

Shake it up

By: Emalee Feuchtwanger
@emaleeaurquidez

When thinking of Taylor Swift, most think of the songs “Shake it Off,” “Bad Blood,” or even the fact that she was a country artist who changed to a big pop star. But starting a music career at 18, many complicated things could happen.

The original ‘Fearless’ album came out in 2008 when young Swift was signed to Big Machine Records. Swift produced all her iconic albums with this record company. But 14 long years and 6 albums later, she left the record label. It all started when Scooter Braun, the owner of Big Machine Records, sold the company. Along with the company, Braun also sold Swift’s material for 300 million dollars. Then in 2019, when Taylor won artist of the year and wanted to sing some of her popular songs from the past, Braun prohibited her from performing the music that once was hers. Swift was upset about the situation and was disappointed in the company she once trusted. “I just want to be able to perform MY OWN music. That’s it.



Swift performing the old “Fearless” album at one of her live concerts.

I’ve tried to work this out privately through my team but have not been able to resolve anything,” said Swift. Swift took to Twitter to address the situation. After staying silent about the issue, she announced in February that she was taking back what was stolen from her and recreating her original ‘Fearless’ album. After two long months of anticipation from her fan base, the album was re-released in April. The album contains all the original hits, with even some never seen before “From the Vault” songs. After hitting 143 million streams in its first week, “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)” became her ninth album to hit number one. Inspiration for this album came from fellow music artist, Kelly Clarkson. Clarkson recommended that Swift redo all her old music, and add a little twist so fans will listen to her new music rather than the old. Since 2019, the tweet that created an incredible idea has come a long way.

After listening to the two different albums, you can definitely tell that Swift has grown up. Not just by her voice maturing, but by the emotion she has when singing. Swift also has also added more vocal dynamics. After this whole record deal drama, it’s safe to say that the album went the direction Swift was hoping for. The fact that Swift basically

said, “Fine, I’ll do it my way,” just shows how much power she has. Now young girls all over the world will look at this situation and be influenced by how amazing and powerful women can be. I definitely will continue to listen to this album and look at Swift as an inspiration.

Learning to grow

By: April Lawyer @ApLawy

These days, people have become too reliant on the grocery stores and the supermarkets that they shop at. They buy their food from these places because in their minds they may not think that they have the power to support themselves food-wise. Growing food is way too difficult to be worth the effort, right? Don’t be so quick to agree. Growing your own food can be easy and cost effective, and an opportunity to give your life some satisfaction and meaning.

When planting a garden, you are making an investment. An hour or so of work each week and the cost of seeds and tools is what you can expect to sacrifice, but what you will reap will make it worth it. This is especially true if you grow heirloom plants and save their seeds for the next year. You almost always save money when you grow your own food. For instance, a bell pepper at the store costs around a dollar. A packet of bell pepper seeds costs about two dollars. A packet can grow about ten plants, which produce about 6 peppers each. That means instead of getting one measly pepper for a dollar, you can get thirty peppers for a dollar. Imagine how much money you could save.

Upset that your grocery store never carries the type of vegetables you like? Are you ever worried about the veggies you eat coming from far away? With a garden, you get to pick what you’ll be eating, and you’ll know where it came from. With a garden you don’t have to settle for run of the mill “standard” veggies. As long as you have the seeds, you can choose whatever ones you like. Want white carrots and yellow cauliflower? You can bet you can grow those varieties, ones you would never see at the store. You’ll

also always have the guarantee that your vegetables were grown in a local, toxin free environment and weren’t shipped across the world to get to you. You can be happy knowing that you’ve chosen the healthier and more environmentally friendly option.

As with anything, you may face some set backs. Perhaps you have an unexpected frost that kills your seedlings, or pests that dig up your potted plants. This is normal, and not the end of the world. The best thing to do it to start again, and learn from your mistakes. There is no game over in gardening.

So go ahead and get yourself some seeds and a shovel, and get digging. It is never too early or too late to start a garden. If it’s the middle of winter, get a grow light and a pot of dirt to stick inside. If it’s warmer, make some room in your backyard. Through your efforts you can create something wallet friendly, life-affirming, and very tasty.



You may face some setbacks in your gardening endeavors, such as destructive birds, but don’t let this deter you.