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Speculation that Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom's marriage is pretty much done has surrounded the couple for months. In June 2025, a source said that the negative reception of Perry's latest album, 143, was a big reason for the couple's unhappiness. There were also reports that Bloom didn't exactly love Katy Perry's Blue Origin space flight. Overall, though the two have yet to announce a split in public, the reporting seems to be leaning heavily on the side of a split. This is especially true after the actor was confirmed to be attending the wedding of Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez. "She does have prior commitments, but it goes deeper than that," The Daily Mail said, noting that Perry will be on tour in Australia, on dates that were set long before the wedding date was decided on, and she can't exactly cancel. Related: See who else Katy Perry has dated "Katy feels like they're really her friends more than his, and yet he's the one going to the wedding," the sourced added. "And he's insistent that he goes, which annoys her because he's not particular close to either of them. She feels like it's a 'f*** you' to her from him." But that's not all, according to the outlet. Reports indicated that Bloom had less than kind words to say about Perry's flight to space. "He told her the whole thing looked ridiculous," a source in Perry's camp previously told the Daily Mail. "He said it was cringeworthy. Embarrassing. This was in the middle of a fight, and it hurt her feelings." And now, there's the wedding. "He complains about her going to space, and then wants to go to the wedding of the people who made it possible for her to do this in the first place," the source said. "That's difficult for her to accept. They're already spiraling and now the wedding is another thing that they have to fight about." Reports about the couple's problems have been swirling for a while, with reports indicating the reception to Perry's latest album was part of the problem. "Katy was deeply frustrated following the reception of her new album," People reported.. "It made her very stressed. Orlando was understanding, but it did cause some tension." Another source added, "She was also disappointed in some of the tour reviews. It's put stress on their relationship." However, some reports have been way more categorical. Page Six's source, for example, said, "It's over. They are waiting till her tour is over before they split." Another source told Us Weekly, "It's true they're spending time apart. Their friends don't know if they are permanently split...The first time they broke up it was about two years after they got together. It's happened a few times, but they've always worked it out before." Does that mean the two can work it out this time? Considering Perry will be working hard in Australia while Bloom is partying it up at a wedding Perry would have probably loved to attend, that remains to be seen. 06/12/2025Rod Laver ArenaMelbourneBUY VIP06/13/2025Rod Laver ArenaMelbourneBUY VIP06/14/2025Rod Laver ArenaMelbourneBUY VIP06/17/2025Brisbane Entertainment CentreBrisbaneBUY VIP06/18/2025Brisbane Entertainment CentreBrisbaneBUY VIP06/22/2025RAC ArenaPerthBUY VIP06/23/2025RAC ArenaPerthBUY VIP06/26/2025Adelaide Entertainment CentreAdelaideBUY VIP06/27/2025Adelaide Entertainment CentreAdelaideBUY VIP06/29/2025Adelaide Entertainment CentreAdelaideBUY VIP06/30/2025Adelaide Entertainment CentreAdelaideBUY VIP07/10/2025Ball ArenaDenverBUY VIP07/12/2025PHX ArenaPhoenixBUY VIP07/13/2025Honda CenterAnaheimBUY VIP07/15/2025Kia ForumInglewoodBUY VIP07/18/2025Chase CenterSan FranciscoBUY VIP07/21/2025Climate Pledge ArenaSeattleBUY VIP07/22/2025Rogers ArenaVancouverBUY VIP07/24/2025Rogers PlaceEdmontonBUY VIP07/26/2025Canada Life CentreWinnipegBUY VIP07/29/2025Canadian Tire CentreOttawaBUY VIP07/30/2025Bell CentreMontrealBUY VIP08/01/2025Centre VideotronQuebec CityBUY VIP08/03/2025Little Caesars ArenaDetroitBUY VIP08/05/2025Scotiabank ArenaTorontoBUY VIP08/06/2025Scotiabank ArenaTorontoBUY VIP08/08/2025TD GardenBostonBUY VIP08/09/2025Wells Fargo CenterPhiladelphiaBUY VIP08/11/2025Madison Square GardenNew YorkBUY VIP08/14/2025Prudential CenterNewarkBUY VIP08/15/2025CFG Bank ArenaBaltimoreBUY VIP08/17/2025Lenovo CenterRaleighBUY VIP08/19/2025Bridgestone ArenaNashvilleBUY VIP08/20/2025State Farm ArenaAtlantaBUY VIP08/22/2025Amalie ArenaTampaBUY VIP08/23/2025Kaseya CenterMiamiBUY VIP09/06/2025Estadio Bicentenario La FloridaSantiagoBUY VIP09/09/2025Movistar ArenaBuenos AiresBUY VIP09/10/2025Movistar ArenaBuenos AiresBUY VIP09/14/2025The Town 2025Sao PauloBUY09/16/2025Ligga ArenaCuritibaON SALE JUNE 6TH VIP09/19/2025Arena BRB Mane GarrinchaBrasiliaON SALE JUNE 6th VIP10/04/2025SSE ArenaBelfastBUY VIP10/05/2025SSE ArenaBelfastBUY VIP10/07/2025OVO HydroGlasgowBUY VIP10/08/2025AO ArenaManchesterBUY VIP10/10/2025Utilita ArenaSheffieldBUY VIP10/11/2025Utilita ArenaBirminghamBUY VIP10/13/2025The O2LondonBUY VIP10/14/2025The O2LondonBUY VIP10/16/2025SportpaleisAntwerpBUY VIP10/17/2025ZAG ArenaHannoverBUY VIP10/19/2025Royal ArenaCopenhagenBUY VIP10/21/2025Uber ArenaBerlinBUY VIP10/23/2025Lanxess ArenaCologneBUY VIP10/24/2025Accor ArenaParisBUY VIP10/27/2025MVM DomeBudapestBUY VIP10/28/2025Tauron ArenaKrakowBUY VIP10/30/2025O2 ArenaPragueBUY VIP10/31/2025OlympiahalleMunichBUY VIP11/02/2025Unipol ArenaBolognaBUY VIP11/04/2025Accor ArenaParisBUY VIP11/05/2025Accor ArenaParisBUY VIP11/07/2025LDLC ArenaLyonBUY VIP11/09/2025Palau Sant JordiBarcelonaBUY VIP11/11/2025Movistar ArenaMadridBUY VIP11/21/2025Olympic Sports Centre GymnasiumHangzhouBUY11/22/2025Olympic Sports Centre GymnasiumHangzhouBUY11/24/2025Mercedes Benz ArenaShanghaiINFO11/25/2025Mercedes Benz ArenaShanghaiINFO12/03/2025Saitama Super ArenaTokyoBUY12/07/2025Abu Dhabi Grand PrixAbu DhabiBUY Entertainment & Pop Culture Music, Contemporary Genres Pop Music Katy Perry (born October 25, 1984, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.) is an American pop singer who gained fame for a string of anthemic and often sexually suggestive hit songs, as well as for a playfully cartoonish sense of style. Her popular singles include "I Kissed a Girl," "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)," "Roar," and "Rise." Katy Hudson was raised in southern California, the middle child of two itinerant born-again Christian ministers. Nonreligious music was forbidden in the Hudson household, and she grew up singing church hymns and gospel tunes. As a teenager, she learned to play the guitar and sought a musical career in Nashville with a Christian record label, but her debut album, the gospel-influenced Katy Hudson (2001), sold poorly. By then, however, Hudson had found new musical models in such rock artists as Freddie Mercury and Alanis Morissette, whom she had discovered through friends. She soon moved to Los Angeles to pursue success in the secular music realm, adopting her mother's maiden name, Perry, to avoid confusion with the actress Kate Hudson. Perry's initial efforts at mainstream stardom were fruitless, with two separate record labels signing and subsequently dropping her before any material was released. In 2007, however, Capitol Records put out Perry's EP Ur So Gay, which attracted modest attention for its cheerfully flippant title track. She made a greater splash several months later with the single "I Kissed a Girl," an assertive ode to sexual curiosity backed by a hard-edged electro-pop beat. The song quickly stirred controversy, as some critics derided it for promoting same-sex relations and others charged that the racy scenario it depicted catered to male fantasies of female sexuality. Nevertheless, the combination of titillation and polished melodicism helped "I Kissed a Girl" become a number one hit in multiple countries, powering sales for her album One of the Boys (2008). With its bouncy, sharp-tongued second single, "Hot N Cold," also proving popular, the album—much of which Perry wrote herself—eventually registered sales of more than three million copies in the United States. By late 2009 Perry had become frequent tabloid fodder, largely because of her quirky, vividly colored fashions—which borrowed variously from 1940s pinup models, burlesque performers, and the kawaii ("cute") cultural aesthetic of Japan—as well as her high-profile relationship with English comedian Russell Brand, to whom she was briefly married (2010–12). After recording the stripped-down live album MTV Unplugged (2009), Perry returned to the studio. The resulting release, Teenage Dream (2010), which provided a broader showcase for her full-throated voice, was even more commercially successful than One of the Boys, spawning such hits as the warm-weather frivolity "California Gurls" (featuring rapper Snoop Dogg) and the inspirational "Firework." When "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)" reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart in mid-2011, Perry tied Michael Jackson's record of five number one songs from a single album. Perry maintained her grip on the mainstream with her next release, Prism (2013), which produced, among other hits, the anthemic "Roar." Her 2016 single "Rise" was featured in television coverage of that year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Perry's fifth studio album, Witness (2017), more introspective than her earlier work, was less well received. She returned to mainstream pop with the empowerment-oriented Smile (2020). Perry later released 143(2024), which was notable for its negative reviews. While critics often disparaged Perry's songs as vapid, the music industry was generally kinder, rewarding her with several Grammy Award nominations, including album of the year for Teenage Dream. In 2011 she made her big-screen acting debut, providing the voice of Smurfette in the film The Smurfs, and she reprised the role for a 2013 sequel. She was also the subject of the 3-D concert-tour documentary Katy Perry: Part of Me (2012). From 2018 to 2024 Perry was one of the judges on the new incarnation of the singing competition TV show American Idol. In April 2025 Perry was one of six passengers on an all-female commercial spaceflight on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin rocket. During the 11-minute flight, Perry sang Louis Armstrong's classic "What a Wonderful World" to her fellow space tourists, which included journalist Gayle King and former National Aeronautics and Space Administration rocket scientist Aisha Bowe. Following her marriage (2010–12) to Russell Brand, Perry became engaged to actor Orlando Bloom in 2018. Two years later, they had a daughter. John M. Cunningham The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica In case you hadn't noticed, Katy Perry went to space for a couple minutes—a controversial trip which, apparently, Orlando Bloom was not thrilled over. To the point where they (allegedly!) got into an argument about it. "He told her the whole thing looked ridiculous," a source tells the Daily Mail. "He said it was cringeworthy. Embarrassing. This was in the middle of a fight, and it hurt her feelings. Of course she was hurt. Imagine going to space—motherfucking space—and your partner isn't impressed. She hoped he'd be more supportive."View full post on InstagramThis comes amid reports that Orlando will be attending Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez's Venice wedding solo, which has upset Katy."She does have prior commitments, but it goes deeper than that," the source says. "Katy feels like they're really her friends more than his, and yet he's the one going to the wedding. And he's insistent that he goes, which annoys her because he's not particular close to either of them. She feels like it's a 'fuck you' to her from him. He complains about her going to space, and then wants to go to the wedding of the people who made it possible for her to do this in the first place. That's difficult for her to accept. They're already spiraling and now the wedding is another thing that they have to fight about."Meanwhile, another source notes that "Katy has not been the same person for over a year now and Orlando has had enough. He advised her against this album. She did it. He advised her against space. She did it. He advised her against this tour and she did it. From where Orlando stands, all he ever wanted was for Katy to be herself. He fell in love with her and who she is inside but this past year, he believes, has brought out the worst in her. He wants her to be happy and he wants her to be authentic. He just wants her to stop and enjoy the life that she has built."As a reminder, neither Katy nor Orlando have commented on reports of tension between them, so!Hailey Bieber Is "Beyond Furious" With Justin Bieber Trouble in paradise? Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom reportedly plan to break up after the "Firework" singer finishes her current "Lifetimes" tour later this year. "It's over," a source told Page Six on Tuesday. "They are waiting till her tour is over before they split." Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom reportedly plan to break up after the "Firework" singer finishes her current "Lifetimes" tour. katyperry/Instagram Perry and Bloom met in 2016 and got engaged in 2019. Getty Images for MTV The 40-year-old pop star's current tour kicked off on April 23 and is scheduled to run until Dec. 7. Other insiders have also claimed that Perry and Bloom, 48, are going through a rough patch and "spending more and more time" away from one another. "They have been spending more and more time apart," another source told Us Weekly this week. "They've grown apart and aren't living the same lives anymore." "It's over," a source told Page Six. "They are waiting till her tour is over before they split." Getty Images "It's an unspoken thing that they are having issues and have for a while now," a second insider told the outlet. "Everyone around them knows." Although Bloom has allegedly been keeping his and Perry's relationship problems "close to the vest," he has been "out and about more often" without his "Hot N Cold" singer fiancée. "Katy has been very busy working, and they are apart often," the second source added. "That has caused tension." "It's an unspoken thing that they are having issues and have for a while now," an insider close to the couple claimed. "Everyone around them knows." katyperry/Instagram However, additional insiders have claimed that the tension in Perry and Bloom's relationship started with the pop star's poorly received "143" album upon its release back in Sept. Even though the "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor was said to be "understanding" of Perry's frustration, the situation reportedly still caused friction between the pair. "Katy was deeply frustrated following the reception of her new album," a source told People on Monday. "It made her very stressed. Orlando was understanding, but it did cause some tension." The tension in Perry and Bloom's relationship allegedly started with the pop star's poorly received "143" album upon its release back in September. Getty Images "She was also disappointed in some of the tour reviews," they added. "It's put stress on their relationship." Insiders close to the "I Kissed a Girl" singer and "Troy" actor have also pointed to the fact that the pair have still not tied the knot despite being engaged since 2019 as a serious point of contention. "[Perry and Bloom] never set a date for the wedding or got around to planning anything and Orlando is over it," a source close to the couple told Us Weekly. The pop star and "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor welcomed their daughter, Daisy Dove, in August 2020. GC Images "Things aren't good," another insider added. The couple first met at a Golden Globes after-party in 2016. Bloom proposed three years later on Valentine's Day, and they welcomed a daughter, Daisy Dove, 4, in August 2020. However, Perry and Bloom split for a year in 2017. Perry and Bloom split up briefly from March 2017 to February 2018. Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for Katy Perry The "Last Friday Night" hitmaker opened up about that breakup in 2024 during an appearance on the popular "Call Her Daddy" podcast. "We weren't really in it from day one," Perry explained at the time. "He was in a way because he had just done a time of celibacy and he had set intentions." "I was fresh out of a relationship," she added, "and I was just like, 'I can't do this anymore. I need to swim in a different pond.'" The Post has reached out to Perry and Bloom's reps for comment. Nothing unites everyone on the internet quite like a shared villain, but the woman who sang "I Kissed a Girl" certainly seemed like an unlikely candidate. No longer! It's pretty easy to make fun of Katy Perry lately, so much so that even the Wendy's X account has been dunking on her. "Can we send her back," Wendy's replied to a post in April about Perry's participation in a Jeff Bezos–funded minuteslong trip to space. Perry—net worth in the hundreds of millions, owner of a music catalog worth $225 million, recipient of countless platinum records, proprietor of a shoe line, and, these days, headliner of a worldwide tour—can't catch a break even from the company that tried to make square patties happen. Consider, too, a typical scene from her new "Lifetimes" tour. Starting in Mexico, crisscrossing the United States, Canada, and Europe before finishing in Abu Dhabi, this is her first tour in seven years. In May, I attended one of her first U.S. stops, in Oklahoma City. The show was well attended and still undeniably awkward, like the part when Perry invited an 11-year-old onstage to perform with her. Perry presented the girl with her shoe, which looked as if it were trapped in a hurricane of cotton candy. "Want some?" she asked, pulling off a piece of what did seem to be real candy. The kid stared back at her, confused and overwhelmed, unsure if she was supposed to … eat this famous woman's shoe? During the fan-choice portion of the show, a QR code flashed on the screen for audience members to pick which deep-cut track they wanted Perry to sing. The link didn't work for me or for those around me. "Did you vote?" Perry asked the audience of thousands when she came back out onstage, her eyes wide with disappointment when we yelled back that we had not. "No? Why not? It was the Wi-Fi? Oh, it's always that." It is a brutalizing thing to age as a pop star. For Britney Spears, it meant a public mental-health crisis and a rash of criticism about everything from her nails to her weight to her dancing. For Jennifer Lopez, it meant plenty of conjecture about her marriages, her plastic surgery, her authenticity. For Madonna, it meant years and years (ongoing) of scorn about her looks and sinewy arms and oversexualized stage performance. The over-40 pop star is a relatively new advancement in our cultural age, and so far, few manage it with grace—Beyoncé and Lady Gaga (though still 39) stand out as perhaps the rare exceptions, and only after one of them was accused of faking a pregnancy and the other of hiding a penis.* But is anyone handling it worse than Katy Perry? Her latest album, 143, is her worst-performing record except for her Katy Hudson debut in 2001. It debuted at just sixth on the Billboard charts and slid off the charts after just two weeks. (2010's Teenage Dream, her greatest critical and commercial success, spent 400 weeks on the charts.) "The material here is so devoid of anything distinguishing that it makes one suspicious it's a troll or cynical attempt," noted a 4.5/10 Pitchfork review. "143 is a spectacular flop, but it's a strange one—like one of those restaurants that looks nice and has an expensive menu but serves food so mid as to be insulting." Perry, now 40, is at a crossroads. Her albums have been mostly duds, her once ubiquitous videos are increasingly forgotten or just extremely regrettable (a fat girl eats a basketball in the "Swish Swish" video, Jesus Christ), and her time as an American Idol judge served only to make her less relevant. Nothing Perry has touched since Teenage Dream has hit the charts, our culture, or our consciousness in quite the same way. Well, except maybe her misguided venture into space. Even before the launch of her tour, she's been the butt of an extended joke across the world and across the internet. TikTok in particular is a veritable graveyard of Perry gags about her unnecessary space adventure, mockery that her tickets aren't selling very well, and jabs about how bad her dancing is. Perry is still a sellable act—at her recent sold-out Chicago stop, she told the thunderous crowd, "Well, I thought I was the most hated person on the internet!"—but as of this writing, there are still plentiful tickets to her Madison Square Garden show in August. Her real trouble, however, started earlier. For her new album, Perry chose to team back up with Dr. Luke, the very same producer sued by Kesha more than a decade ago for sexual assault, battery, and harassment. (They settled out of court in 2023, with Dr. Luke still denying Kesha's original claims.) He was the same writer-producer she worked with for Teenage Dream, so you could almost see the logic, but the reunion was a particularly poor choice for this album's theme: Perry's contemporary songs about female empowerment were in part created with a man who has been accused of disempowering Perry's female co-workers in one of the worst ways possible. Her support of Kamala Harris' girlboss political campaign (and Hillary Clinton's too) felt desultory as a result. While painting herself as a progressive in public, Perry has been palling around with people like Jeff Bezos in private (and, also, in public). Some pop stars live in dualities. Perry lives in contradictions. Lately, people are noticing. To be a pop star is to accept your position as too sincere, too sexy, too silly, too young, too old, just too much. For a while, Perry was able to sidestep this mortification with a deceptively simple trait: a sense of humor. What set 2010 Perry apart wasn't her big blue eyes or her breasts or her voice, though they were all helpful in launching her into the stratosphere. What made her unique was her ability to make a joke—about herself, about the absurd world around all of us, and even about her audience. Her music was ironic, a jab in the side of men who wanted a pinup doll instead of a real woman, and a friendly wink to girls who knew that they could always be cute but wanted a little bit more than just that. We used to laugh with Perry, with her whipped cream–filled tits, her who, me? Betty Boop sexuality, her loose disdain for men in songs like "Ur So Gay," a track that has otherwise aged horrendously. There have always been criticisms about whether Perry is a good singer or a good performer, but for a long time, she was undoubtedly a good pop star. She never took herself—or her stardom—too seriously. The rub is that over time, that sense of humor has been misdirected, misfired, and, eventually, lost entirely. All the while, her audience has changed dramatically, no longer in need of this particular kind of escapist poptimism. It's all amounted to a world where there is no room—or need—for a star like Perry. Three years ago at her Las Vegas residency, Perry performed "California Gurls" while perched on man-sized toilet paper rolls as an anthropomorphic turd danced inside a pool-sized orange toilet. It was so, so stupid, but it was still funny, bizarre, and compelling enough to keep watching. These days, Perry is holding a flower in space and crying about it. Katy Perry used to be the one making the joke. Now? We're laughing right in her face. Born to Pentecostal pastors in Santa Barbara, Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson was carted around the country as a kid while her parents set up churches. The couple were notoriously strict, allowing the kids to watch only the Trinity Broadcasting Network or conservative news. According to their daughter, her parents' religiosity bordered on the paranoid: "I was never allowed to call deviled eggs 'deviled eggs,' " Perry told NPR in 2013. She started singing in her family's church at 13, before releasing her debut as Katy Hudson with a self-titled gospel album. At 17, she moved to L.A. to work on more-secular tunes. When Perry started out, she was more like Alanis Morissette than Madonna. You can hear that in her 2008 song "Thinking of You," which has recently gone viral on TikTok for the absolute meal Perry makes out of the words surprise center. Like a lot of pop acts, Perry started as more of a folk act, slowly finding an audience with a bright personality, a lively stage presence, and a public persona that was all about a good time, all the time. Footage of Perry's contemporaneous show in her 2012 documentary Part of Me looks like a Kidz Bop concert rather than a show for grown-ups. Indeed, a lot of Perry's audience has always been young girls, and so her performance always spoke to them first. Her clothes were candy-coated, her stage was splashed in neons, and she mastered adorkable when that meant something. This year's "Lifetimes" tour is slightly more mature as a public performance, but only by virtue of being more choreographed, more controlled, and more expensive. Perry plays a futuristic warrior who has to battle through different levels of a video game to defeat an evil technological creature who's trying to destroy the world. TikTok has posited that Perry seems sleepy and disengaged during her shows, but real fans know we were never here for the choreography. "She's not a good dancer. She's not a good singer," said Levi Taylor, a 32-year-old Katy Kat. "It's amazing she's created a career out of not being either of those things because she's just been herself. She's a performer!" I heard Taylor wax poetic about Perry on the sidewalk outside the Paycom Center, in Oklahoma City, an hour before the show. He was giving his friend an impassioned speech about why Perry had brought a flower with her into space: "People don't get it. It was for her daughter. Her daughter is named Daisy. What do people want?" Taylor, a local clad in psychedelic mushroom earrings and a T-shirt from Perry's much-maligned and mostly forgotten Smile era (big stan behavior), thinks Perry has just become an easy target. "Katy's been an artist for 25-plus years. It's going to be messy," Taylor told me. "All this shitty stuff aside, she's an artist who always finds joy." At her peak, her songs were perfect summer earworms or propulsive, satisfying ballads. But what also made Perry so fun to watch back during her "I Kissed a Girl" era was how well she seemed to understand the internet outrage machine. She leaned into the agita around her queerbaiting with her lyrics, her music videos, and with her broader persona. In recent Trump-dominated years, the idea of "bimbofication" has gained traction, a kind of intersectional feminism itself in which women and girls reserve the right to be sexy, misandrist, and clever. Back in 2008, Perry's success was a kind of response to the Paris Hiltons and Heidi Montags of the world, who were bimbo-influencers before it was widely embraced—Perry could be hot and sly. She wasn't going full #GirlBoss, nor was she burning her bras and demanding equal pay. Not full bimbo, and not quite an intellectual, Perry occupied a complex third position of a guy's girl and a girl's girl. Later, her feud with Taylor Swift would obfuscate just how friendly she was to other women, but even they famously made up in a Swift music video while dressed up as a burger and fries. You can get away with a lot if you do it with a punch line. The mistake Perry made was when she started trying to teach us a lesson. After a few years playing a ditzy but winking brunette, Perry started to pivot into message-first pop music. 2013's Prism was still fun and flashy, but with an undertone of needless import. The debut single, "Roar," was a fight anthem for girls who thought Sara Bareilles' "Brave" was too aggressive. While still reviewed favorably by critics, Prism was also when fans started to notice some of Perry's more offensive stunts, like how she shows up in cornrows in her video for "This Is How We Do" while smacking gum. Eventually, she embarked on a mini–apology tour: "I won't ever understand some of those things because of who I am," she told DeRay McKesson in 2017. "But I can educate myself, and that's what I'm trying to do along the way." It was another in a litany of Perry misfires, including when she dressed up as a geisha for the American Music Awards. Pop music with intention is a fine pursuit, but it falls flat if your history is riddled with myopia. Perry was faltering at the same time our culture was moving toward a demand for more accountability—from men, from the police, from the government, and even from our ignoble pop stars. By 2017—during Trump's first term—Perry tried again, with Witness. When she released "Chained to the Rhythm," a dance-pop anthem that semi-chastises its audience for seeking distractions from modern-day pain, she dubbed it "purposeful pop." Most people who listened to it deemed it merely condescending. Witness' cover says it all: Perry, covering her eyes, her mouth open to reveal a bright blue eyeball in her mouth. Perry said that the record was inspired in part by Hillary Clinton's 2016 loss. "There was a lot of noise about me taking a stand because I was a neutral girl for a while," Perry said of Witness. "My friend DeRay says, 'Don't focus on the king—focus on the kingdom.' " Perry wanted to still be the funny girl, but she also wanted to be profound. While "Bigger Than Me" was a song supposedly inspired by one of the most devastating political losses in American history (until, well, you know), she was also yukking it up in her visuals. In "Bon Appétit," Perry is placed in front of a bunch of pastry chefs kneading her ass and showering her in mirepoix. Meanwhile, the video for "Swish Swish" betrays someone who has lost the upper hand in her comedy: Perry and a host of D-list internet celebrities play basketball against a team of burly men, the video periodically interrupted by references to memes and celebrity cameos from Molly Shannon, Rob Gronkowski, and Terry Crews (as well as Nicki Minaj, seemingly green-screened in). The song sucks and the video is perplexing, but worse, it's routinely cruel toward fat people—in 2017 Perry was still making the kinds of jokes you'd have rolled your eyes at in 2007. Most of the video's crummiest gags revolve around Christine Sydelko, a viral TikTokker whose name in the video is "Shaquille O'Meals." Sydelko allegedly didn't know that her entire involvement in the video would be just a bunch of fat jokes. It's not that being a pop-star scold doesn't work. (Perry's earlier influence Alanis Morissette did it very well for a while there in the '90s.) It's also clear that Perry hasn't totally lost her grip on what's funny and campy. It's that combining the two postures—funny girl, big thinker—means she alienated audiences seeking more substantial art and audiences who just want to laugh and dance. As the culture turned toward something more serious and heady, she wanted to make that pivot too. In hindsight, everything from 2017 seems so heavy and earnest and, frankly, pointless. No wonder Perry couldn't quite get the tone right. In the "Eterniti" pit at the "Lifetimes" show in Oklahoma City, the crowd seemed evenly split between 11-year-old girls with their very game parents and 45-year-old men with "Blue Lives Matter" hats. The disparity was confusing until you asked around: At this particular stop, the foundation Vet Tix had gifted more than 1,000 veterans discounted tickets to the show—around $4 a pop for many of them. "That usually means it's not selling well," a Vet Tix beneficiary serenely told me after Rebecca Black, Perry's opener, left the stage. (He called her "discount Sabrina Carpenter," which his wife evidently did not like. "You have daughters," she said, scolding him and slapping him on the arm.) The venue expected 10,000 attendees in its 15,000-person arena, and even though many of the concertgoers were adult men with no knowledge of the Perry catalog, the thousands of preteen and teenage girls in the crowd made for an earsplitting audience. Security winced through every teenage screech, even with earplugs. Throughout the Paycom Center, girls were dressed up either in Taylor Swift runoff clothes (white cowboy boots, bedazzled dresses, denim jackets, and friendship bracelets—I'm sure Perry would love that) or in Perry cosplay. Some arrived dressed as the candy dots Perry wore in the "California Gurls" video, or in grass skirts à la "Roar," or as Kathy Beth, Perry's loser alter ego in "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)," headgear and all. But even those showing up in their Friday-night best couldn't quite muster up much enthusiasm for Perry when asked. A group of eight work friends had come to the show together in matching "Lifetimes" shirts. They still wouldn't admit to being big fans. "We just thought it was fun," one of them told me while waiting in line to take a photo in front of a 6-foot-tall illuminated Katy Perry installation. Several attendees had gotten their tickets that day, citing the cheap price. A 17-year-old had come with her mom and sister, seemingly dressed up for the occasion in a sequin skirt and a sweep of blush. Despite being on her way to a Katy Perry concert, she rolled her eyes into oblivion at my idiotic questions about why she liked Katy Perry. "I don't really," she said. "It's just, like, something to do." Her mom had gotten their tickets that day, for around $60 each, up in the nosebleeds. A Katy Perry concert is certainly something to do, but unlike a Taylor Swift concert, it is not very cool to talk about it. No one here, for example, was especially enamored of Perry's space expedition. "My husband is a pilot, and I know how much work that takes," one woman told me, walking toward the merch line for a $50 tank top. "She's not an astronaut." Two 11-year-old girls with front-row seats, vibrating with excitement over their first concert, were still unimpressed about the jaunt to space. "It was stupid," one said, adjusting her baby-pink iridescent T-shirt. "She could have given that money to animals." It's worth comparing the Perry we got in interviews from a decade ago with the Perry we got in her post–space exploration interview earlier this spring. Perry in 2015, when interviewed about her forthcoming Super Bowl appearance, cutely quoted Marshawn Lynch, saying, "I'm just here so I don't get fined." Meanwhile, postspace Perry was speaking in a word salad so impossible to understand that you have to read the whole thing to even wrap your head around its meaninglessness: "I feel super connected to love. This experience has shown me you never know how much love is inside of you, how much love you have to give, and how loved you are until the day you launch." She thanked NBC News—with what seemed like genuine gratitude and humility—when it congratulated her for becoming an "astronaut," an accomplishment that typically requires a master's degree and 1,000 hours of aircraft experience. She was still holding on to the daisy she had brought for her daughter (to … space). She seemed almost like the kind of character that 2015 Perry might parody in a music video: a beautiful woman floating off into space, divorced from every single reality happening on Earth. Going to space didn't just betray Perry as a sincere dork—it also revealed her to be a hypocrite. While plenty of Democrats glad-hand with billionaires, Perry's version of it—hanging out with Bezos on election night, taking him up on the offer to go skyward and framing it as a feminist cause—was at odds with her work for the Harris campaign. In October 2024, Bezos killed a Harris endorsement from the Washington Post, the paper he owns. In November, 24 hours before Harris would lose the election, Perry performed at her Pittsburgh rally. "I've always known her to fight for the most vulnerable, to speak up for the voiceless, to protect our rights as women to make decisions about our own bodies," she said of Harris during her performance. "I know she will protect my daughter's future and your children's future and our families' future." Between those two events? Perry's Orient Express–themed 40th birthday party in Venice, where Bezos and his girlfriend, Lauren Sánchez, were present. They actually hang out a lot; Sánchez's 24-year-old model son, Nikko Gonzalez, goes skydiving with Orlando Bloom, Perry's husband. Midtour, Perry flew to Paris for Sánchez's bachelorette party. Perry isn't the first or only or last celebrity to mingle with the uberrich while wearing the skin of a progressive. Beyoncé, too, campaigned for Harris while on the verge of billionairedom herself. (Her husband is already one, twice over.) But Perry has spent years staking her reputation on being a social renegade, someone who rebuffed her parents' conservatism and religious fervor. She stumped for abortion and gay rights, she vacationed with the guy who killed a Harris endorsement in his own paper, and she has been entirely silent about Harris' loss or Trump's actions since he returned to office. In truth, though, Perry's progressive politics have always been flimsy. For the 2022 L.A. mayoral race, she proudly voted for Rick Caruso, a billionaire who spent more than $100 million (mostly of his own money) to lose to Karen Bass. Perry, despite her own staunchly pro-abortion stance (in public, at least), was backing a candidate who had donated to anti-abortion groups and who had plans to "end street homelessness" while also operating several luxury apartment complexes with no affordable housing. Still, Perry hasn't handled anything as badly as she has handled her continued working relationship with Dr. Luke. In 2023 singer Kesha and Dr. Luke reached a settlement after almost 10 years of lawsuits between the two of them stemming from allegations she made that he drugged and raped her, and his consequential claim that she defamed him. A year later, Perry announced she would be working with Dr. Luke on 143. Kesha tweeted, seemingly in response, "lol." It's already gauche to work with a producer accused of raping a fellow pop star, but it's especially off-kilter considering that the first song that came from this Dr. Luke–produced record was "Woman's World." Released a few months before Harris would lose the election, Perry's uninspired, insipid reheating of 2008 pop feminism met a political climate that seemed to disagree with the song's very message. The Guardian gave it one star, writing, "It sounds less like a roar of triumph than the echoing cry of someone falling down a large ravine." If you're going to work with someone who's been accused of harming women, it's perhaps ill advised to have that work be a feminist anthem. But this kind of disjunction has become endemic to Perry's career. In Oklahoma City, plenty of her fans weren't plugged in enough to know about Dr. Luke, or about the song's production credits, or about Perry's political and personal associations. The ones who were aware seemed downright pragmatic about it. "If every single dollar you had to spend had to be accountable to some social issue, you would not be able to spend one dollar in America," 35-year-old Stephen Fitzsimmons said while walking into the concert. "I just want to see her sing 'Firework.' " And Perry gave Fitzsimmons exactly what he wanted. When she emerged from the undercarriage of the stage, connected to futuristic-looking wires like an intergalactic science experiment, singing weakly into a microphone with a butterfly on the end of it, her audience was with her, screaming. Perry transmuted into exactly what she's known for: not a singer, not a dancer, but a performer. This crowd knew every word of all her classics, and when she played something more recent, attendees were still gamely dancing on their feet. Go to a Perry concert, bop along with little girls hyperventilating because they're mere feet from her and adult men who have no fucking clue what's going on, and it will feel impossible to reconcile this kind of enthusiasm with the culture's dismissal of Perry and her power. Even as her message got muddled—which, to be clear, the show's message certainly did—her audience still loves her. For these fans, it wasn't necessarily ever about just being funny or quirky or sexy or clever or cute. She was so sincere, so truly and firmly herself, so willing to dance around like a dork onstage, that she's still laudable. They believed, through and through, that Perry is just being herself, and facing consequences for it. Perry's fans and detractors alike think they know her and see her clearly. Of all the footage that betrays Perry's essence, one clip from her 2012 documentary comes up again and again among her supporters. Sitting in a makeup chair before a stadium show in Brazil, Perry weeps while her staff whispers around her. Her then husband, Russell Brand, now accused of sexual assault multiple times over, broke up with her over text right before she was set to perform. For true-blue Katy Kats, this moment is emblematic of what makes Perry worth rooting for: Despite her devastation, she pulls it together, sobbing all the way to the stage but then performing without missing a beat. She's just like us, picking up the pieces of her heart and doing her job anyway. But what feels even more emblematic of who Perry is as a performer is a recent pep talk she gave her team before one of her shows. It's simple, it's lightly disillusioned, and it's exactly right. "You know this is just a fun game, right? Don't be so serious. This is entertainment; this is show business; we're storytelling. You're having fun. You don't have to be perfect," she said. It's another very 2025 lesson: Nothing is that important, because this is all for fun. There are real tragedies around. Perry knows exactly who she is and what she's here for. "When you're perfect, consider yourself dead," she says, before guiding her team out onstage in front of thousands of excited fans, and even more strangers on the internet ready to call her a loser. "We are not dead tonight: We are living." Correction, June 4, 2025: This article originally misstated that Lady Gaga is over 40. 1984-presentAmerican pop singer Katy Perry initially attempted to break into the music business with a gospel album. Her image radically changed by the time of her 2008 smash single "I Kissed a Girl," from One of the Boys, and she went on to top the charts with the follow-up albums Teenage Dream, Prism and Witness. Perry is also known for her performance during the 2015 Super Bowl halftime show, her marriage to comedian Russell Brand and her selection as a judge for American Idol.Early Life and Musical AspirationsKaty Perry was born Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson was born on October 25, 1984, in Santa Barbara, California. Fans might be surprised to learn that the singer who writes about sexual exploration in "I Kissed a Girl" grew up in a very conservative family. Both of her parents are pastors, and they refused to let her listen to any rock or popular music. "The only things I was allowed to listen to were the Sister Act 1 and 2 soundtracks," Perry told Entertainment Weekly. She and her two siblings were also not permitted to watch such cable channels as MTV and VH1.Perry started taking singing lessons around the age of 9 and learned to play guitar when she was 13. Around this time, she began rebelling against her strict upbringing by piercing her own nose. She soon became interested in pursuing a career in music. With her mother, Perry made several trips to Nashville to record a gospel album, Katy Hudson, which was released in 2001. "It reached literally maybe 100 people, and then the label went bankrupt," Perry explained to Entertainment Weekly.As a teenager, Perry was exposed to other musical influences. One friend introduced her to the music of Queen, which remains one of her favorite groups. "I'm very inspired by Freddie Mercury and how flamboyant and theatrical he was," she told fashion magazine WWD.In high school, she strove to be her own person, choosing not to limit herself to one social group. "I was a hop-around. I hung out with the rockabilly crew, the guys who were trying to be rappers, the funny kids," she told Seventeen magazine. Focused on her music, Perry got her GED and moved to Los Angeles to work with producer and songwriter Glen Ballard, who had collaborated with such artists as Christina Aguilera and Alanis Morissette. She was only 17 years old at the time, and being on her own proved tough. "It was five years of living in L.A. with no money, writing bad checks, selling my clothes to make rent, [and] borrowing money," she told Seventeen. Perry also experienced a string of disappointments before getting her big break. She and Ballard were unable to find a record company willing to take them on, and her 2004 collaboration with music producers-turned-performers The Matrix was scrapped shortly before the project was to be released. After having three record deals fall apart, Perry finally signed with Capitol Records in 2007.Albums and Songs'One of the Boys'Following the November 2007 release of the single "Ur So Gay," which caught the attention of Madonna, Perry saw her career take off with her next effort, "I Kissed a Girl." The song hit the top of the charts in the summer of 2008, propelling Perry's album, One of the Boys, into the Billboard Top 10. A follow-up single, "Hot n Cold," also charted highly.Along with earning a Best Female Pop Vocal Performance Grammy nomination, Perry became famous for her theatricality. On the Warped Tour, she performed "I Kissed a Girl" with a giant tube of lip balm, referencing a line in the song. Perry has also jumped into a larger-than-life cake and appeared in a number of wild outfits while onstage. Describing her style as "Lucille Ball meets Bob Mackie," she told Esquire, "It's about innuendo. I want everybody to get the joke, but I want them to think about it for a minute."In 2009, Perry appeared in her own acoustic special on MTV. The soundtrack from the show, Katy Perry: MTV Unplugged, was released around the same time.'Teenage Dream' Picking up where she left off, Perry released a new single with Snoop Dogg, "California Gurls," in May 2010. The single shot to the top of the charts, paving the way for its accompanying studio album, Teenage Dream, to do the same. Perry's follow-up singles, "Teenage Dream," "Firework," "E.T." and "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)" all followed the path of "California Gurls," making Perry just the second artist, after Michael Jackson, to have five No. 1 hits from a single album.In 2012, she released a new edition of her hit album, called Teenage Dream: The Complete Confection. The record had several new tracks, including the successful singles "Part of Me" and "Wide Awake." 'Prism'Perry continued to dominate the music charts with 2013's Prism. The album's lead single, "Roar," climbed to No. 1, and "Dark Horse," her collaboration with Juicy J, also spent several weeks in the top spot, pushing Perry past Mariah Carey for most total weeks with a No. 1 hit (46). The album's fifth and final single, "This Is How We Do," featuring Riff Raff, also performed well.'Witness'A few months after the release of "Chained to the Rhythm," with Skip Marley, Perry dropped her latest studio effort, Witness, in June 2017. Witness debuted in the top spot, giving the artist her third straight No. 1 album. Despite the announcement of the supporting Witness: The Tour, scheduled to run from September 2017 to August 2018, the album's sales dropped in the following weeks; after her previous three albums racked up a combined 17 million in sales, Witness was at a relatively modest total of 840,000 as of January 2018.The artist was back with new music by 2019, beginning with her collaboration with Zedd on "365." She then teamed with Daddy Yankee and Snow for a remix of "Con Calma," before unveiling her new solo single, "Never Really Over," in May.'American Idol' JudgeIn May 2017, Perry was announced as the first judge selected for the reboot of American Idol. She was later joined by country star Luke Bryan and R&B and pop singer Lionel Richie, with Ryan Seacrest also agreeing to return as host.Perry had previously served as a guest judge on Idol in 2009, temporarily replacing Paula Abdul. Since then, she had turned down offers to appear on other singing competition shows, like The X Factor.The pop star immediately made waves for her behavior during the two-part premiere of season 16 in March 2018: At one point she fell while dancing on stage in high heels, and at another moment she smooched a shy contestant who said he was saving his first kiss for someone special, drawing the ire of many on social media. Perry later returned with Bryan, Richie and Seacrest for seasons 17 and 18.Super Bowl Halftime ShowOn February 1, 2015, Perry was the featured performer during the Super Bowl XLIX halftime show. Along with appearances by guest artists Lenny Kravitz and Missy Elliott, the show was remembered for the seeming mismatched choreography of two dancers in shark costumes while Perry belted out "Teenage Dream." Overall, the performance drew a reported 118.5 million viewers, making it the most-watched Super Bowl halftime show to date.Photo: Pascal Le Segretain/Getty ImagesKaty Perry attends the Chanel Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2017-2018 show as part of Haute Couture Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France.'Dark Horse' Copyright InfringementIn 2014, songwriters Marcus Gray, Emanuel Lambert and Chike Ojukwu filed a lawsuit alleging that Perry's hit "Dark Horse" copied the trio's Christian rap song "Joyful Noise," released in 2009 under Gray's stage name, Flame.In July 2019, a federal jury in a Los Angeles ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, with Perry, her five credited co-writers and the four corporations that released and distributed "Dark Horse" all found liable for copyright infringement. The following month, Perry and her collaborators were ordered to pay $2.78 million in compensation.However, the verdict was overturned upon appeal in March 2020, with a federal judge determining that the disputed portion of "Dark Horse" — an eight-note ostinato that runs through much of the song — was not distinctive enough to be protected by copyright laws.Movies and Other EndeavorsThe artist was the subject of the autobiographical documentary Katy Perry: Part of Me (2012), which featured behind-the-scenes footage and clips of young Perry along with her dazzling concert performances. She also voiced the character of Smurfette for The Smurfs (2011) and The Smurfs 2 (2013) and made a cameo as herself in Zoolander 2 (2016). In 2014, Perry also launched her own music label, Metamorphosis Music, as a subsidiary of Capitol. The label changed its name to Unsub Records in 2016.After visiting Madagascar on behalf of UNICEF in April 2013, Perry became a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador late in the year. In February 2020, she was named an ambassador of the British Asian Trust by Britain's Prince Charles.Personal LifeIn 2009, Perry made tabloid headlines for her relationship with British comedian Russell Brand. They were engaged over the New Year's holiday while on a trip to India, and on October 23, 2010, the couple married in India in a traditional Hindu ceremony. According to The Times of India, the wedding featured a procession of camels, elephants and horses, plus fire jugglers, snake charmers, dancers and musicians. Their union, however, did not last long, as Brand filed for divorce in December 2011.Perry has also been romantically linked to musicians John Mayer and Diplo, as well as actor Orlando Bloom. On February 15, 2019, she announced her engagement to Bloom with an Instagram photo that showed her flower-shaped ring. Just after midnight on March 5, Perry delivered another surprise announcement by revealing a baby bump at the end of her new video for "Never Worn White."Feud With Taylor SwiftPerry and Taylor Swift, who both dated John Mayer, ended their friendship after Perry allegedly tried to poach some of Swift's tour dancers. Perry's song "Swish Swish" is apparently about the feud. "I think it's a great anthem for people to use when someone's trying to hold you down, or bully you," Perry said. "I think 'Swish' is a liberation from all the negative that doesn't serve you."On May 8, 2018, Perry put an end to their feud by extending an olive branch — literally, she sent Swift an actual olive branch — with a note that said, "I've been doing some reflecting on past miscommunication and hurt feelings between us." Name: Katy Perry Birth date: October 25, 1984Birth State: CaliforniaBirth City: Santa Barbara Astrological Sign: ScorpioSchool: Dos Pueblos High SchoolFact Check: We strive for accuracy and fairness. If you see something that doesn't look right, contact us! The only things I was allowed to listen to were the 'Sister Act' 1 and 2 soundtracks.Ultimately I want Katy Perry to be as much of a household name as Madonna.Biography.com EditorsStaff Editorial Team and ContributorsThe Biography.com staff is a team of people-obsessed and news-hungry editors with decades of collective experience. We have worked as daily newspaper reporters, major national magazine editors, and as editors-in-chief of regional media publications. Among our ranks are book authors and award-winning journalists. Our staff also works with freelance writers, researchers, and other contributors to produce the smart, compelling profiles and articles you see on our site. To meet the team, visit our About Us page: