

Folklore (Album) Lyrics

Taylor Swift

Tracklist (lyrics)

The 1	2
Cardigan	4
The Last Great American Dynasty	6
Exile (Ft. Bon Iver)	8
My Tears Ricochet	10
Mirrorball	12
Seven.....	14
August	15
This Is Me Trying.....	17
Illicit Affairs.....	19
Invisible String	20
Mad Woman.....	22
Epiphany.....	24
Betty	25
Peace.....	27
Hoax	29

The 1

[Verse 1]

I'm doing good, I'm on some new shit
Been saying "yes" instead of "no"
I thought I saw you at the bus stop, I
didn't though
I hit the ground running each night
I hit the Sunday matinée
You know the greatest films of all time
were never made

[Pre-Chorus]

I guess you never know, never know
And if you wanted me, you really
should've showed
And if you never bleed, you're never
gonna grow
And it's alright now

[Chorus]

But we were something, don't you
think so?
Roaring twenties, tossing pennies in
the pool
And if my wishes came true
It would've been you
In my defense, I have none

For never leaving well enough alone
But it would've been fun
If you would've been the one
(Ooh)

[Verse 2]

I have this dream you're doing cool
shit
Having adventures on your own
You meet some woman on the
internet and take her home
We never painted by the numbers,
baby
But we were making it count
You know the greatest loves of all time
are over now

[Pre-Chorus]

I guess you never know, never know
And it's another day waking up alone

[Chorus]

But we were something, don't you
think so?
Roaring twenties, tossing pennies in
the pool
And if my wishes came true

It would've been you
In my defense, I have none
For never leaving well enough alone
But it would've been fun
If you would've been the one

[Bridge]

I, I, I persist and resist the temptation
to ask you
If one thing had been different
Would everything be different today?

[Chorus]
We were something, don't you think
so?
Rosé flowing with your chosen family
And it would've been sweet
If it could've been me
In my defense, I have none
For digging up the grave another time
But it would've been fun
If you would've been the one
(Ooh)

Cardigan

[Verse 1]

Vintage tee, brand new phone
High heels on cobblestones
When you are young, they assume you
know nothing
Sequined smile, black lipstick
Sensual politics
When you are young, they assume you
know nothing

[Chorus]

But I knew you
Dancin' in your Levi's
Drunk under a streetlight, I
I knew you
Hand under my sweatshirt
Baby, kiss it better, I

[Refrain]

And when I felt like I was an old
cardigan
Under someone's bed
You put me on and said I was your
favorite

[Verse 2]

A friend to all is a friend to none
Chase two girls, lose the one
When you are young, they assume you
know nothing

[Chorus]

But I knew you
Playing hide-and-seek and
Giving me your weekends, I
I knew you
Your heartbeat on the High Line
Once in twenty lifetimes, I

[Refrain]

And when I felt like I was an old
cardigan
Under someone's bed
You put me on and said I was your
favorite

[Bridge]

To kiss in cars and downtown bars
Was all we needed
You drew stars around my scars
But now I'm bleedin'

[Chorus]

'Cause I knew you
Steppin' on the last train
Marked me like a bloodstain, I
I knew you
Tried to change the ending
Peter losing Wendy, I
I knew you
Leavin' like a father
Running like water, I
And when you are young, they assume
you know nothing
[Verse 3]
But I knew you'd linger like a tattoo
kiss
I knew you'd haunt all of my what-ifs
The smell of smoke would hang
around this long
'Cause I knew everything when I was
young

I knew I'd curse you for the longest
time
Chasin' shadows in the grocery line
I knew you'd miss me once the thrill
expired
And you'd be standin' in my front
porch light
And I knew you'd come back to me
You'd come back to me
And you'd come back to me
And you'd come back
[Refrain]
And when I felt like I was an old
cardigan
Under someone's bed
You put me on and said I was your
favorite

The Last Great American Dynasty

[Verse 1]

Rebekah rode up on the afternoon
train, it was sunny
Her saltbox house on the coast took
her mind off St. Louis
Bill was the heir to the Standard Oil
name and money
And the town said, "How did a middle-
class divorcée do it?"

The wedding was charming, if a little
gauche
There's only so far new money goes
They picked out a home and called it
"Holiday House"
Their parties were tasteful, if a little
loud
The doctor had told him to settle
down
It must have been her fault his heart
gave out

[Chorus]

And they said

There goes the last great American
dynasty
Who knows, if she never showed up,
what could've been
There goes the maddest woman this
town has ever seen
She had a marvelous time ruining
everything

[Verse 2]

Rebekah gave up on the Rhode Island
set forever
Flew in all her Bitch Pack friends from
the city
Filled the pool with champagne and
swam with the big names
And blew through the money on the
boys and the ballet
And losing on card game bets with
Dalí

[Chorus]

And they said

There goes the last great American
dynasty

Who knows, if she never showed up,
what could've been

There goes the most shameless
woman this town has ever seen
She had a marvelous time ruining
everything

[Bridge]

They say she was seen on occasion
Pacing the rocks, staring out at the
midnight sea
And in a feud with her neighbor
She stole his dog and dyed it key lime
green
Fifty years is a long time
Holiday House sat quietly on that
beach

Free of women with madness, their
men and bad habits
And then it was bought by me

[Chorus]

Who knows, if I never showed up,
what could've been
There goes the loudest woman this
town has ever seen
I had a marvelous time ruining
everything

[Outro]

I had a marvelous time ruining
everything
A marvelous time ruining everything
A marvelous time
I had a marvelous time

Exile (Ft. Bon Iver)

[Verse 1: Justin Vernon]

I can see you standing, honey
With his arms around your body
Laughin', but the joke's not funny at all
And it took you five whole minutes
To pack us up and leave me with it
Holdin' all this love out here in the hall

[Chorus: Justin Vernon]

I think I've seen this film before
And I didn't like the ending
You're not my homeland anymore
So what am I defending now?
You were my town, now I'm in exile,
seein' you out
I think I've seen this film before

[Post-Chorus: Justin Vernon]

Ooh, ooh, ooh

[Verse 2: Taylor Swift]

I can see you starin', honey
Like he's just your understudy
Like you'd get your knuckles bloody
for me
Second, third, and hundredth chances

Balancin' on breaking branches

Those eyes add insult to injury

[Chorus: Taylor Swift]

I think I've seen this film before

And I didn't like the ending

I'm not your problem anymore

So who am I offending now?

You were my crown, now I'm in exile,
seein' you out

I think I've seen this film before

So I'm leaving out the side door

[Bridge: Justin Vernon, Taylor Swift &
Both]

So step right out, there is no amount

Of crying I can do for you

All this time

We always walked a very thin line

You didn't even hear me out (You
didn't even hear me out)

You never gave a warning sign (I gave
so many signs)

All this time

I never learned to read your mind

(Never learned to read my mind)

I couldn't turn things around (You
never turned things around)
'Cause you never gave a warning sign
(I gave so many signs)
So many signs, so many signs
You didn't even see the signs

[Chorus: Taylor Swift & Justin Vernon,
Taylor Swift]

I think I've seen this film before
And I didn't like the ending
You're not my homeland anymore
So what am I defending now?
You were my town, now I'm in exile,
seein' you out

I think I've seen this film before
So I'm leavin' out the side door

[Outro: Justin Vernon & Taylor Swift]
So step right out, there is no amount
Of crying I can do for you
All this time
We always walked a very thin line

You didn't even hear me out (Didn't
even hear me out)
You never gave a warning sign (I gave
so many signs)
All this time
I never learned to read your mind
(Never learned to read my mind)
I couldn't turn things around (You
never turned things around)
'Cause you never gave a warning sign
(I gave so many signs)
You never gave a warning sign (All this
time)
(So many signs) I never learned to
read your mind
(So many signs) I couldn't turn things
around (I couldn't turn things around)
'Cause you never gave a warning sign
(You never gave a warning sign)
You never gave a warning sign
Ah, ah

My Tears Ricochet

[Verse 1]

We gather here, we line up, weepin' in
a sunlit room

And if I'm on fire, you'll be made of
ashes, too

Even on my worst day, did I deserve,
babe

All the hell you gave me?

'Cause I loved you, I swear I loved you
'Til my dying day

[Chorus]

I didn't have it in myself to go with
grace

And you're the hero flying around,
saving face

And if I'm dead to you, why are you at
the wake?

Cursing my name, wishing I stayed
Look at how my tears ricochet

[Verse 2]

We gather stones, never knowing what
they'll mean

Some to throw, some to make a
diamond ring

You know I didn't want to have to
haunt you

But what a ghostly scene

You wear the same jewels that I gave
you

As you bury me

[Chorus]

I didn't have it in myself to go with
grace

'Cause when I'd fight, you used to tell
me I was brave

And if I'm dead to you, why are you at
the wake?

Cursing my name, wishing I stayed
Look at how my tears ricochet

[Bridge]

And I can go anywhere I want

Anywhere I want, just not home

And you can aim for my heart, go for
blood

But you would still miss me in your
bones

And I still talk to you (When I'm
screaming at the sky)

And when you can't sleep at night
(You hear my stolen lullabies)

[Chorus]

I didn't have it in myself to go with
grace

And so the battleships will sink
beneath the waves

You had to kill me, but it killed you
just the same

Cursing my name, wishing I stayed

You turned into your worst fears

And you're tossing out blame, drunk
on this pain

Crossing out the good years

And you're cursing my name, wishing I
stayed

Look at how my tears ricochet

Mirrorball

[Verse 1]

I want you to know
I'm a mirrorball
I'll show you every version of yourself
tonight
I'll get you out on the floor
Shimmering beautiful
And when I break, it's in a million
pieces

[Chorus]

Hush, when no one is around, my dear
You'll find me on my tallest tiptoes
Spinning in my highest heels, love
Shining just for you
Hush, I know they said the end is near
But I'm still on my tallest tiptoes
Spinning in my highest heels, love
Shining just for you

[Verse 2]

I want you to know
I'm a mirrorball
I can change everything about me to
fit in
You are not like the regulars

The masquerade revelers
Drunk as they watch my shattered
edges glisten

[Chorus]

Hush, when no one is around, my dear
You'll find me on my tallest tiptoes
Spinning in my highest heels, love
Shining just for you
Hush, I know they said the end is near
But I'm still on my tallest tiptoes
Spinning in my highest heels, love
Shining just for you

[Bridge]

And they called off the circus, burned
the disco down
When they sent home the horses and
the rodeo clowns
I'm still on that tightrope
I'm still trying everything to get you
laughing at me
And I'm still a believer, but I don't
know why
I've never been a natural, all I do is try,
try, try
I'm still on that trapeze

***Folklore** (Album) – Taylor Swift*

I'm still trying everything to keep you
looking at me

[Outro]

Because I'm a mirrorball
I'm a mirrorball
And I'll show you every version of
yourself tonight

Seven

[Verse 1]

Please picture me in the trees
I hit my peak at seven
Feet in the swing over the creek
I was too scared to jump in
But I, I was high in the sky
With Pennsylvania under me
Are there still beautiful things?

[Chorus]

Sweet tea in the summer
Cross your heart, won't tell no other
And though I can't recall your face
I still got love for you
Your braids like a pattern
Love you to the Moon and to Saturn
Passed down like folk songs
The love lasts so long

[Verse 2]

And I've been meaning to tell you
I think your house is haunted
Your dad is always mad and that must
be why

And I think you should come live with
me

And we can be pirates
Then you won't have to cry
Or hide in the closet
And just like a folk song
Our love will be passed on

[Bridge]

Please picture me in the weeds
Before I learned civility
I used to scream ferociously
Any time I wanted
I, I

[Chorus]

Sweet tea in the summer
Cross my heart, won't tell no other
And though I can't recall your face
I still got love for you
Pack your dolls and a sweater
We'll move to India forever
Passed down like folk songs
Our love lasts so long

August

[Verse 1]

Salt air, and the rust on your door
I never needed anything more
Whispers of "Are you sure?"
"Never have I ever before"

[Chorus]

But I can see us lost in the memory
August slipped away into a moment in
time
'Cause it was never mine
And I can see us twisted in bedsheets
August sipped away like a bottle of
wine
'Cause you were never mine

[Verse 2]

Your back beneath the sun
Wishin' I could write my name on it
Will you call when you're back at
school?
I remember thinkin' I had you

[Chorus]

But I can see us lost in the memory

August slipped away into a moment in
time

'Cause it was never mine
And I can see us twisted in bedsheets
August sipped away like a bottle of
wine

'Cause you were never mine

[Bridge]

Back when we were still changin' for
the better
Wanting was enough
For me, it was enough
To live for the hope of it all
Canceled plans just in case you'd call
And say, "Meet me behind the mall"
So much for summer love and saying
"us"

'Cause you weren't mine to lose
You weren't mine to lose, no

[Chorus]

But I can see us lost in the memory
August slipped away into a moment in
time
'Cause it was never mine
And I can see us twisted in bedsheets

August sipped away like a bottle of
wine

'Cause you were never mine

[Outro]

'Cause you were never mine

Never mine

But do you remember?

Remember when I pulled up and said

"Get in the car"

And then canceled my plans just in
case you'd call?

Back when I was livin' for the hope of
it all, for the hope of it all

"Meet me behind the mall"

(Remember when I pulled up and said

"Get in the car")

(And then canceled my plans just in
case you'd call?)

(Back when I was livin' for the hope of
it all, for the hope of it all)

("Meet me behind the mall")

Remember when I pulled up and said

"Get in the car"

And then canceled my plans just in
case you'd call?

Back when I was livin' for the hope of
it all (For the hope of it all)

For the hope of it all, for the hope of
it all

(For the hope of it all, for the hope of
it all)

This Is Me Trying

[Verse 1]

I've been having a hard time adjusting
I had the shiniest wheels, now they're
rusting
I didn't know if you'd care if I came
back
I have a lot of regrets about that
Pulled the car off the road to the
lookout
Could've followed my fears all the way
down
And maybe I don't quite know what to
say
But I'm here in your doorway

[Chorus]

I just wanted you to know that this is
me trying
I just wanted you to know that this is
me trying

[Verse 2]

They told me all of my cages were
mental
So I got wasted like all my potential

And my words shoot to kill when I'm
mad
I have a lot of regrets about that
I was so ahead of the curve, the curve
became a sphere
Fell behind all my classmates and I
ended up here
Pouring out my heart to a stranger
But I didn't pour the whiskey

[Chorus]

I just wanted you to know that this is
me trying
I just wanted you to know that this is
me trying

[Post-Chorus]

At least I'm trying

[Bridge]

And it's hard to be at a party when I
feel like an open wound
It's hard to be anywhere these days
when all I want is you
You're a flashback in a film reel on the
one screen in my town

Folklore (Album) – Taylor Swift

[Chorus]

And I just wanted you to know that
this is me trying

(And maybe I don't quite know what
to say)

I just wanted you to know that this is
me trying

[Outro]

At least I'm trying

Illicit Affairs

[Verse 1]

Make sure nobody sees you leave
Hood over your head, keep your eyes
down

Tell your friends you're out for a run
You'll be flushed when you return
Take the road less traveled by
Tell yourself you can always stop
What started in beautiful rooms
Ends with meetings in parking lots

[Chorus]

And that's the thing about illicit affairs
And clandestine meetings and longing
stares
It's born from just one single glance
But it dies and it dies and it dies
A million little times

[Verse 2]

Leave the perfume on the shelf
That you picked out just for him
So you leave no trace behind
Like you don't even exist
Take the words for what they are

A dwindling, mercurial high
A drug that only worked
The first few hundred times

[Chorus]

And that's the thing about illicit affairs
And clandestine meetings and stolen
stares
They show their truth one single time
But they lie and they lie and they lie
A million little times

[Verse 3]

And you wanna scream
Don't call me "kid," don't call me "baby"
Look at this godforsaken mess that you
made me
You showed me colors you know I can't
see with anyone else
Don't call me "kid," don't call me "baby"
Look at this idiotic fool that you made me
You taught me a secret language I can't
speak with anyone else
And you know damn well
For you, I would ruin myself
A million little times

Invisible String

[Verse 1]

Green was the color of the grass
Where I used to read at Centennial
Park
I used to think I would meet somebody
there
Teal was the color of your shirt
When you were sixteen at the yogurt
shop
You used to work at to make a
little money

[Chorus]

Time, curious time
Gave me no compasses, gave me no
signs
Were there clues I didn't see?
And isn't it just so pretty to think
All along there was some
Invisible string
Tying you to me?
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

[Verse 2]

Bad was the blood of the song in the
cab

On your first trip to LA
You ate at my favorite spot for dinner
Bold was the waitress on our three-
year trip
Getting lunch down by the Lakes
She said I looked like an American
singer

[Chorus]

Time, mystical time
Cutting me open, then healing me fine
Were there clues I didn't see?
And isn't it just so pretty to think
All along there was some
Invisible string
Tying you to me?
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

[Bridge]

A string that pulled me
Out of all the wrong arms, right into
that dive bar
Something wrapped all of my past
mistakes in barbed wire
Chains around my demons
Wool to brave the seasons
One single thread of gold

Tied me to you

[Verse 3]

Cold was the steel of my axe to grind
For the boys who broke my heart
Now I send their babies presents
Gold was the color of the leaves
When I showed you around Centennial
Park

Hell was the journey but it brought me
heaven

[Chorus]

Time, wondrous time
Gave me the blues and then purple-
pink skies

And it's cool

Baby, with me

And isn't it just so pretty to think

All along there was some

Invisible string

Tying you to me?

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

Me

Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

[Outro]

(Ah-ah-ah)

(Ah-ah-ah)

Mad Woman

[Verse 1]

What did you think I'd say to that?
Does a scorpion sting when fighting
back?
They strike to kill, and you know I will
You know I will
What do you sing on your drive home?
Do you see my face in the neighbor's
lawn?
Does she smile?
Or does she mouth, "Fuck you forever"?

[Pre-Chorus]

Every time you call me crazy, I get
more crazy
What about that?
And when you say I seem angry, I get
more angry

[Chorus]

And there's nothing like a mad woman
What a shame she went mad
No one likes a mad woman
You made her like that
And you'll poke that bear 'til her claws
come out

And you find something to wrap your
noose around
And there's nothing like a mad woman

[Verse 2]

Now I breathe flames each time I talk
My cannons all firin' at your yacht
They say "move on," but you know I
won't

And women like hunting witches too
Doing your dirtiest work for you
It's obvious that wanting me dead
Has really brought you two together

[Pre-Chorus]

Every time you call me crazy, I get
more crazy
What about that?
And when you say I seem angry, I get
more angry

[Chorus]

And there's nothing like a mad woman
What a shame she went mad
No one likes a mad woman
You made her like that

And you'll poke that bear 'til her claws
come out
And you find something to wrap your
noose around
And there's nothing like a mad woman

[Bridge]

I'm taking my time, taking my time
'Cause you took everything from me
Watching you climb, watching you
climb

Over people like me
The master of spin has a couple side
flings
Good wives always know
She should be mad, should be
scathing like me, but

[Outro]

No one likes a mad woman
What a shame she went mad
You made her like that

Epiphany

[Verse 1]

Keep your helmet, keep your life, son
Just a flesh wound, here's your rifle
Crawling up the beaches now
"Sir, I think he's bleeding out"
And some things you just can't speak
about

[Chorus]

With you I serve, with you I fall down,
down
Watch you breathe in, watch you
breathing out, out

[Verse 2]

Something med school did not cover
Someone's daughter, someone's
mother
Holds your hand through plastic now
"Doc, I think she's crashing out"
And some things you just can't speak
about

[Bridge]

Only twenty minutes to sleep
But you dream of some epiphany
Just one single glimpse of relief
To make some sense of what you've
seen

[Chorus]

With you I serve, with you I fall down,
down (Down)
Watch you breathe in, watch you
breathing out, out
With you I serve, with you I fall down
(Down), down (Down)
Watch you breathe in (Watch you
breathe in), watch you breathing out
(Out), out (Out)

[Outro]

Only twenty minutes to sleep
But you dream of some epiphany
Just one single glimpse of relief
To make some sense of what you've
seen

Betty

[Verse 1]

Betty, I won't make assumptions
About why you switched your
homeroom, but

I think it's 'cause of me

Betty, one time I was riding on my
skateboard

When I passed your house

It's like I couldn't breathe

[Pre-Chorus]

You heard the rumors from Inez
You can't believe a word she says
Most times, but this time it was true
The worst thing that I ever did
Was what I did to you

[Chorus]

But if I just showed up at your party
Would you have me? Would you want
me?
Would you tell me to go fuck myself
Or lead me to the garden?
In the garden, would you trust me
If I told you it was just a summer thing?

I'm only seventeen, I don't know
anything

But I know I miss you

[Verse 2]

Betty, I know where it all went wrong

Your favorite song was playing

From the far side of the gym

I was nowhere to be found

I hate the crowds, you know that

Plus, I saw you dance with him

[Pre-Chorus]

You heard the rumors from Inez
You can't believe a word she says
Most times, but this time it was true
The worst thing that I ever did
Was what I did to you

[Chorus]

But if I just showed up at your party
Would you have me? Would you want
me?
Would you tell me to go fuck myself
Or lead me to the garden?
In the garden, would you trust me
If I told you it was just a summer thing?

I'm only seventeen, I don't know
anything
But I know I miss you

[Bridge]

I was walking home on broken
cobblestones
Just thinking of you when she pulled
up like
A figment of my worst intentions
She said "James, get in, let's drive"
Those days turned into nights
Slept next to her, but
I dreamt of you all summer long

[Verse 3]

Betty, I'm here on your doorstep
And I planned it out for weeks now
But it's finally sinkin' in
Betty, right now is the last time
I can dream about what happens when
You see my face again

[Pre-Chorus]

The only thing I wanna do
Is make it up to you
So I showed up at your party
Yeah, I showed up at your party

[Chorus]

Yeah, I showed up at your party
Will you have me? Will you love me?
Will you kiss me on the porch
In front of all your stupid friends?
If you kiss me, will it be just like I
dreamed it?
Will it patch your broken wings?
I'm only seventeen, I don't know
anything
But I know I miss you

[Outro]

Standing in your cardigan
Kissin' in my car again
Stopped at a streetlight
You know I miss you

Peace

[Verse 1]

Our coming-of-age has come and
gone
Suddenly this summer, it's clear
I never had the courage of my
convictions
As long as danger is near
And it's just around the corner, darlin'
'Cause it lives in me
No, I could never give you peace

[Chorus]

But I'm a fire and I'll keep your brittle
heart warm
If your cascade, ocean wave blues
come
All these people think love's for show
But I would die for you in secret
The devil's in the details, but you got a
friend in me
Would it be enough if I could never
give you peace?

[Verse 2]

Your integrity makes me seem small
You paint dreamscapes on the wall

I talk shit with my friends, it's like I'm
wasting your honor
And you know that I'd swing with you
for the fences
Sit with you in the trenches
Give you my wild, give you a child
Give you the silence that only comes
when two people understand each
other
Family that I chose, now that I see
your brother as my brother
Is it enough?
But there's robbers to the east, clowns
to the west
I'd give you my sunshine, give you my
best
But the rain is always gonna come if
you're standin' with me

[Chorus]

But I'm a fire and I'll keep your brittle
heart warm
If your cascade, ocean wave blues
come
All these people think love's for show
But I would die for you in secret

***Folklore** (Album) – Taylor Swift*

The devil's in the details, but you got a
friend in me

Would it be enough if I could never
give you peace?

Would it be enough if I could never
give you peace?

Would it be enough if I could never
give you peace?

Hoax

[Verse 1]

My only one
My smoking gun
My eclipsed sun
This has broken me down
My twisted knife
My sleepless night
My winless fight
This has frozen my ground

[Chorus]

Stood on the cliffside screaming, "Give
me a reason"
Your faithless love's the only hoax
I believe in
Don't want no other shade of blue but
you
No other sadness in the world would
do

[Verse 2]

My best laid plan
Your sleight of hand
My barren land
I am ash from your fire

[Chorus]

Stood on the cliffside screaming, "Give
me a reason"
Your faithless love's the only hoax I
believe in
Don't want no other shade of blue but
you
No other sadness in the world would
do

[Bridge]

You know I left a part of me back in
New York
You knew the hero died so what's the
movie for?
You knew it still hurts underneath my
scars
From when they pulled me apart
You knew the password so I let you in
the door
You knew you won so what's the point
of keeping score?
You knew it still hurts underneath my
scars
From when they pulled me apart
But what you did was just as dark
(Ah, ah, ah)

Darling, this was just as hard
As when they pulled me apart

[Outro]

My only one
My kingdom come undone
My broken drum
You have beaten my heart
Don't want no other shade of blue but
you
No other sadness in the world would
do