

Taylor's

That was swift! The star gets close to **Tom Hiddleston** two weeks after splitting from **Calvin Harris** BY SARAH GROSSBART



Before their PDA-filled date June 14, a source says, the pair's relationship "started as a friendship with mutual respect."

in

Taylor Swift has a tried-and-true formula for shaking off a failed relationship. First step: Wallow in the heartbreak. “It’s this mental, physical, emotional ache and feeling so conflicted,” she told *Elle* last year. “Nothing distracts you from it.” But then, as the days pass, adjust to the new normal. “You get used to not having a text message every morning saying, ‘Hello, beautiful. Good morning,’” continued the

LOVE!

ON THE COVER: PHILIP VAN DER WOUDE/INVISION/ARND BRONKHORST PHOTO; LEFT: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; JOSE PEREZ/GETTY IMAGES; THIS SPREAD: THEMAGEDIRECT.COM (4)

pop star. “You get used to not calling someone at night to tell them how your day was.” Eventually, she summed up, just get on with life: “You replace these old habits with new habits, like texting your friends in a group chat all day and planning fun dinner parties and going out on adventures with your girlfriends.”

Or just make out with a hot new guy. Two weeks after announcing the end of her 15-month romance with EDM DJ Calvin Harris, the 26-year-old was photographed kissing actor Tom Hiddleston near her Westerly, Rhode Island, mansion June 14. In the photos, the unguarded pair strolled hand in hand along the Atlantic Ocean, kissed and snapped sweet selfies. The PDA session, says a close Swift insider, was the result of a very successful first date. The 10-time Grammy winner and the 35-year-old Brit — rumored to be the next James Bond — met at the May 2 Met Gala in New York City and later “started talking” after her split from Harris, says the insider. “He went up to her house in Rhode Island, and the love just bloomed pretty instantly. They are very into each other.” Swift’s ex is less into the new pairing. Though the Scottish-born musician, 32, told TMZ June 16 that Swift was “doing her thing,” a Harris pal says he’s annoyed by her quick rebound: “He feels like she’s rubbing it in his face.”

▶ DANCE WITH ME

The romance began to the soundtrack of T.I.’s 2004 hit “Bring Em Out.” At the celebrity-studded Met Gala, Hiddleston found himself seated next to event cochair Swift “and she was very charming,” he later recalled to MTV U.K. “She is amazing.” Hiddleston, beloved for his role as Thor’s evil brother, Loki, in the *Thor* and *Avengers* films, was so taken, he decided to try what one pal dubs “Tom’s thing”: showing off his dance skills. “He does it to lure women,” explains the friend. As the rapper’s lyrics blared inside the



A source says Swift and Harris (at the 2015 *Billboard* Music Awards) haven’t spoken since their split.

candle-filled Metropolitan Museum of Art, Hiddleston, who has called dancing “a force for good,” gyrated next to a Louis Vuitton-clad Swift. (An Instagram video of their dance-off, posted by Valentino brand ambassador Carlos Souza, notched more than 33,000 views.)

The move worked. At the time, Swift’s relationship with Harris had fallen apart because the pair felt they were in different places — “She

and Calvin were already talking about breaking up,” says the close insider — and the strapping 6-foot-2 Hiddleston intrigued her. She found the London-born gentleman (he once told *Elle* U.K., “No woman should love a man that doesn’t admire and marvel at her strength”) sweet and attractive, says another Swift source: “They definitely had chemistry.” By the time the pair arrived at the Met Gala’s official

afterparty — 5 miles away at downtown rooftop bar the Boom Boom Room — near 12:30 A.M., they were inseparable. They danced together in the center of the room, then made their way to a back table to chat, says a fellow partygoer: “They were together all night.”

Memories of the evening stayed with Swift as her romance with Harris continued to unravel. “She wouldn’t stop talking about Tom,” admits the source. “She really likes him.” And Hiddleston, who dated fellow Marvel actress Elizabeth Olsen last year, was equally enamored. When he learned the “Wildest Dreams” singer and Harris had officially split, he acted, well, swiftly. “He started reaching out and sent her flowers,” says the Swift insider. “He really courted her. He liked her and saw an opportunity when she was suddenly single, and he went for it.”

Despite her recent breakup, Swift was game for a new flirtation. Says the insider, “She’s single, so of course if a cute guy reaches out who

Tom,” says the source. “He felt like she was trying to show him that she had other options out there.” He was even less pleased when she began exploring those options. Harris unfollowed her on Twitter and Instagram and, as the beach photos of Swift and Hiddleston went public, he wrote in a since-deleted tweet: “Oh boy it’s about to go down.” (Swift also scrubbed most Harris photos from her Instagram.) Explains the pal, “He was surprised she moved on so fast. He thinks the photos are very tacky and she’s trying to get to him.”

The Swift source counters she’s just trying to get *past* him. In the days following the split, the heartbroken singer asked her assistants to remove all pictures of Harris that lined the walls of her homes in Beverly Hills, New York City, Nashville and Rhode Island. Says the source, “She said she didn’t want to see them.” And Hiddleston has helped heal her heartache. “She’s trying to get over Calvin,” says the source. “She wants to move on.”

Calvin thinks the photos with Tom were handled very badly, and now he wants to move on.

A SOURCE CLOSE TO HARRIS

she likes, she would talk to him. There really isn’t a better way to get over a breakup!”

▶ CALVIN’S BAD BLOOD

Harris isn’t as accepting of the new development. A Swift source says the world’s highest-earning DJ was irked when he saw photos of his then-girlfriend dancing with Hiddleston at the Met Gala. “He didn’t like how close she was with

▶ INTRODUCING HIDDLESWIFT

Hiddleston is quickly proving to be more than a rebound. Hours after photos of their beach makeout were published, the couple enjoyed a cozy meal at the chandelier-filled Rhode Island eatery Olympia Tea Room. Situated in one of the cafe’s antique mahogany booths with glasses of white wine, the pair held hands across the table as they ate dinner, then split a cream puff for

THE SCOOP ON THE NEW GUY

Hiddleston is chock-full of hidden talents



● The London native attended Eton College boarding school with Prince William (left). Now, the actor says, “I see him sometimes at film premieres.”

● Before being cast as villainous Loki, Hiddleston gained 18 pounds to audition for the title role in *Thor*. The part went to Chris Hemsworth (far right).

● He speaks Greek, Spanish, Italian and French.

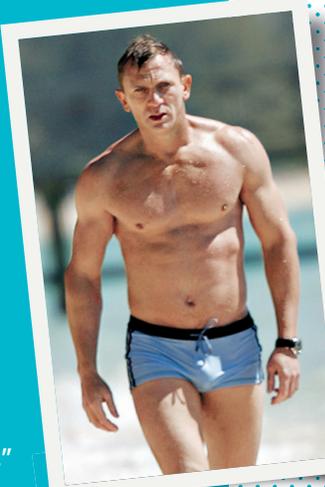


● The actor does skilled impersonations of Owen Wilson (left), Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson and Robert De Niro.

● He once juggled in a moving car

with a beer between his feet!

● He’s rumored to be a favorite to replace Daniel Craig (right) as the next James Bond. “My name is just an idea in people’s minds,” he has said. “Yet it’s becoming overwhelming.”



dessert. Says an onlooker of the duo, who lingered well after the seaside spot's 9 P.M. closing: "There was a lot of giggling as she showed him texts and photos on her phone. They were very cute." The marathon date continued the next afternoon. Together, the pair hopped on Swift's private jet to fly to her adopted hometown of Nashville. The city "is more private," says the Swift source, making it the perfect setting for long, intimate conversations. Notes the source, "They're in the getting-to-know-you phase."

So far, Swift likes what she hears. She and the *Night Manager* star "have bonded over the industry," says the source. They've also discussed their love of good tunes. Since playing Hank Williams in the 2016 biopic *I Saw the Light*, Hiddleston "is a huge fan of country music," says the insider. Especially tracks by a certain leggy blonde. In his May interview with MTV U.K., he said he'd seen a few of her music videos and found them "very cool." Says the insider, "He likes her music. There's really a mutual appreciation between them."



The duo (with model Lily Aldridge) danced at the Met Gala May 2. He helped Swift change her shoes at the afterparty.

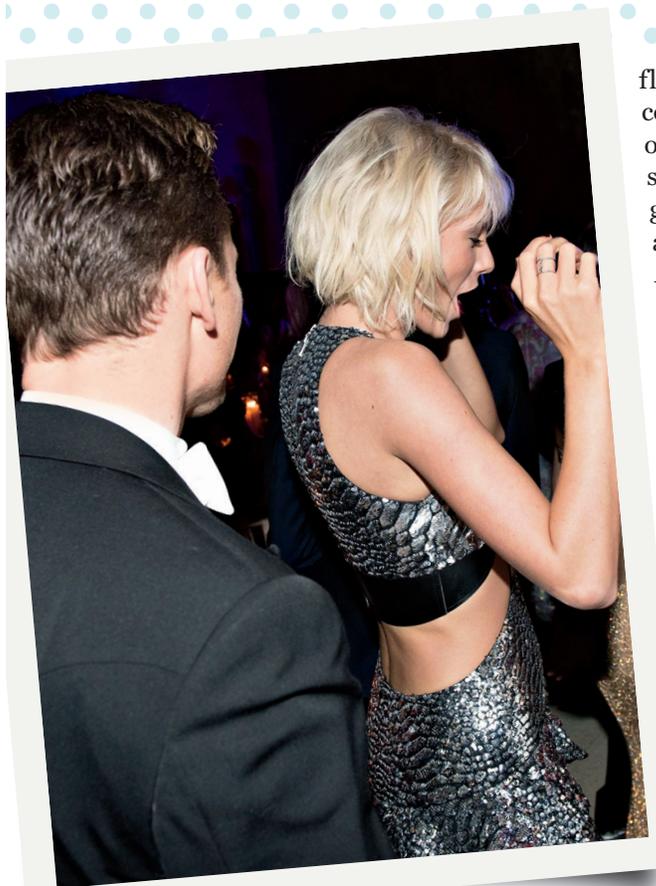


TOM'S SMOOTH MOVES

» Tom Hiddleston once proclaimed, "There should be more dancing in the world." He's doing his part to make that happen. Before wooing Swift with what he dubs "organized flailing," the Brit spent 2013 captivating fans with his skills. The star, who trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, shimmied at the *Thor: The Dark World* premiere in South Korea (left), showed off his "snake hips" on MTV's *After Hours* and battled Benedict Cumberbatch in a viral dance-off. As Hiddleston said, "Out of 10, how enthusiastic a dancer am I? 11."

“
Tom’s wanted to settle down for
a while. I think he will intro-
duce Taylor to his mates soon.
”

A SOURCE CLOSE TO HIDDLESTON

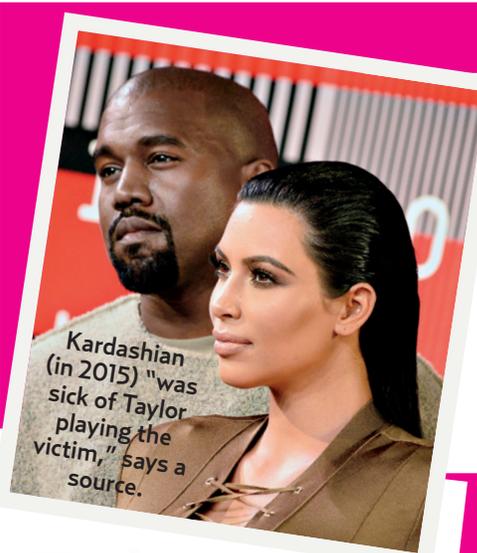


flavors of ice cream and couldn’t decide which one to choose. I came, stood up behind her and gently whispered: ‘It’s a hard choice, isn’t it?’” And the Eton College grad says his ideal date involves a lot of spoiling. “You’ve got to go all the way: a beautiful dinner somewhere lovely, with boatloads of flowers, chocolates and champagne,” he told U.K. blog Run Riot in 2012. “But it might also be nice to wrap up warm and sit on a roof somewhere, with a cup of hot soup and your girl, watch the planes come in over London and listen to the night.”

A Hiddleston pal says he could see the star snuggling up to Swift. “I think Taylor will be good for him,” says the friend. “He’s not into the affected Hollywood type. I remember him once saying, ‘You meet these girls in L.A. who are just so, so gorgeous, and then five minutes later you’re talking to them thinking, Christ, you’re ugly on the inside.’ Taylor doesn’t seem like that girl.”

Swift also sees a future with Hiddleston, says the source, who predicts she’ll introduce him to parents Scott and Andrea and cats Meredith and Olivia soon: “Tom

checks off a lot of boxes. He’s hot, smart, talented, British — everything she’s into.” And spending time with the sexy star — he recently stripped down to his boxers for *W* magazine — is the perfect antidote for heartbreak. “They aren’t boyfriend and girlfriend yet, but they’re seeing each other,” says the insider. “He’s a handsome, sweet guy, and Taylor went for it. Better than sitting home crying, isn’t it?” **US**



Kardashian (in 2015) “was sick of Taylor playing the victim,” says a source.

Taylor vs. Kim and Kanye

» Kim Kardashian made a really deep cut. In her new *GQ* interview, the reality star, 35, calls out Swift for slamming her husband Kanye West’s single “Famous,” in which he raps, “I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex. Why? I made that bitch famous.” Kardashian says Swift “totally approved” the song during a phone conversation, which Kardashian claims was filmed for a future West documentary: “She totally knew that was coming out. She wanted to all of a sudden act like she didn’t.” But a rep for Swift told *Us* she wasn’t informed the *b*-word would be used, adding, “Kanye West never played the song for Taylor Swift. Taylor heard it for the first time when everyone else did and was humiliated.”

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BFA/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; HAN KYUNG-GU/WIREIMAGE (4)