

Performing Songwriter



The Pierces

Thirteen Tales of Love and Revenge

[Lizard King]

Although Catherine and Allison Pierce offer plenty of lyrical payback on their third album, their real revenge is more metaphysical than debasing an ex-lover or spilling deep secrets: It's proving wrong the suits who overruled the sisters' ideas on a pair of go-nowhere major-label albums.

Left to their own devices, the Pierces show a knack for folk-pop hooks and lacerating word play. "Two can keep a secret if one of us is dead," Catherine croons prettily on the carnival waltz "Secret." A track later, they're lampooning vapid

socialites, declaring caviar, high fashion and marriage passé on "Boring" over a foreboding bassline and the catchiest glockenspiel part you'll ever hear. The sisters harmonize so well it's hard to tell who is singing as they call down misery on a double-crossing lover on "Ruin" or sift through emotional wreckage on "The Power Of ... " Whether they're in love or seeking revenge, it's clear the sisters Pierce are not to be trifled with. —ED