**Are Music Fans Becoming Entitled? -** opinion piece (437 words)

Should being an artist mean waving the right to a private life? Most of us already have a sharp “no” ready to jump from our tongue. It seems obvious that putting art into the public sphere shouldn’t automatically mean giving up one of the few things that separates being a person from being a product. So then, why are artists still having to defend their right to a life parallel to their career?

Chappell Roan has been central to this conversation since issuing a statement in an attempt to set boundaries with her supporters. In a post to Instagram, Roan described the ‘many non-consensual physical and social interactions’ she’s endured at the hands of predators disguised as superfans. Essentially, an entitled minority of her fanbase who fail to recognise that Chappell Roan, the glittering on-stage phenomenon, is not the same as Kayleigh Amstutz who you might see trying to catch a flight or use the pavement – you know those things we’re usually able to do without it turning into an unsolicited meet and greet.

Roan goes on to thank those in her community that do respect her boundaries and compares her experiences being ‘touched and being followed’ to a normalised form of catcalling. Of course, the argument usually made for that behaviour is if you didn’t want to be whistled at why wear a skirt that short and the argument pitted against Roan, amongst other artists, is if you didn’t want to take 100 selfies a day, why become famous at all? The difference is subtle but overwhelmingly unnerving.

And Roan isn’t the only one. Fans have been prying into the lives of artists, particularly musicians given the personal nature of their work, since the dawn of records. Our ever-growing access to them online has only fed the flame.

The defence usually made in these seemingly intrusive situations is that fans built the artist’s career and therefore shirking them off for pictures is some kind of cardinal sin. What’s interesting is how this doesn’t apply to any career outside the entertainment industry. You wouldn’t argue that you built the livelihood of the scaffolder who fitted your extension and therefore are owed spontaneous photo opportunities and details on their last relationship. The truth is, the more we try to publicly pry artists open, the more we dilute their art down to cheap gossip.

Chappell Roan is not the first to demand the kind of private life we all accept as given. She certainly won’t be, and shouldn’t be, the last to ask that her career and personal life be treated as the separate entities they so clearly are.