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THE PIERCES?** (P.28)

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BURNER

ALMOST FAMOUS

The Pierces

Beautiful sisters confound the dim-witted with a tongue-in-cheek ode to scenester ennui

(BY MARK YARM ✕ PHOTOGRAPH BY JEREMY LIEBMAN)

ALLISON AND CATHERINE Pierce want everyone to know that they're not the next Paris and Nicky Hilton. The Pierces' song "Boring"—in which the New York sister act dismisses Dolce & Gabbana, ménages à trois and true romance as hopelessly dull—is clearly a send-up of jaded jetsetters. But not everyone gets the joke.

"Somebody wrote online: THOSE FUCKING BITCHES! THERE'S PEOPLE STARVING IN AFRICA AND THEY'RE CLAIMING THAT CAVIAR IS BORING!" recounts blond Catherine, who at 29 is two years younger than brunet Allison. Aside from being sexy sibs, the Pierces couldn't be more different from the Hiltons: Former ballet dancers from Birmingham, Alabama, the Pierces were homeschooled by their artsy, born-again parents. And they're very polite.

There's much more to *Thirteen Tales of Love & Revenge*, the Pierces' playfully dark collection of folk-pop-meets-cabaret songs, than "Boring." The macabre opener, "Secret," would fit nicely on a Tim Burton soundtrack. Perversely, Catherine wrote "Boy in a Rock and Roll Band," in which she swears never to fall for a musician, while with her former fiancé, Strokes guitarist Albert Hammond Jr.

Thirteen Tales is the sisters' third album, but it's the first they feel genuinely reflects who they are as singer-songwriters. "We didn't show people our dark side on our last record—it was just love songs or broken-heart songs," Catherine says.

"We were just having fun in the studio this time," Allison adds. "Like little kids in a candy store—"

"—an *evil* candy store," Catherine interjects with a laugh.

All About Us!

FAVORITE BAND "The Strokes. They're geniuses." (Catherine)

MUST-SEE TV "30 Rock. Tracy Morgan—it doesn't matter what he says, it's funny." (Allison)

OBSESSION "I'm a little boy crazy! After a five-year relationship, I feel as if I'm dating as a woman, as opposed to a girl, for the first time." (Catherine)



OUT NOW *Thirteen Tales of Love & Revenge* (Lizard King/East West)

Sisters doin' it for themselves (from left): Catherine and Allison Pierce.

HAIR: CHRISTIE MCCABE FOR DE FACTO; MAKEUP: JANE CHOI FOR MAC AT ART WING NY