

# Boygenius "The Rest" provides closure to an epic year

REBECCA ROBINSON  
NEWS EDITOR

After the initial release of their first studio album "The Record" this year, Boygenius followed up with "The Rest" EP six months later.

The EP is composed of four tracks: "Black Hole," "Afraid of Heights," "Voyager" and "Powers." The EP feels familiar to fans with warm vocals, vivid lyrics and harmonies, all elements the supergroup Boygenius has made themselves known for.

"Black Hole" starts the album with Julien Baker taking the lead. The chorus opens to an entanglement of the other two of the three voices of Boygenius, Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus.

The song initially piqued interest due to the title. The group's song "Not Strong Enough" from "The Record" opens with the line "black hole opened in the kitchen," leaving fans to speculate if the songs were connected.

The song is just under two minutes and 30 seconds long and smoothly transitions to the second track.

Dacus takes the lead with the second track "Afraid of



Boygenius "The Rest" album cover

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

Heights." The lyricism in this song is profound and reflective. The song is a perfect showcase of the lyricism Boygenius brings to their work. "I wanna live a vibrant life / but I wanna die a boring death" stuck out from the song.

In this track, Dacus discusses regret after opening up to someone about her fears, her limits being tested and her discomfort. The song is

reminiscent of "Bite the Hand" from their self-titled EP. The theme of not being able to meet the expectations of your peers is showcased on both tracks.

Bridgers takes the lead with the third song "Voyager" with her signature melancholy vocals. This EP is a showcase of what the group does best. Each member's style of music shines in each of the tracks they lead coming together



Members of Boygenius (from left to right): Julien Baker, Lucy Dacus and Phoebe Bridgers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PITCHFORK

to make a cohesive work. Bridgers' ability to talk about complicated relationships is a driving force in many of her songs. The raw honesty of the song sticks out with lines like "I used to believe no one could love you like I do / and I'm starting to think that it might be impossible not to."

"Powers," the ending track, and probably my personal

favorite, is led by Baker once again. The call and response harmonies on this track stand out. The ending of the track with the trumpets is a perfect ending and reminiscent of Bridger's work in "Punisher."

The songs on the EP premiered live during their fall tour leaving fans ready for studio versions of the songs. Dacus explained on

Zane Lowe's show on Apple Music 1, "These are songs that weren't ready for 'The Record,' and then we spent time on them and they are ready now."

The work in the EP is evident, "The Rest" puts a period at the end of "The Record" and perfectly wraps up this year for the group.

**Official Score: 10/10**

## THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

RACHEL RUDD | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### "SNEAKING OUT OF HEAVEN" BY WATERPARKS



PHOTO COURTESY OF TICKETMASTER

After the release of Waterparks' fifth studio album "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY," I thought the album was finished. I was mistaken, as lead singer Awsten Knight began dropping cryptic messages on social media about a "new era" of Waterparks.

Considering "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" branded itself with red, I was intrigued when the branding was lime green. What I originally thought was going to be a sister album or EP to their 2019 album "FANDOM."

Instead, I was pleasantly surprised by a catchy single tacked on to the end of "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY."

I will admit, "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" is my least favorite Waterparks album, as I found it a bit too traditionally popish, even compared to some of their earlier albums which contain elements of hyperpop.

"SNEAKING OUT OF HEAVEN" sounds far more in line with the Waterparks sound, that being elements of pop punk, alternative and pop. It has grown to be one of my favorite songs on the album, right up there with "FUNERAL GREY," "SELF-SABOTAGE" and "REAL SUPER DARK."

The song title also acts as a nice bridge "A NIGHT OUT ON EARTH", with many fans connecting the two as "sneaking out of heaven for a night on Earth."

I've always liked Knight's lyrics, as they have a great way of delving into serious topics in a deep and poetic way. "SNEAKING OUT OF HEAVEN" is no different and I love using the imagery of a forbidden relationship against that of a fallen angel.

My favorite lyrics are actually from the chorus: "you fall from the stars / and get in my car / go to my place / and you put away your halo."

Considering "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" discusses themes of religious trauma and guilt in relationships, these lyrics not only encapsulate the album perfectly, but also lean into the feeling of being unworthiness.

The bridge only reinforces this with: "I'll have to jump the gates / when I die / 'cause they won't let me inside."

The singer, even in death, will forever be separated from his love. He will always be unworthy, while his love will forever be cast in holy light.

All of this is hidden underneath poppy and upbeat music, which is easy on the ears and has me jamming out within seconds. It is excellently produced and clean sounding, with just a bit of typical Waterparks roughness on the vocals.

"SNEAKING OUT OF HEAVEN" is a welcome addition to "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" and helps bring the album full circle. This is just speculation, but I think there is more to come from the "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" era and I can't wait to see what else Knight has in store.

RATING: 10/10

## Stop acting like Taylor Swift is your friend

COLUMN BY  
CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

In case you missed it: Taylor Swift is dating Travis Kelce.

Taylor Swift has made a career out of writing music about her experiences, which often means putting her love life on display. Even beyond her music, Swift cannot escape the limelight.

Lately, Taylor Swift has been spotted quite a bit with Travis Kelce, a Kansas City Chiefs football player. Swift has been seen at several of Kelce's football games and the two have been spotted holding hands in New York City.

Most people in my life know I love Taylor Swift, so I am asked about this relationship all the time.

Are they "End Game"? Is there an "Invisible String" tying them together? Is he "the 1"?

Celebrity obsession is not new, but the rise of social media makes it easier to form parasocial relationships with people like Taylor Swift.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, parasocial relationships are bonds with people you don't know. Many people have this feeling with Taylor Swift, since her music shows such an insight into her life.

The internet has allowed parasocial relationships to reach "New Heights." The internet



PHOTO COURTESY OF INSTYLE

Travis Kelce (left) and Taylor Swift (right) were spotted holding hands in New York City Oct. 14.

makes information easily accessible and allows intimate details of celebrity's lives to circulate amongst the public.

Having access to these intimate details humanizes celebrities, but also makes it easy to feel like you know them.

I am a Swiftie, but I am not friends with Taylor Swift. Her dating life may be interesting, but ultimately, it is her business.

I have seen many invasive comments being made about her relationship with Kelce, including discussions

about their sex life.

To me, that crosses a line. I think it is okay to keep up with who is dating who. I even think it is okay to follow Kelce's career and support him on behalf of Taylor, but the comments are getting more and more out of hand.

Listen to Taylor Swift's music, watch Travis Kelce's football games, but remember these people are human and deserve privacy and respect like everyone else.

## A-STATE SAYS HOWL YES TO RED WOLF CONSERVATION

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

Since Arkansas State University changed its mascot to the Red Wolves in 2008, it has been working toward the conservation of the endangered American red wolf.

Now, A-State is aiming to bring red wolves back to Arkansas.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, the habitat for red wolves used to range from Texas to Pennsylvania, but now they can only be found in the wild in eastern North Carolina.

Zac Campbell, a doctoral student in environmental sciences from Nacogdoches, Texas, studies red wolves in his research. “The red wolf unfortunately was extirpated, which means they were driven locally extinct throughout their entire range and reintroduced in North Carolina,” Campbell said.

Campbell said about 250 red wolves live in captive breeding facilities and about 20 live in the wild.

Jeff Hankins, the vice president for strategic communications for the Arkansas State University System, said A-State can bring attention to the plight of red wolves.

“We’re in a very unique position to take a national leadership role with our abilities from a marketing standpoint, and from our science and research abilities as well. That’s part of why the national leaders in the red wolf conservation movement are so excited about the involvement of Arkansas State University,” Hankins said.

A-State is working to conserve its mascot by creating a conservation center and conducting research.

### American Red Wolf Conservation and Research Center

A-State plans to open a conservation center, which would house red wolves in Craighead Forest Park, to promote education, research and ecotourism.

“It was in 2017 that the university really embraced its role in research and education with red wolf conservation and we started developing plans for this center about three years ago,” Hankins said.

Hankins said this initiative would escalate A-State’s national leadership role in red wolf conservation.

“The whole goal of this is to have enough captive red wolves that the population is sufficient enough to support release of red wolves somewhere in the southeastern United States,” Hankins said.

The center would promote conservation through breeding and research opportunities for A-State students.

“I think it’s a really amazing opportunity for our students, especially those in the biology of wildlife ecology areas, to be able to get a facility like this where they can actively participate with live red wolves. There’s opportunities for genetic research. There’s opportunities for improving and expanding breeding opportunities,” Hankins said.

Chris Thigpen, an instructor of biology, conducts research on red wolves. He said this project could also provide opportunities

for students in majors outside of science including marketing, media and museum studies.

Hankins said it would also create opportunities for students in education, sales and historic preservation.

In addition, the center would bring tourists to Northeast Arkansas, bringing in an estimated \$60 million over the next 10 years.

“A lot of school tour groups from around the mid south would visit this facility. We think a lot of potential prospective students and their families would visit while they’re in town,” Hankins said. “I really see it as an ecotourism destination that can attract visitors for this unique red wolf education experience.”

He said the national organizations in red wolf conservation and the City of Jonesboro support the center, but A-State cannot move forward until it receives one or two major financial gifts.

“It is going to be extremely beneficial to both the university and to the concept of national conservation efforts of the American Red Wolf. But, it is pretty costly,” Hankins said.

A-State already secured a location, but needs funding for a building and extensive fencing in order to contain and protect the wolves.

Hankins said the project cannot continue without funding, but hopes students, faculty, staff and alumni remain excited about the project and its role in red wolf conservation.

“It’s a tremendous opportunity for us. We’ve received a lot of statewide and national attention for our work

on this and I hope that that can only continue to grow,” Hankins said.

### Research

A-State also conducts research on red wolves as a part of its conservation effort.

“We’re the repository for all red wolf material in the country. So, any red wolf that dies anywhere gets sent here,” Campbell said.

Campbell is working to create three-dimensional renderings of red wolf specimens, such as skulls.

Thigpen said these could be useful for other researchers who do not have access to A-State’s materials.

“You basically take a certain number of photos from each angle and you compile them all together with this splicing software and it gives you a three dimensional model. You can twist it around and move it,” Thigpen said.

He said eventually these renderings would be put in a database.

Campbell said he feels like he is making a difference with his research. He said the best way to help the red



Photo by Caroline Averitt | Life Editor

Chris Thigpen examining a red wolf specimen.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ENDANGERED WOLF CENTER

An American red wolf at the Endangered Wolf Center is St. Louis.

wolves is spreading awareness.

“Any little thing helps in terms of actually making an impact,” Campbell said.

Thigpen said the main goal of his research is conservation. “We want to help conserve

these red wolves, but also we

want to show our pride in our mascot and really keep the tradition alive,” Thigpen

said. “Let’s actually work to keep them alive to save the species and bring them back.”

## Tips for first-time credit card users

RACHEL RUDD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For many, college will be the first time they start using a credit card. I was in my sophomore year when I got mine and I have picked up some tips and tricks to help other first-time credit card users through this.

### Select Your Card

The first thing you’ll need to do is select your card. There are several credit card companies with cards specifically for students. Discover, Bank of

America and Capital One all have student cards. This might include a lower limit, higher cash back on certain purchases and even forgiving the first missed payment.

You should review the benefits of each card to decide which works best for you. If you go with Discover, know it might not be accepted everywhere. While Discover claims 99% of merchants take its cards, I have run into a few times where it’s not accepted. However, Visa and Mastercard are accepted almost everywhere.

### Create a Budget and Stick to It

The trick to being successful with a credit card is managing a budget. When I was determining my budget, I took my monthly income and made half of that number my budget.

The trick to sticking to this budget is tracking your purchases. Many cards have an app that allows you to get a quick view of your spending. While this is good for quick updates, the app should not be how you track.

Some people prefer to use a spreadsheet, while others may use softwares like Rocket Money or Quicken. Even using a notebook and pen will get the job done, provided you are diligent about it.

Whenever you buy something, ask for the receipt to get an exact amount of money spent, then enter that information into your budget tracker when you get home. I have found doing this the day of purchase is easiest.

### Don’t Push Yourself to Your Limits

Whenever you get your card, you’ll likely see something about your “limit.” Your

limit is how much money you can put on the card each month. For student cards, this number will likely be anywhere from \$1,000-\$2,000.

Your limit is not your budget. Unless you can somehow spend \$1,000 to \$2,000 each month and not wipe out your bank account, you should not be going anywhere near your limit. Hitting your limit is called maxing out your card and you should never do it, unless you are completely certain you can pay it back in a timely manner.

In all other circumstances, your budget should be much, much lower than your limit. Again, your limit is not your budget.

### Pay Your Card Back- In Full

Your credit card is a bill and it must be paid. From what I’ve seen, people may only pay off the minimum amount on their statement or forget to pay it off.

If you are worried about forgetting, set yourself a reminder on the day after the card closes out to pay it off. Set multiple if needed.

When you get your statement, you may see something called the minimum

payment. This amount is often very low and many college students will pay the credit card company that number instead of their total amount owed for the month.

Do not pay that minimum amount, unless you can pay off your entire bill before the due date. Your biggest priority is to fully pay it off before the bill’s due, otherwise you will be flooded with high interest rates.

### Protect Yourself and Your Card

A credit card is a very powerful tool and you must do everything in your power to keep it from falling into the wrong hands. Your card can be compromised, which usually means your card has to be deactivated and you have to be sent a new one.

However, there’s some easy things you can do to keep that from happening. The very first thing is to sign up for purchase alerts. Many credit card apps can let you know something was bought. If this was you, no big deal, but if not, you immediately know your card is compromised. I have purchase alerts turned on for this very reason.

This is also where keeping a diligent record of your spending comes in handy. Whenever you receive your statement, check it against your own records. If there’s something on there that doesn’t match up, investigate it, as something may have slipped through or ended up there by mistake.

Additionally, try not to save your card on any accounts, or if you do, only do so on reputable websites. I get it, it can be very convenient to have all the information right there, but in reality, this makes you much more susceptible to fraud.

Finally, while this may seem obvious, don’t ever give out your credit card information. Don’t text any information on the card and don’t loan it to a friend. They might take a photo and have access to all your information. Don’t leave your card lying out either- keep it in your wallet wherever you’re not using it and keep your wallet on you.

I know I just threw a lot at you, but all of this is very important to being successful with a credit card. Now go out there and make good buying decisions!



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIME

Visa and MasterCard credit cards.