

Controversy Over Taylor Swift's Grammy Acceptance Speech

By Schuyler Noordhoff

Taylor Swift's Album of the Year acceptance speech at the Grammys sparks controversy as viewers question her treatment of both Celine Dion and Lana Del Rey.

Music legend Celine Dion made a surprise appearance this Sunday at the 66th Grammys to present the Album of the Year award after being in hiding for years due to her diagnosis of stiff persons syndrome. People speculated that upon receiving the award, Swift failed to acknowledge Dion's presence.

Swift's lack of appreciation for Dion was "tacky" said Suzanne Ridgeway, a senior at the University of Alabama who does not support Swift.

After the ceremony was complete, pictures surfaced of Swift and Dion hugging and smiling backstage. Some argue Swift took these photos to shut down the rumors of her ignoring Dion, but others argue Swift was waiting to hug Dion until they were in a controlled environment because of her health.

"I just know if it were someone else it wouldn't even be a topic of conversation" said Lily Benevitz a sophomore at the University of Alabama who adores Swift.

Swift also brought Grammy nominee Lana Del Rey on stage with her with to receive the Album of the Year award which Del Rey was also nominated for. Viewers speculated that Del Rey did not look happy to be on stage with Swift.

"I don't think it was in a malicious way, but I think it was inappropriate" said a senior at the University of Alabama and big supporter of Swift, Blakely Amis.

While Swift and Del Rey were competitors in this category, they share a close friendship outside of their music together. They both grew strong relationships with Jack Antonoff as he produced their music simultaneously and since then they have become very good friends.

“[Swift] was just wanting her friends to come up with her” a University of Alabama alumni and Swift fanatic Chandler Fair claimed.

Del Rey was not only featured on Swift’s *Midnights* album which won Album of the Year, but she was also a producer of the album. In her acceptance speech Swift credited Del Rey as a “legacy artist” and a “legend in her prime.”

Since Swift complimented Del Rey, it was more personal to have her stand on stage rather than standing in the audience said University of Alabama sophomore Kate McCormick.