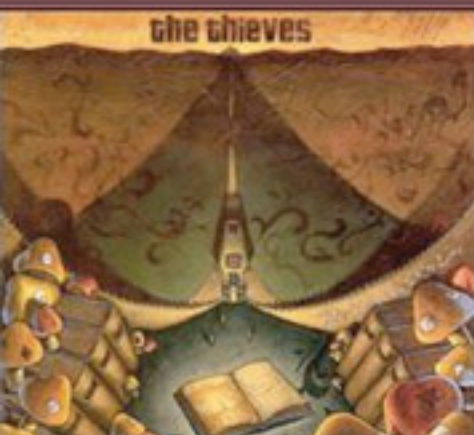


# Tales from the Whiteline

The Thieves



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## Artist

[The Thieves](#)

## Album

Tales from the Whiteline

## Rating

★★★★☆

## Release Date

Oct 4, 2005

## Recording Date

Feb 2004-Jan 2005

## Label

Liquor & Poker

## Genre

Rock

## Review

by Craig Curtice

After modest success in their native Oxford, England with 2002's staid alt-rock debut *One Eyed Poker*, The Thieves--guitarist/singer [Hal Stokes](#), bassist [Sam Stokes](#), and drummer [Jamie Dawson](#)--began distilling a stiff blend of UK pub rock and cutting power pop. Recording in England with producer [Lenny Franchi](#) in early 2004, The Thieves struck pay dirt with the song "Tales From The White Line," a big rock anthem brimming with big guitar hooks, rumbling bass lines, power drumming, and Hammond organ accents. Moving to Los Angeles, The Thieves hit Royaltone Studios with burgeoning producer/engineer [Chris Brown](#) ([Radiohead](#), [Muse](#)) resulting in a four song EP, *The White Line*. Between sessions with [Brown](#) and a relentless touring schedule (kept even when [Hal Stokes](#) severely broke an ankle) the full album *Tales From The White Line* was completed in 2005. From the steely opening riff of "Gimme Some Lip" to the funky slide guitar jam of "Silverliner," *Tales* is awash with affable Brit harmonies and delights in unabashed, snap-tight songwriting. "You Get It Easy," "This Road (It Never Leaves Us)," "Everynite," and "Don't You Lose Me" are just a few of the twelve arresting gems also enhanced by the play of guest keyboardists [Rami Jaffe](#) ([Wallflowers](#)) and [Ben Cullum](#) (brother of [Jamie Cullum](#)). The CD package is completed by [Kazuto Maekawa](#)'s intriguing cover artwork, and the inside liner notes contain charming handwritten lyrics and doodles that blueprint each song. Whether or not The Thieves are ever found guilty of being over-inspired from classic 70's albums by [AC/DC](#), [Led Zeppelin](#), and [The Who](#), *Tales From The White Line* is nevertheless a deviously good rock & roll record.