made this album with Jack Antonoff, Aaron Dessner and other collaborators and they were able to produce such beautiful music together.

One of my favorite tracks off the album is “august” , I just adore the guitar and the soothing sound from Swift. Even though the song is pretty upbeat, the meaning is quite depressing. Some theories suggest that “august” is about a girl who is the second choice for this guy who is choosing between two girls. The theory is between 3 songs on the album, “cardigan” , “august” and “betty” . “betty” is from the perspective of James who talks about trying to get Betty back, “cardigan” is from the perspective from one of the girls that James is in love with many years later and “august” is from the perspective of the same girl but many years earlier. One thing that I absolutely love about “august” is the bridge of the song. Swift is notorious for writing perfect bridges, and “august” has one of her most beautifully written bridges of all time.

Another one of my favorites off this album is “mirrorball” , it was such a relatable and depressing song at the same time. “mirrorball” is about someone who puts on different masks or personas around other people just to get their attention and stay shining and relevant. The mirrorball is a metaphor for how people will do things for other people just to be appreciated, but their true personalities are ultimately lost in the process. Swift’ s voice in this song pulls at my heart when she sings “Hush, when no one is around my dear” because I can feel her emotions while she recorded this.

Swift proves time and time again that she is a lyrical genius, she can tell stories from different perspectives and still make her music sound so intimate and exclusive. Listening to “folklore” for the first time felt like reading her journal that was not meant to be opened. I was immersed into this world Swift created and I did not want to escape it, I was totally addicted to her storytelling. Listening to two hours of “folklore” took my mind off of my reality and it made me feel better even though I knew I could not stay in “folklore” forever.





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