

November-December 2005

The Thieves

Tales From The White Line

Liquor and Poker

It would be a cheap shot to say that The Thieves nick more hard rock clichés than Keith Richards has crevices. Nevertheless, despite the been-there, heard-that mentality of these *deja* dudes, the recycled riffs and garage rock retreads do provide a certain guilty pleasure. Hailing from Oxford, England and currently residing in Los Angeles, the band's influences are as global as their environs. The music boasts shades of AC/DC, Humble Pie, Judas Priest, Ted Nugent, and pretty much every other outfit that's ever swaggered on stage with an axe in one hand and a bottle of Jack Daniels in the other. Fortunately, The Thieves have more to offer than a blustery attitude and excess power chords; there are hints of actual melody and plenty of riveting refrains in songs such as "Don't You Lose Me," "You Get It Easy," and "Vacant Thoughts." There is even a hint of remorse and regret on the album's sole acoustic ballad, the darkly despondent "My Old Mind." These tracks provide just enough of an enticement to earn these Thieves their pardon.

-LEE ZIMMERMAN