For Taylor Swift, the pandemic age has undoubtedly been its own singular experience — extremely few can relate to being the biggest musician in the world. After releasing Lover in the middle of 2019, she was barely able to support it at all, with her planned European festival run and Lover Fest series becoming one of the ultimate “what ifs” in rock and roll history. And while many of us were baking banana bread and riding Pelatons, Taylor was working, releasing five collections of material during what will likely go down as the most prolific period of her career. She offered up the incredible folklore and evermore albums as surprise releases that comforted us all in the darkness of 2020, “Taylor’s Version” re-recordings of Fearless and Red in 2021, and the return-to-big-ticket-pop of Midnights in 2022. She’s stretched herself as a director — including the award-winning short film for the long-rumored extended version of “All Too Well” — and welcomed new collaborators like Aaron Dessner and Justin Vernon into the Swift Extended Universe. She even became the first woman to win Album Of The Year for a third time at the Grammys.

But, one thing that the last few years did not afford Taylor Swift was the opportunity to travel the globe and look her fans in the eye. Sure, the time between her Reputation Tour’s end in 2018 and the beginning of the Eras Tour — which took place last night in Phoenix, Arizona — might not seem that long in the grand scheme of things, but consider that the 14-year-old that got Lover for their birthday is now in college before seeing any of those songs live. While Swift certainly has fans of all ages and demographics — her stadium show ran the gamut of grownups dressed as full willow trees to a kid near us that just started watching
YouTube videos on full blast during the set — time moves differently for her large, young base. They've been waiting a good portion of their life for this moment.

Philip Cosores — *Taylor Swift's 'Eras Tour' Is The Most Impressive Stadium Show Ever Conceived*

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**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

**Becky G**'s recent fiancé responded to some certain social media drama that made the rounds this weekend.

**Harry Styles** also made some waves after being spotted making out with a model, one he's previously called his “celebrity crush.”

**Taylor Swift** brought out her first special guest of The Eras Tour during her second night in Vegas, where they did an acoustic surprise cover of an *Evermore* track.

**Lady Gaga** showed off her Harley Quinn costume while filming the *Joker* sequel in NYC.

You've heard the phrase “love at first sight,” but what about “love at first sound?” We're recapping season 4 of Netflix’s *Love Is Blind* and predicting which couples will make it to the altar.

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**NUMBER ONE STUNNERS**
MILEY CYRUS

Miley Cyrus' “Flowers” spends another week on the Billboard Hot 100, returning to the top last week after a brief absence. This brings the hit song’s grand total to eight, getting a boost after she dropped her Endless Summer Vacation album. It marks Cyrus' first song to debut at the top of the charts.

LISTEN

BUBBLING UNDER
While Jimin has already clearly made a name for himself through his work in BTS, I decided to include him in this week's Bubbling Under, as he's setting out on a solo career — something most of the members are doing during the group's hiatus. He recently dropped his debut EP, *Face*, which includes both his popular, uplifting single, “Set Me Free Pt. 2,” and new tracks like the opener, “Face-off,” which finds him coming to terms with self-struggles and ones of the K-Pop realm.

**CHECK OUT**

**ED SHEERAN — ‘SUBTRACT’ BUNDLE**
Ed Sheeran is prepping the release of his album *Subtract*, which drops in May. That also means there's a fresh batch of merch to go along with it! Pick up a copy of the album on vinyl bundled with a "life goes on" hoodie.

**PICK IT UP**

**REMEMBER WHEN**
JUSTIN BIEBER'S PET MONKEY

This week, ten years ago, Justin Bieber had his pet monkey detained by customs officials after he tried to bring it through the Munich airport without the correct documentation. As the pet was a gift from his producer friend, Bieber wanted to bring the Capuchin monkey on tour with him through Europe.

Because of this, he had to perform in the city still that night while the monkey remained in custody. We doubt it was able to answer any questions — but hope he had a blast.

LOVE LETTERS

RINA SAWAYAMA

Rina Sawayama is on a roll. Just months after putting out her sophomore album, Hold The Girl, she jumped into the acting world with a prominent role in John Wick 4. And, as she hasn't forgotten the music, she also contributed the fittingly-vengeful “Eye For An Eye” to the movie's soundtrack. Later this year, she's scheduled to play Gov Ball.
and more music festivals.

“It's long sequences, and actually on the first week, I pinched a nerve in my back just doing the most basic moves, so that was so not cool,” Sawayama said during her Good Morning America appearance. “After a week, I had the best medical treatment and got better and I was able to learn it all. Five weeks, it felt like it wasn't long enough. I wanted more time.”

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