Taylor Swift is “Red” Hot with New Album

At the ripe age of 22, Taylor Swift seems to be at the top of the world. She’s a multi-platinum artist, she’s dating a Kennedy, she’s making millions, and she’s connecting with millions of fans with her lyrical sensibility and love songs. She’s always a hot topic in pop culture and her existence is monitored more than just about anyone else on the planet. It’s safe to say she’s made it. On her new album, Swift seems to be embracing this new role.

“Red” is Swift’s fourth studio album since breaking into the spotlight in 2006. It’s pretty safe to say that this album is one of her best. “Red” shows off just how much Swift is capable of with the vast versatility of the album. It is certainly one of her more surprising albums in the best way possible. It is clear that Swift has grasped a realistic scope of her success on this album and serves more as a teacher than a student on her new songs. She is continuing with her focus on problems with the heart while at the same time showing off some brilliant musicality.

The versatility of “Red” is by far its strongest trait. It opens with the inspirational rock stylings of “State of Grace” and settles down to the soothing sounds of “The Lucky One” later on in the
album. Taylor even flirts with some dub step in the song “I Knew You Were Trouble”. This is one of the strongest tracks on the album simply because of how unique and different it is from standard Swift.

This album makes it clear that Taylor is growing up. The theme of a young girl trying to figure out life and love is being replaced by the assured words of a country pop star who feels she has learned a lot about life and has lessons to share. As Taylor says, “This album is about the other kinds of love that I’ve recently fallen in and out of, love that was treacherous, sad, beautiful, and tragic. But most of all, this record is about love that was red.”

“Red” is a record that strives for greatness and occasionally touches it. Whether belting out “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” or pulling at our heart strings with the incredible Ed Sheeran collaboration in “Everything Has Changed”, Taylor offers so much diversity in this new album.

The best part about “Red” is that Taylor isn’t afraid of the spice she brings to the album. She experiments, she tries new things, and she dips into new genres fearlessly. While you can still pick up some of the banjo twang on a few tracks, Taylor has surely stepped further away from her country sound. She still walks the tight rope between country and pop but does so gracefully. There are multiple personalities at play on this album. There are a few “guys are jerks” vibes and a few upbeat poppy beats to dance to. Taylor fully indulges each one of these aspects on this album.

“Red” without a doubt delivers one of the best albums of the year with a whopping 16 tracks on the regular edition. Each of these tracks can stand alone and offer something different from the rest of the songs on the album. The album overall is a mixed bag of emotions and sounds, but is jumbled in just the right way. If you are one of those people that sneer every time a Taylor Swift song comes on the radio, it might be time for you to change your mind. This album highlights just what the girl is capable of and she is certainly on her A game with “Red”. If you have been a loyal supporter of Taylor from the beginning, your girl did you proud.

Top Tracks:

State of Grace, Everything Has Changed, I Knew You Were Trouble

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

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