

## Taylor Swift and Her Famous Friends

In the past year, Taylor Swift has dropped famous men for famous women. Swift has been known to date famous men like Joe Jonas, Taylor Lautner, John Mayer, Jake Gyllenhaal and One Direction singer, Harry Styles. Many of these men ended up as literary fodder for her hit songs. Time magazine once mentioned Taylor's "portrayal in the media as an overly attached man-eater who dates for songwriting material". Her romantic life has been on the spotlight since the beginning of her career and it's made for the success of her girly country girl facade and hit songs.

In the past year, there's been a shift in Swift's social media direction and image. Gone are the rabid tabloid speculations of who Swift's next squeeze is, and who she's writing her next heartbreak hit over. We're now seeing the focus shift to which famous female Swift is now hanging out with, instagramming with, or making baked goods with in ridiculous aprons.



Taylor and Kelly Osbourne bake cookies

Taylor has established street cred with her well documented friendships. Plastered all over the internet are images like Swift laughing hysterically with Golden Globe Award winning mumblecore filmmaker, Lena Dunham, frolicking on the beach with Grammy Award winning and indie pop darling, Lorde, posing on a yacht in Maui with kooky festival favourite soft rock trio, HAIM, and attending Cabaret to catch her long time friend, and it-girl actress, Emma Stone perform.



Taylor and Lorde cheerlead on the beach

Taylor's response to those well documented friendships in the Hollywood Reporter was that "(she) never thought too hard about it," but I suspect this so-called accidental paradigm shift to female friendships is due partially to Taylor's own desire for deeper connections with other strong willed kindred spirit. This time with female body parts instead of male.

Swift has mentioned in an interview with Access Hollywood that she feels "happy", "free" and "independent" in being single again. Perhaps, Taylor's new social media direction and new image is her own little way of, dare I even say, rejecting the male gaze. After all, the best revenge is happiness and success, isn't it? Swift's declaration has been to "really explore" and "embrace" one's life when it "completes itself."

This display has clinched a whole new audience to her fan base — grown women and cool kids. Grown women are attracted to her couture outfits, red lips and brutally honest truths. Cool kids want to know what why their favourite bands and filmmakers are tweeting her. Fans of Dunham’s TV series, “Girls”, are now investigating being *Swifties*. Lorde listeners feel a kinship with the bubble gum pop Swift because Lorde is tight with her. I was even at an underground hip-hop party

once when the DJ churned out a “Shake it Off” remix and all the street kids and hipsters went wild for it. She’s no longer just some edgy famous man’s country lady, she’s become the cool, grown up, couture pop princess, friends with the it-crowd — she’s become the new generation’s alpha female. So it’s okay to openly love her bubblegum lyrics and *sick beats*.



Taylor and actresses, Jaime King, and Jessica Schzor(not pictured here) bake night

Perhaps it’s time for us to take a queue from our favourite famous pop princess investigate networking and befriending other powerful people from our own gender in order to get ahead, both personally and professionally. No need to sleep your way to the top when you can bake your way to the top, right?

Till then, to tide you over, here are some pictures of Swift’s friendly escapades:



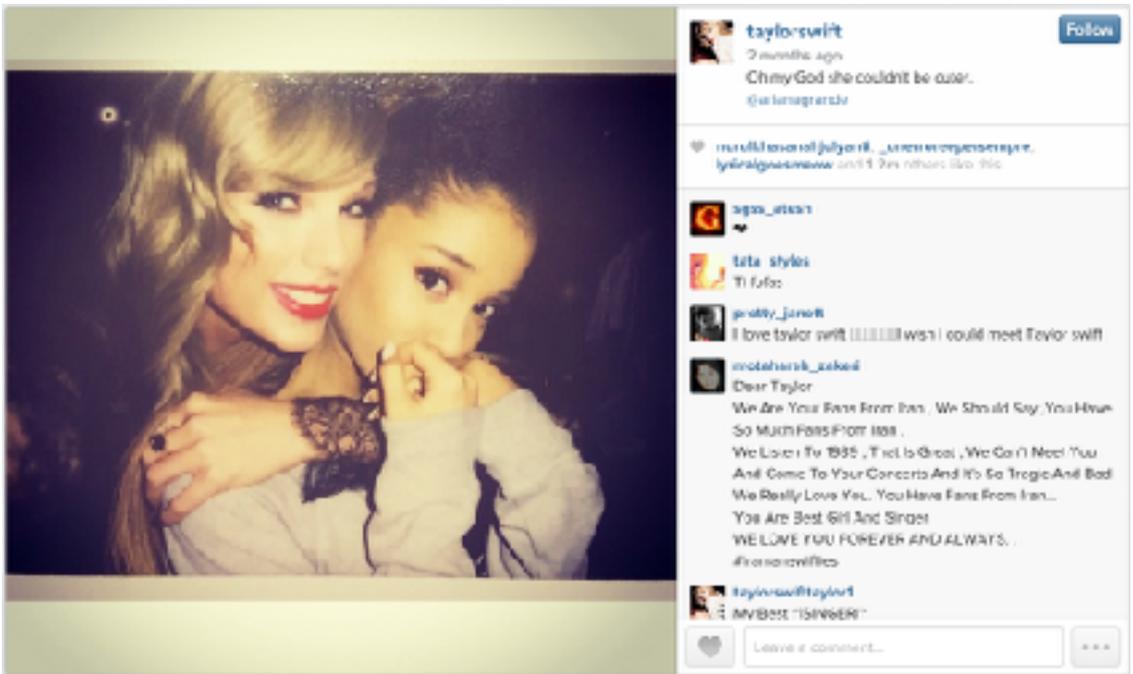
Taylor Swift gently brushing Lena Dunham’s arm at the 2014 Grammy Awards.



Taylor Swift and Lorde embracing. True love.



Taylor Swift proving she has a belly button with Haim on a yacht in Maui



Taylor Swift crushing on supposed pop rival Ariana Grande.



Taylor Swift giggling with her arm around Emma stone *back stage at the Cabaret.*



Taylor Swift kissing and picking flowers with Victoria's Secret Model Karlie Koss.