

TREE OF CLUES: a packet for popheads

Written by Kevin Kodama

1. In one song by this artist, a background clicking noise slows down as she sings “I found another way / To caress my day”. One of this artist’s videos is a single shot of her as both a giant goddess and tiny dancers that slowly zooms out. A track by this artist that she described as “a medieval march through the destruction of a relationship” laments “I never thought that you would be the one to tie me down”. This artist asks “Why don’t I do it for you” in a video that showcases her pole-dancing skills, and she explained a part of her name as “a selection of letters that sounded... masculine and strong”. For ten points, name this artist who released “Cellophane” for her 2019 album *MAGDALENE*.
ANSWER: **FKA twigs** (accept Taliah Debrett **Barnett**)

2. This song’s heavily ad-libbed bridge includes the James Brown-inspired lyric “Good God! I can’t help it!”. In the music video for this song, the artist crawls on the ground sporting white polka dotted lipstick. This song begins with a series of tongue clicking and a breathy “yeah” along with some funky guitars. The video for this song uses pink, purple, and blue lighting in a scene where the artist runs between a male flirt and Tessa Thompson. This song’s artist describes herself as “an emotional sexual bender”, which is a nod to her pansexuality. For ten points, name this top r/popheads track of 2018, a Janelle Monae song that was the lead single for the album *Dirty Computer*.
ANSWER: “**Make Me Feel**”

3. A song with this title ends “If you’re looking for a dream girl / I’ll never be your dream girl”. The backdrop of a music video with this title shifts between a giant gazebo with an open roof and a white background to highlight its black-clad dancers. The words “Cloud Nine was always out of reach” describe the time before the artist met her husband in a song named for these things. The words “wings wings” precede the bass drop in a LOOPIA song titled after one of these creatures. For ten points, name this insect that Kacey Musgraves invokes when she says “you brought me out of my chrysalis” in a track from *Golden Hour*.
ANSWER: **butterfly** (or **butterflies**) (first song mentioned was “Butterfly” by Grimes)

4. The melody of one song in this release is similar to Poppy’s more upbeat “Altar”. Another song from this release delivers lyrics that sound dissolved in water before some heavy breathing introduces the chorus. This release was supposed to have a “3” in its title, but that changed at the suggestion of producer A.G. Cook. In addition to “Shake It”, this album has a song about social anxiety that asks “Why do we keep when the water runs?”. A video from this album puts the artist in scenes from *The Sims* and *The Matrix* while she expresses a desire to “take a ride through my old neighborhood”. For ten points, name this third album by Charli XCX, which contains the singles “Gone” and “1999”.
ANSWER: **Charli**

5. In one song, this artist shares fits of laughter with songwriter Wrabel, such as when she sings the line “Loosey as a goosey and we’re looking for some fun”. In a video for one song by this artist, she makes unicorns bleed rainbows by shooting them with lasers. That song by this artist repeats “This place about to...” over heavy synths. Another song by this artist goes “hard, ha-ha-ha-ha-hard” and is from her EP *Cannibal*. A power ballad by this artist chants “I hope your soul is changin’, changin’” and was targeted at predatory producer Dr. Luke. This artist’s most successful single begins “wake up in the morning feeling like P. Diddy”. For ten points, name this singer of “Praying” and “TiK ToK”.
ANSWER: **Kesha** (**Sebert**) (accept either underlined name)

6. The end of one track from this release alternates between screams and harsh percussion before police sirens enter. A track from this release starts its final crescendo with the relatively quiet line “I’ll never go / I’ll haunt your studio”. One track on this album features repeated shouts of “pick it up!” and scolds the title animal after the narrator falls out of a Porsche. A song in this album threatens to ghost the listener after calling them a “lil piss baby”. This album that contains “stupid horse” and “hand crushed by a mallet” is dominated by synthesized vocals. For ten points, name this experimental album by Laura Les and Dylan Brady featuring the song “money machine”.

ANSWER: **1000 gees**

7. Camila Cabello's team was accused of ripping off this artist's album art for the album *Romance*. In the heavily autotuned opening verse of one song, this artist sings "Head on your shoulder / But I miss you so much". This artist repeats the combination "27 - 99 - 23" in the song "Ch-Ching", and she holds a tunnel of mirrors between her legs in a video where she sings "I'm just another girl in a sweater". Together with Aaron Pfenning, this artist founded the band Chairlift. In her most famous track, this artist sings "I cry on the dance floor / It's so embarrassing". For ten points, name this artist whose debut album *Pang* includes "Door" and "So Hot You're Hurting My Feelings".

ANSWER: Caroline **Polachek**

(first song was "Tears" by Charli XCX feat. Caroline Polachek)

8. A heavily autotuned sample of this song's vocals is used in ODESZA's song "Without You", and this song is itself built around a guitar sample from "Seville" by Luiz Bonfá. This song uses a biting third verse instead of a bridge to build to its climax with the lyrics "But I don't want to live that way". This song was the second single from the album *Making Mirrors*, and its video features the singers naked and covered by paint. A pained "You didn't have to cut me off" follows this song's distinctive xylophone solo, and it won Record of the Year at the 2013 Grammys. For ten points, name this 2011 Gotye and Kimbra song about cold indifference from a past lover.

ANSWER: "**Somebody That I Used to Know**"

9. This word is the title of a single album that contains the song "Chase Me" and was released as a re-debut by the Korean girl group formerly known as MINX. A song titled for this noun goes "Tried to stop ya, but you paid the price" and precedes a track entitled "i don't wanna die...". This was the original title of Billie Eilish's "everything I wanted", and that song describes a suicide in a setting described by this word. A song with this title features the line "Come on, little lady, give us a smile" in the pre-chorus, and it was the first release from the album *Manic*. For ten points, name this word that titles a song originally intended to be a Halsey lead single and also means a very bad dream.

ANSWER: **nightmare**

10. One song from this album twice mentions the song 'Lover's Spit' by *Broken Social Club* in a section that reaches a frantic pace before dissolving into ambient noise. A video from this album shows what looks like motorcycle jousting in an area with many freight cars. In a song from this album with a tinny electronic pulse, a deep "yeah" responds to the line "But I know they'll never own me". This album contains the song "Ribs", and it followed "The Love Club EP" in this artist's discography. The most popular song from this album talks about "driving Cadillacs in our dreams" in a critique of decadent culture. For ten points, name this debut Lorde album that includes the track "Royals".

ANSWER: **Pure Heroine**

11. The person who inspired this action was starstruck when Adam Rippon quoted one of her posts. The Instagram user @ghostlygoober showed this action in art that its central participant posted on social media, and other art depicting this action showed that figure as Joan of Arc. An *AV Club* article joked that this action "ushered in a new era of prosperity and peace" and proposed a similar action involving Ariana Grande and a battle axe. This action was first done at Lollapalooza during a performance of "Cut to the Feeling". For ten points, name this action in which the singer of "Call Me Maybe" is given a certain weapon.

ANSWER: **giving Carly** Rae Jepsen a **sword** (accept equivalents)

12. This album's recording session with Rick Rubin was less successful than expected, leading the artist to revert some songs to earlier takes by Ryan Tedder. The bridge of one song from this album begins with a melisma on the word "All" and goes "Just 'cause I said it, don't mean that I meant it". This album features a song that goes "And the games you play / You would always win, always win". The lead single from this album features a choir that sings "Tears are gonna fall" and laments "We could have had it all". This album's singles include "Set Fire to the Rain" and "Rolling in the Deep". For ten points, name this Adele release that was the best-selling album of the decade.

ANSWER: **21**

13. Cece Peniston accused this song of plagiarizing the ad-libs from her song “Finally”. This song follows the track “Like a Girl” on the project in which it appears. The cover art for this single is the icon for r/popheadscirclejerk. Group vocals from the artist’s friends in this song follow lyrics such as “I’m like chardonnay, get better over time”. The music video for this song shows the artist riding exercise bikes in an 80s-style workout video. This empowerment anthem declares “If I’m shinin’ / Everybody’s gonna shine”, and it was the lead single from the album *Cuz I Love You*. For ten points, name this Lizzo song that r/popheads really wants you to stream.

ANSWER: “**Juice**”

14. This artist added a haunting male harmony and a harmonica to her cover of “Crazy” by Gnarls Barkley. In a trippy video that shows a frog playing an instrument surrounded by hearts, this artist appears as a centaur. The outro of one song by this artist goes “Jack burned out on booze and pills” and plays on various nursery rhymes to critique small towns. In one song, this artist attacks a person for their arrogance and taunts “I bet you think you’re John Wayne”. This artist protested “I don’t know how to lasso the truth out of you” on an album that includes “Wonder Woman” and “High Horse”. For ten points, name this pop country artist behind *Golden Hour*.

ANSWER: Kacey **Musgraves**

15. Ingrid admitted that this album’s line “Ten times out of nine, I know you’re trying” is about frustration with her label. “Dear Moon” is one of the poems written by Warsan Shire to accompany this album. In a video from this album, the artist emerges from double doors clad in yellow as water rushes down steps in front of her. In a CMA performance of a song from this album, the featured Dixie Chicks sing the line “with his right hand on his rifle, he swore it on the Bible”. In the video for this album’s lead single, the singer boasts “I might just be a black Bill Gates in the making” and lies on a sinking police car. For ten points, name this Beyoncé album that includes “Daddy Lessons” and “Formation”.

ANSWER: **Lemonade**

16. This song plays over a chaotic scene where a giant ladybug and cooked shrimp fly through the air in the show *The Good Place*. The singer of this track protested “I am not going to sing a grammatically incorrect lyric, help me, God!” in response to its line “Now that I’ve become who I really are”. This track charted alongside “Bang Bang”, giving its artist three concurrent top ten hits. This song features nonsensical lines like “I only want to die alive” and “the hands of a broken heart”, and its sci-fi-themed video shows the artist in zero-g. For ten points, name this Zedd-produced track that proclaims “this is the part when” Ariana Grande does the title action.

ANSWER: “**Break Free**”

17. This album’s creator described using inaudible crowd noise to add energy to one of its tracks on the podcast *Song Exploder*. Redditor u/asdivval said a song from this album “sounds really fun to play” due to its intro startup noise and 8-bit style beat. A song from this album warns of global warming in the lyrics “And when the ocean rises up above the ground / Baby I’ll drown”. Another song from this album spells out “BEHAVE” after a drum fill; that song’s chorus describes an “Italiana mobster”. This album includes the songs “California” and “Kill V. Maim”, and its cover shows a three-eyed creature with elf ears and a ponytail. For ten points, name this 2015 album by Grimes.

ANSWER: **Art Angels**

18. This artist used characters like “The Hollywood Starlet” and “The Sci-Fi Girl” in an EP that begins with a jazzy piano intro. This artist sings “Like a creature you set free / I’ll crawl back to you eventually” in a song with throbbing bass. Videos for this artist’s tracks often show rotation, such as one in which the word “SCIENCE” spins around her. A muted “boom boom” precedes a harsh synth-laden section of a song by this artist, who sings “Give me that stuff that feels so pure / Stamp me with your signature”. One song by this artist uses the lyrics “I believe, I believe in the things you do”, which follow the tune of its signature whistle. For ten points, name this singer of “Bitch” and “Paper Love”.

ANSWER: **Allie X** (accept Alexandra Ashley **Hughes**)

19. One song in this genre features Becky G, who sings “Let the record spin while dancing next to me” before a prominent violin enters. A *Vulture* article states that one project in this genre is not for you “if you’re not prepared to have a high-camp sexual experience”. That project in this genre contains a chorus that begins with a “Hey, yo” atop a simple ukulele melody. A saxophone solo in one song in this genre precedes a bridge containing the line “And then one day everything changed”; that song is “Underneath the Tree”. One song in this genre charted 25 years after its original release to become Mariah Carey’s 19th #1 single. For ten points, name this genre of songs like “Jingle Bells”.
ANSWER: **Christmas** music (accept **holiday** music)

20. A self-referential track by this artist cites the architect John Lautner as inspiration for its sound. In another track, this artist sings “Tell me I’m too crazy / You can’t tame me, can’t tame me” before a “Hey!” introduces its chorus. This artist sings “It’s something in you / Lit up heaven in me” in a house-inspired EDM track. This singer of “Blow Your Mind” talks about how she “did a full 180” in a nu-disco track titled “Don’t Start Now”. Another song by this artist has a list that includes items like “don’t pick up the phone” and “if you’re under him, you’re never getting over him”. For ten points, name this singer of “One Kiss” and the best track of 2017 according to r/popheads, “New Rules”.
ANSWER: Dua **Lipa**

Ex: The intro of one track from this release plays the chorus out of a muted jukebox before it abruptly cuts out. The bridge of that song from this release asks “Don’t you? / I hope that you want to” before its instrumental interlude. Another song from this release cuts the synth beat to deliver the lyrics “Oh, yeah your love / turns me on” before slowly reintroducing the synths during the bridge. An echo-y “oh oh oh” follows the line “everybody else is second best” in the chorus of that song from this release. An exclusive Japanese release of this EP added the track “Cut to the Feeling” to a tracklist that includes “First Time” and “Higher”. For ten points, name this Carly Rae Jepsen EP, a companion piece to a different release featuring “Run Away with Me”.
ANSWER: **E•MO•TION: Side B** (do not accept *E•MO•TION*, accept **E•MO•TION Remixed** ± until “Oh, yeah your love”)