

# SONGWRITER(S) WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW BETTER: THE PIERCES

PEOPLE MAKE ASSUMPTIONS about The Pierces—sisters Allison and Catherine—based on their gender, looks, upbringing, instruments. “It’s funny,” says Allison. “People, for the last couple of records, they say we sounded country. But this record is very different.” The Pierces’ major-label albums were slick and obscured—to a shocking degree—the Pierces’ artistry. Now signed to indie Lizard King, the girls are free to blend

Southern gothic and NYC bohemian into a still-poppy, sometimes creepy, sorta rustic, always intoxicating brew called *Thirteen Tales of Love and Revenge*.

#### Escape from Alabama

Contrary to their current bio, Allison wasn’t really kidnapped by “a radical born-again gypsy dance troupe” at 16. But she and Catherine did spend their childhood receiving healin’ helpin’s of

culture—music, art, dance (in their teens they studied with Russian and French ballet teachers) and spell-casting. “Our parents are very artistic and creative, so we just naturally followed that path.”

#### Spell-casting. Serious?

“Oh, no. [laughs] We grew up Christian, so prayer and spell-casting is really the same thing. Any prayer or spell that works, it’s the same thing in my opinion.”

**On whether a prayer or spell can turn a regular can of beer into a tall boy:**

“You can always try! It’s doesn’t hurt to try.”

**“Two can keep a secret if one of them is dead.”**

It’s a line from “Secret.” So who did Allison and Catherine kill? “We’ll probably end up killing each other since we never keep each other’s secrets?” **RANDY HARWARD**