

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 entice-

ment to earn these Thieves their pardon.

-LEE ZIMMERMAN