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The White Line EP

Released: 03.01.05

Label: Liquor and Poker

Rating: 9 / 10

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What's pure about rock these days? (And I mean genuine rock, not heavy metal, not alternative rock, not modern rock, not punk rock, etc. Just rock!) The drumstick tricks and twirls all drummers feels they need to show off? The fact that many musicians are still using equipment made when true rock existed? Well, I've found something better than that. The Thieves, a rock trio originating from Oxford, England, who now reside in sunny California. Their music is the purest form of rock music I've heard since discovering AC/DC's Highway To Hell. And if their EP, *The White Line EP*, can be the judge of anything, you can expect a killer full-length release from these guys.

The White Line EP contains four tracks that wet your lips while not completely satisfying your thirst. Now usually I'm not one to review an EP, as it's generally hard to really define an artist by such a small amount of material. But *The White Line EP* just needed to have its praises shouted from the rooftops for all to hear.

Lets dive deeper and take a look at my favorite track, "Tales From The White Line." A solid, powerful, and almost raw rock beat, courtesy of drummer Jamie Dawson, launches the track with such curiosity as to where the song is to go from there. The track then slowly builds up until the first chorus when it all kicks into gear in a true 70s rock spirit. I also can't forget to mention the wicked musical montage that closes out the tune.

Of course, the rest of the EP is just as great. Highlights include: the incredible bass line, courtesy of bassist Sam Stokes, on "It Still Goes On,"; Hal Stokes vocal stylings throughout the entire disc, an almost Robin Zander (of Cheap Trick) meets Kurt Cobain (of Nirvana) and Harley Dinardo (of White Light Motorcade) feel; and the overall addicting behavior their music causes.

So get ready to rock out and pick up a copy of The Thieves', *The White Line EP*, available now.

- Chelsea Schwartz