TAYLOR SWIFT WON’T EAT FISH HEAD
A Post-modern Triptych
By
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Taylor Swift: Yes you’ve heard of her.
Lady Gaga: Yes you’ve heard of her.
Pei Sze: Malaysian server. Female. 30s.
Ming Tze: Malaysian Cook. Male 30s.
Hairy Crab: Crab in a tank
Flounder: Fish in a tank
Tilapia: Fish in a tank

LOCATION / TIME / DATE

AUTHOR’S NOTE
When the characters speak Mandarin, the translation is in parenthesis next to it. Like this:

PEI SZE
这是中文。(This is Mandarin.)
(At a Malaysian seafood restaurant. Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga are looking over the menus.)

TAYLOR SWIFT
What is this place?

LADY GAGA

TAYLOR SWIFT
It's a little grimey. Is that a cockroach?

LADY GAGA
Gives it character and charm. I've been coming here for years. Nobody recognizes you here.

TAYLOR SWIFT
Thank god for that! New York is great for people like us.

LADY GAGA
Especially when you come to a place like this. Not Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen, or one of the gayborhoods though.

TAYLOR SWIFT
Yeah! Everyone just wants to take a picture. Sometimes I feel like I'm some sort of mermaid at the aquarium.

LADY GAGA
And they can't wait to cut you up into pieces, dump you into a deep fryer, and then eat you.

TAYLOR SWIFT
What?

LADY GAGA
I mean… being on display all the time is exhausting. So what are you getting?

TAYLOR SWIFT
I don't know. I can’t pronounce half of the things on the menu.

LADY GAGA
Do you want me to order for you?

TAYLOR SWIFT
Yes please!

LADY GAGA
Alright. Do you like fish?
TAYLOR SWIFT
Sure! Yes. Love it.

LADY GAGA
Got it. So what’s going on with that old label of yours?

TAYLOR SWIFT
Being dicks as usual. They’re trying to stop me from singing my own material.

LADY GAGA
That sucks. Are you suing the shit out of them?

TAYLOR SWIFT
I’m trying. But the judge doesn’t seem too nice.

LADY GAGA
What? He hasn’t heard your music?

TAYLOR SWIFT
I think he might be in a different demographic than my fans.

LADY GAGA
Is that a problem?

TAYLOR SWIFT
Not sure. I’ve been having these dreams, where I’m just trapped in a room. I mean, it’s a nice room, with loads of custom made furniture from the 1960s-

LADY GAGA
That’s oddly specific.

TAYLOR SWIFT
But then a guillotine drops, and my head falls off, and I’m just spilling blood all over the furniture. All over the custom made furniture from the 1960s….

LADY GAGA
That is such a great image! I’m going to put it in my next music video.

TAYLOR SWIFT
What do you think it means?

LADY GAGA
You like custom made furniture from the 1960s?

TAYLOR SWIFT
No dummy! The head and the blood thing.
LADY GAGA
Who knows? Probably just anxiety from being a celebrity.

TAYLOR SWIFT
No! I feel like it’s something more than that. Like something’s coming. Something big. Something that will force us to cancel all our tours for the rest of the year.

LADY GAGA
You’re in an optimistic mood right now.

TAYLOR SWIFT
Just a weird feeling.

LADY GAGA
If it makes you feel better, we can go see my psychic later.

TAYLOR SWIFT
You have a psychic?

LADY GAGA
Yeah! Don’t you? Anyway, what was it like working with Brendon Urie? Is he gay? He seems gay.

TAYLOR SWIFT
He’s not gay. He’s pansexual.

LADY GAGA
So he has sex with pans? Remind me never to eat dinner at this place. Ever.

(Enter Pei Sze to take their order.)

PEI SZE
So are you ready?

TAYLOR SWIFT
Sure!

LADY GAGA
We’ll have the chili crab, okra with belacan-

PEI SZE
That one spicy. You ok with spicy or not?

TAYLOR SWIFT
I once dated Harry Styles. I think I’m ok.

PEI SZE
Hah?
LADY GAGA
Yes spicy is fine.

PEI SZE
You want fish? Our fish is very fresh. They are in the tank over there.

TAYLOR SWIFT
(looks at the tank)
They sure look alive.

LADY GAGA
How is it prepared?

PEI SZE
I recommend deep fried with black pepper sauce.

TAYLOR SWIFT
That sound lovely!

LADY GAGA
Ok we'll do it!

PEI SZE
But it’s whole fish. You ok with that right?

TAYLOR SWIFT
As opposed to half a fish?

PEI SZE
Yah. Whole fish.

(A moment of confusion.)

LADY GAGA
Sure!

PEI SZE
Ok, be right back.

PANEL II

(Pei Sze takes the order back to the kitchen where Ming Tze, the cook is prepping for the lunch rush. She hands him the order.)

PEI SZE
餐馆有名人。(We have celebrities in the restaurant.)
MING TZE
谁？ (Who?)

PEI SZE
Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift lor.

MING TZE
那是动物来的吗？ (Are those animals?)

PEI SZE
你头脑有问题吗？她们是歌星！ (Are you nuts? They’re singers!)

MING TZE
没听过。 (Never heard of them.)

PEI SZE
你没听过？ (Never heard of them?) How about RA-RA-RA-RA? Me-hee-hee!?

MING TZE
你干什么？吃错药了吗？ (What are you doing? Are you on drugs?)

PEI SZE
开玩笑！那你的移民案件有什么改变？ (I’m just joking. How’s your immigration case going?)

MING TZE
没有什么好结果。明天我需要去移民局自首。 (It did not end well. I have to turn myself in to ICE tomorrow.)

PEI SZE
你回去吗？(Are you going?)

MING TZE
不去。我老婆和孩子都在美国，如果我自首的话，谁养他们？ (No. My wife and kids are here in the United States. If I go, who will provide for them?)

PEI SZE
真的是无路可走。 (Sounds like you’re stuck between a rock and a hard place.)

MING TZE
Ha! 如果能当名人那该多好。有钱花，能自由自在。哪像我这样，等移民局上门。 (Wouldn’t it be great if I were a celebrity? Lots of money and freedom. Instead of waiting for the day I get caught by immigration.)

PEI SZE
妄想。 (Keep dreaming.)
MING TZEE
别再提了。盒子里有新货。把鱼放在缸里面。(Let’s not talk about it anymore. We have a new fish delivery. Please put it in the tank.)

PEI SZE
好的。(Ok.)

PANEL III
(Pei Sze brings the Styrofoam box to the fish tank and dumps Flounder into the fish tank. The fish tank already holds Hairy Crab and Chilean Sea Bass. Flounder wakes from unconsciousness.)

FLOUNDER
(His head is sore.)
Ow!
Where am I?

HAIRY CRAB
The end of the line.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Oh don’t be so pessimistic! I like to think of it as a new beginning!

FLOUNDER
Who are you guys?

HAIRY CRAB
I am Hairy Crab.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
And I am Chilean Sea Bass! Nice to meet you!

FLOUNDER
I am Flounder. Where are we?

HAIRY CRAB
I’m not sure. The last thing I remember before getting here was looking for food at the bottom of the sea.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
I was just sitting around minding my own business!

FLOUNDER
So was I! And then I woke up here.
HAIRY CRAB
We all did. But it is not a happy place. There used to be more of us.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Other fish and crabs!

FLOUNDER
What happened to them?

HAIRY CRAB
A net takes them away.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
I like to think it’s the hand of God!

FLOUNDER
That’s nice.

HAIRY CRAB
Not really. They are then transported to a wooden chopping block, and are hacked to pieces. We can hear the screams through the glass.

FLOUNDER
That’s horrible!

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Well, if you want to be with God, you need to be transformed first!

FLOUNDER
Ok… I guess if you are going to be with God at the end… I suppose that’s alright.

HAIRY CRAB
That’s not the end. And then their bodies get thrown into a deep fryer.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Purification is not without cost.

HAIRY CRAB
And then a black liquid is poured over their bodies. I think the humans call it “Black Pepper Sauce”.

FLOUNDER
That’s-that’s- I think I’m going to throw up!

HAIRY CRAB
Please don’t.
CHILEAN SEA BASS
We are in water after all.

HAIRY CRAB
It would be like peeing in a pool.

FLOUNDER
Ok-ok- I think I swallowed it. So what do we do?

HAIRY CRAB
Personally, I will fight right up to the end. I will pinch the net and anything that tries to attack me. If I am going to die, I want to die fighting.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Don’t you see? There’s nothing to be afraid of. Death is just an illusion. Sure it’s going to be the most painful thing you’ll ever experience, with the asphyxiation, and the bodily mutilation, but it will all be worth it in the end.

FLOUNDER
And you know this for a fact?

CHILEAN SEA BASS
No. I just have faith!

HAIRY CRAB
Or are just stupid.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
At least I’m not a stinky crab.

HAIRY CRAB
No. You’re worse…

FLOUNDER
Wait guys! What if we fought the humans together?

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Work with a crab? Never.

HAIRY CRAB
No one needs your help.

FLOUNDER
Can’t you see we are all in this together despite our differences? We could work together. Start a movement. Start a revolution. Spark some change.
(Hairy Crab and Chilean Sea Bass look at each other for a moment. And then…)

HAIRY CRAB
That is never going to work.
I am way better than that.
We are just different.
I don’t need help.
It’s not like they ever
Did anything for me.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Crabs are too dumb and lazy.
I mean so what if we have a common enemy.
Sea Bass always come back stronger.
We have faith. That’s all that matters.
The humans like us the best. We are going to
A better place. Better than this.

(Pei Sze comes back with a net and tries to take Hairy Crab.)

HAIRY CRAB
I am ready for you!

(Hairy Crab resists going quietly. He valiantly attacks the net with his claws. Pei Sze is struggling. Water is splashing everywhere. Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift are staring.)

PEI SZE
Get in you stupid thing!

HAIRY CRAB
Freedom or death!

(The battle intensifies.)

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Oh give up already!

(Chilean Sea Bass shoves Hairy Crab into the net, and Pei Sze takes him to the kitchen. Flounder watches in horror, as Hairy Crab screams while being dismembered.)

FLOUNDER
What did you do that for?

CHILEAN SEA BASS
It was just his time. No use resisting the inevitable.

FLOUNDER
You didn’t have to help him but… to push him into the net?

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Now he’ll be a believer.
FLOUNDER
You’re crazy!

CHILEAN SEA BASS
No I’m just right.

FLOUNDER
We could have worked together to save him.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Why would I want to do that? I want to be with God.

FLOUNDER
But you will be killed.

CHILEAN SEA BASS
It’s a small price to pay. And when the human eats my head, I will be able to ascend to be one with our Creator.

FLOUNDER
And what happens if the human does not?

CHILEAN SEA BASS
Then my life would have been for nothing. But they always do. It’s a Malaysian restaurant. The customers always do. Oh look, the net is back.

(Pei Sze is back for another victim. She chooses Chilean Sea Bass. Chilean Sea Bass swims into the net willingly.)

FLOUNDER
Wait!

CHILEAN SEA BASS
See you on the other side! Whee!

(Pei Sze takes Chilean Sea Bass to the kitchen. Flounder watches in horror as Chilean Sea Bass screams while being dismembered.)

FLOUNDER
I guess it’s just me left. Just me. Just me. All alone. Alone.

PANEL I

(Back at the table.)

LADY GAGA
How are you getting back to Manhattan?
TAYLOR SWIFT
It is rush hour soon. So helicopter I guess.

LADY GAGA
I was just thinking the same thing. Do you want to share mine?

TAYLOR SWIFT
Sure!

(Pei Sze brings out the chili crab dish, and the fried sea bass dish for Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift.)

PEI SZE
Chili crab and fried sea bass.

TAYLOR SWIFT
(Notice the fish head.)
Ew! What is that?

PEI SZE
That’s the sea bass. You said you wanted the whole fish right?

TAYLOR SWIFT
Yeah but not the head. Ew gross! Who eats that?

PEI SZE
Well how can you have a whole fish without the head?

LADY GAGA
Never mind. We’ll just put it to the side. Can we get the check please?

PEI SZE
Ok.

(Pei Sze leaves.)

TAYLOR SWIFT
That is like the grossest thing. Can you turn it away from me? I think it’s judging me, or something. How traumatic.

LADY GAGA
Why don’t you write a song about it?

TAYLOR SWIFT
I guess. What should I call it? “Dead Fish”?

LADY GAGA
How about “TANK TRAP”?
TAYLOR SWIFT
Oh… “TANK TRAP” I love it! Let’s do it as a duet!

(Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift starting singing the hit song “Tank Trap”.
The music video is shot at the restaurant and the song goes viral. Both win Grammy's for it. Satisfied and happy, they ride off into the ocean where they are eaten by sharks.)

END OF PLAY